



August/September 2017

Exercising
Excellence



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Vice-Chancellor's *view*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

YOUR BUZZ

Next edition 5 October 2017
Copy deadline 8 September 2017

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Front cover image: Stephen McAuliffe, Academic Registrar.

Universities are places where spaces and symbols matter.

Look at any great university, and its campus speaks of its history, its values, and its ambitions. That is not to say that institutions without a great campus cannot thrive, but they are, in an important sense, impaired.

I have lived with this throughout my academic career. I studied and taught at the University of Oxford. A place of some of the most beautiful centres of learning in the world. A place that combines the historic and the modern, and a university where if you are studying or teaching you cannot escape its aesthetics of learning.

However, it was in 1994 that I first came to realise how powerfully the architecture of a university can speak. I was lecturing at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and was staying in the Faculty Club on the Academic Lawn.

This is the largest enclosed space in a university anywhere in the world. The central lawn is surrounded by the original student rooms, teaching spaces, and faculty houses.

At its centre was the library. A great rotunda and a cathedral to knowledge. The University of Virginia was the first university to have a library rather than a place of worship at its heart. Its founder, Thomas Jefferson, one of the United States' Founding Fathers and a former President, was a man steeped in Enlightenment values.

For Jefferson, placing the library at the heart of the University was a statement of what universities were: they were places of knowledge, places of inquiry, and places where understanding, what we might even call Truth, has a sacred position.

In many ways, for more than a century, that model became the model of the modern university. Spaces of learning and spaces of discovery were at its heart.

So, too, at the University of Birmingham. We have a new library, and will have a new central space, our Green Heart. Nearby will be our new Collaborative Teaching Laboratory. Next to the library will be our

new teaching block, which will be a centre of learning for generations of students.

And our Green Heart will be larger than the Academic Lawn at the University of Virginia!

Of course all of these spaces, and all of these buildings, are functional. Indeed they are perceived and built as the best of their kind. They are also, however, symbolic. Libraries and laboratories speak to us of the two central activities of universities. They are places where what we know is ordered and taught. They are equally places where we research and explore what we do not yet know. They speak to us, therefore, of the great legacy of the European Enlightenment: what we know is precious but unbounded. Our reason, our endeavour, our striving will enable us to know yet more.

Put like this, the campus of the university is the essential infrastructure for discovery and dissemination. If anyone asks why we invest in our campus, the answer must be that to fail to do so would be to deprive us of the means of being a great university.

What, then, matters is the people who inhabit and animate these spaces. Great students, great teachers, and great researchers. The interactions of those people, inspired by the spaces they work in, and supported by the wider community of the University, embody and breathe life into the University. For all of us though, from those who clean our great buildings, those who tend our majestic grounds, those who keep our campus safe, those who run the services across the University, through to those who study, teach, and research here; for all of us, our campus reminds us why we are here.

From its oldest to its newest buildings, it proclaims the ambition of the University and it proclaims the values of the laboratory and the library: the values of truth hard won, truth contested, and truth which sets our minds free.

Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Sir David Eastwood

BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL INDIA

INDIA'S THIRD AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION: DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOMES THROUGH CLEAN COLD CHAINS

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, employing almost half its workforce – over 250 million people. To reach its full economic potential, Indian agriculture urgently needs a third revolution: the 'cool' revolution to build efficient market links through a sustainable cold chain.

The importance of the cold chain is already well understood at the highest levels of India's government. Prime Minister Modi has set a target of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022. The challenge is that using conventional diesel-powered cooling for transport refrigeration units and packhouses would simply mitigate one problem by significantly worsening pollution and contribute to climate change. India recognises, therefore, that it needs cold chains that are not only effective but also zero-emission and powered by renewable energy.

Britain is at the forefront of developing clean cold technologies. In early 2017 the University of Birmingham's BEI (Birmingham Energy Institute) led a study tour of Punjab and Haryana states, India's biggest agricultural procedures, and held a two-day workshop in Delhi. The trip was organised with the help of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Trade, the state government of Haryana and India's National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD). Through



two days of intensive debate we developed our recommendations and established a strong case for collaboration between India and British governments to accelerate the deployment of clean cold chains in India.

A report, entitled '*India's Third Agricultural Revolution – Doubling farmers' incomes through clean cold chains*', has been recently produced by the Birmingham Energy Institute to address the next steps. The key recommendation is that India and Britain should work together to establish a series of clean cold chain centres to hasten the development of this vital infrastructure. The centres must be technology neutral; regionally, socially and culturally inclusive, and test not only technologies but also business models.

INDIAN SPORTS COACHES RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM TO BOOST PERFORMANCE

Sports coaches from India have teamed up again with experts at the University to learn how latest research and training techniques can help to boost athletes' performance.

The 22-strong party spent two weeks in May 2017 following a strength and conditioning programme put together by experts from the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences and University Birmingham Sport.

Their visit follows an agreement

signed in November by the University of Birmingham and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to work together and help improve the sporting performance of India's athletes. The Indian Government has highlighted the importance of sport to the nation and is looking to invest in boosting India's sporting performance through SAI.

Canoeing/kayaking coach Bilquish Mir said: '*This has been the best experience of our lives and we're very grateful to the*



experts at Birmingham for welcoming us and teaching us so much. We've been really inspired and will be able to replicate these methods back home.'

Innovative new education partnership with University College Birmingham

The University of Birmingham and University College Birmingham (UCB) have recently signed a new partnership agreement. This builds on our existing relationship which has seen the University of Birmingham accredit and award 20,000 University College Birmingham degrees over the past 22 years.

The partnership creates a new model for collaboration, harnessing the distinctive and collective strengths of our two universities, to improve outcomes for young people through a range of joint activities, including:

- Degree apprenticeships – focusing initially on nursing
- Further enhancing student opportunities to access higher education through further education routes
- Academic teaching staff training and development
- Creating a better Birmingham student experience by sharing facilities
- Helping international students to access education opportunities in Birmingham



In partnership – taking potential to new heights

This pioneering partnership will further strengthen the city's educational excellence and the development of a diverse, highly skilled workforce in the region.

University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood said: *'Both our universities are committed to education in this city and we have created this signature initiative to provide new opportunities and inspire our young people to fulfil their potential.'*

University College Birmingham Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Linforth added: *'University College Birmingham is delighted to establish this pioneering partnership. It sees both our universities developing innovative education and training pathways that give industry what it needs, whilst offering a compelling new model for the FE and HE sectors.'*

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A 'MAYOR'S MENTOR'?

Andy Street, the new West Midlands Mayor, has launched a call to recruit more than 1,000 'Mayor's Mentors' to boost young people's career prospects and tackle youth unemployment.

Professionals from a variety of sectors and backgrounds are being sought to volunteer as mentors. They will then be matched to a young person to support and advise them as they start out in their career. Mentors will typically meet with a young person, either face to face or virtually, once or twice a month for an hour.

Cathy Gilbert, the University's Director of External Relations, is one of those who has signed up: *'This is a fantastic, practical initiative to nurture*

the next generation of talent in the region. Providing insights into the world of work is a relatively simple thing to do, but can have a transformative effect for an individual young person in helping them understand the options and pathways open to them as they embark on their career. I also know from previous experience how personally rewarding being a mentor can be.'

If you are willing to share your knowledge and experience with a young person and are able to dedicate time to volunteering in this way, University of Birmingham staff are encouraged to apply. Please visit: www.wmca.org.uk/mayorsmentors



Winterbourne Bookshop

Give an old book a new home and donate to the Winterbourne Bookshop! The donations help support the upkeep and conservation work of Winterbourne House and Garden.

Did you know that since opening our bookshop in 2011 we have sold over 12,000 books?

In December 2016 we moved the bookshop out of the old garage and into its own shop in the walled garden. There is lots of variety to explore in our bookshop, so why not pop down on your lunch break?

If you're having a clear out or have some books you'll never read again, you can donate to our new-look second-hand bookshop via our shop.



New

Welcome Toolkit

Arrivals Weekend and Welcome Week (Saturday 16 to Friday 22 September 2017) will see the campus become a hive of activity, as we help new students to settle into their homes and welcome back our returning students.

To support and keep colleagues up to date on Welcome activity, the Student Experience Projects Team (SEPT) has launched a new Welcome Toolkit. It includes information to support planning of induction activity, branded templates and information about the new #HelloBrum day, where we will be celebrating everything Brummie!

View the toolkit on the University's intranet: www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/welcometoolkit

Research [IN FOCUS]

'This is one of the biggest reductions in death I've seen in any clinical trial for adult cancers.'

These are the words of Professor Nicholas James, Professor of Clinical Oncology and chief investigator of a clinical trial that has investigated the impact of administering Abiraterone, a new type of hormone therapy, in men with prostate cancer who are about to start long-term hormone therapy. It found that adding Abiraterone to hormone therapy at the start of treatment improves survival by 37%.

DRUG DRAMATICALLY IMPROVES PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVAL

Prostate cancer affects millions of men globally. Each year in the UK around 46,500 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer, and around 11,000 men die from the disease. Here, one of the University of Birmingham's experts is helping to change the course of history in the fight against the disease.

Professor Nicholas James, from the College of Medical and Dental Sciences is leading the STAMPEDE trial, which compares hormone therapy treatment by itself, with a combination of hormone therapy and one or more other treatments for prostate cancer – in this case, Abiraterone.

The Cancer Research UK-funded STAMPEDE trial prescribed half of the 1,917 men with standard hormone therapy, while the other cohort received hormone therapy plus Abiraterone. The results were impressive: of the 1,917 men in the trial, there were 184 deaths in the combination group compared with 262 in those given hormone therapy alone.

'These are the most powerful results I've seen from a prostate cancer trial – it's a once-in-a-career feeling,' said Professor James.

Prostate cancer cells usually depend on testosterone to grow. Standard hormone therapy blocks the action of the male sex hormone, halting the disease. Abiraterone goes further and shuts down the production of the hormones that fuel prostate cancer's growth.

According to Professor James, the results of the trial show that the drug, which is already used to treat some men whose disease has spread, offers additional benefits: *'In addition to the improvements in survival and time without relapse, the drug reduced the rates of severe bone complications, a major problem in prostate*

cancer, by more than a half.

'The results from the trial could change the standard of care for men with prostate cancer, making Abiraterone a first-line treatment alongside hormone therapy. I really hope these results can change clinical practice.'

Indeed, the results of the trial could be 'transformative' for people living with prostate cancer. The Chief Executive of funders Cancer Research UK, Sir Harpal Kumar said: *'These results could transform the treatment of prostate cancer. Abiraterone can clearly help many more prostate cancer patients than was first thought.'*

'The STAMPEDE trial is changing the face of prostate cancer because the flexibility of the trial design means that we can investigate a number of different treatment options rapidly and in parallel, enabling scientists to get results much more quickly than they usually would.'

'Cancer Research UK scientists first discovered Abiraterone and subsequently played a key role in its development, including funding the first clinical trials. This study adds to the importance of the drug.'

Professor James extends his thanks and gratitude to those who helped make the trial possible – *'We are so incredibly thankful to the patients and clinical staff who have agreed to take part in this study. With their generosity, scientists can carry out research that will help save lives.'*

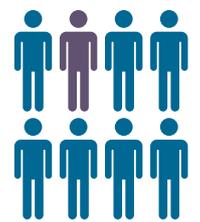
PROSTATE CANCER IS THE MOST COMMON CANCER IN MEN.



OVER 46,000
MEN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER EVERY YEAR – THAT'S 128 MEN EVERY DAY.



EVERY HOUR ONE
MAN DIES FROM PROSTATE CANCER – THAT'S MORE THAN 11,000 MEN EVERY YEAR.



1 IN 8 MEN WILL GET PROSTATE CANCER IN THEIR LIFETIME.

OVER 330,000
MEN ARE LIVING WITH AND AFTER PROSTATE CANCER.

Prostate cancer facts in the UK:
source: <https://prostatecanceruk.org>

GOLD FOR BIRMINGHAM!



The University has been awarded the highest possible rating of Gold in the new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which has been introduced by the government to measure the teaching quality of higher education providers. TEF takes into account measures such as student attainment, outcomes and student satisfaction. The TEF assessment panel recognised that 'all student outcomes are excellent' at Birmingham, and commended as 'outstanding' the progression of our graduates to highly skilled employment or further study and our student satisfaction with the quality of teaching.

'This is an outstanding achievement and a reflection of the passion and innovation of many, many colleagues across the University and their commitment to putting our students at the heart of so much of what we do. Particular thanks also go to colleagues who have managed and responded to the TEF process so effectively.'

'At Birmingham we have championed the importance of research-led teaching, independent study and peer-to-peer learning for many years and I am delighted that these were amongst the areas of excellence particularly recognised by the TEF panel.'

**Vice-Chancellor, Professor
Sir David Eastwood**

The result follows our outstanding performance in the Quality Assurance Association's (QAA) Higher Education Review. In praising our student outcomes, the TEF assessment panel highlighted that we have:

- A strategic focus on the development and delivery of relevant, research-informed teaching which is highly valued by employers
- An embedded culture of personalised learning ensuring that all students are significantly challenged, evidenced by a comprehensive pastoral and academic support programme
- Sustained, strategic investment in physical and human resources allowing students to benefit from an outstanding learning environment
- Effective and sustained investment in excellent physical and digital learning resources
- An embedded culture of teaching development, appraisal and reward which recognises teaching excellence

What is the TEF?

Introduced by government in 2016, the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) has been implemented to encourage excellence in teaching and seeks to measure the teaching quality of Higher Education providers. It is intended to help students choose where to study by providing information about teaching provision and student outcomes.

Participation in the TEF is voluntary and almost all universities in England have taken part. Lasting three years, the rating is based on recommendations from a wide group of academic and student TEF assessors, submitted via the TEF panel.

What does it measure?

Alongside qualitative evidence based around an institution's written submission to demonstrate impact and effectiveness of teaching and learning initiatives, the TEF uses these metrics to decide the final outcome:

Teaching quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NSS Teaching Quality ■ NSS Assessment and Feedback
Learning environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NSS Academic Support ■ HESA non-continuation rates
Student outcomes and learning gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DHLE Employability ■ DHLE Highly skilled employability

TEF is at institution-level only and doesn't, at present, measure postgraduate study. The TEF uses proxy measures to try to assess the quality of teaching across institutions but there are lots of data and information about what to expect from a university experience that are not covered in the TEF metrics. TEF is therefore one of a number of information sources prospective students might wish to consult before deciding where to study.

What happens next?

The University, and wider HE sector, recognise that further work is needed to develop the TEF into the robust assessment framework that teaching deserves. We will continue to engage with the government to help develop future iterations. The government has already announced an independent review of the TEF, which will look at how improvements can be made to the way it measures teaching quality and how and whether it is used to inform tuition fee increases.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARDS WINNERS

The University of Birmingham and Guild of Students are delighted to announce the winners of the third annual Outstanding Teaching Awards. The awards recognise teaching staff from each of the University's five Colleges who demonstrate truly excellent teaching.

The recipients listed here were nominated by the student body for their commitment to providing teaching that is stimulating, innovative and consistently challenging. They encourage and facilitate active learning and are enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge with their students.

The quotes included here are taken from the nominations, highlighting the positive impact teaching staff have had on students during their time at the University.



Dr Tara Hamling
College of Arts and Law

Dr Tara Hamling is a Senior Lecturer in Early Modern History for the

History Department. She is also a member of the University's Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies (CREMS) for interdisciplinary research into the history of the Reformation and early modern Britain and Europe.

'Dr Tara Hamling is an exceptional tutor; she is extremely knowledgeable on her topic and is able to communicate this well in seminars, showing extensive commitment to using innovative resources for teaching purposes. She is an incredibly stimulating and supportive teacher.'



Dr Nicholas Hawes
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Dr Nick Hawes is a Reader in Autonomous

Intelligent Robotics in the School of Computer Science. His research focuses on the use of Artificial Intelligence techniques to create autonomous robots for real-world applications. In addition to his research and teaching activities, Nick is a passionate supporter of public engagement and outreach.

'Dr Nick Hawes has always provided interesting, well thought out, and interactive lectures. His assignments are excellent, and are useful learning tools as well as being effective assessments. He is very approachable and clearly passionate about his subject, which is inspiring.'



Dr Carl Stevenson
College of Life and Environmental Sciences

Dr Carl Stevenson is Senior Lecturer in Geology, in

the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences. He teaches structural geology, geological mapping, field geology and ore geology, and is also involved in an international initiative to integrate digital technologies into teaching.

'Dr Carl Stevenson has been a consistently committed and inspiring lecturer. He is clearly passionate about teaching and finds new ways to explain and discuss concepts, often utilising technology in new and innovative ways.'



Dr Shayan Ahmed
College of Medical and Dental Sciences

Dr Shayan Ahmed is a hospital doctor in the

West Midlands region and an anatomy demonstrator for medical students at the University. He himself graduated from the University with his Medicine and Surgery MBChB in 2014.

'Dr Shayan Ahmed's anatomy sessions are extremely stimulating and memorable through his use of simple illustrations, his patient demeanour, and his clear explanations. He goes above and beyond making very difficult content easy to understand and every session interactive and enjoyable.'



Willem van Eekelen

College of Social Sciences
Willem van Eekelen is a Teaching Fellow in the

International Development Department in the School of Government and Society. He is a development economist who built his experience in a range of UN agencies and NGOs before turning to consultancy work and teaching postgraduate students at the University.

'Willem van Eekelen is the most inspiring and talented lecturer I have had the pleasure of meeting. He has the ability to constantly capture the attention of students through his animated and hands-on teaching style.'

transforming OUR campus

'A fantastic honour for the Lapworth Museum of Geology.'

Green Heart

Work to create our Green Heart is coming on apace. The part of University Square closest to the Arts Building has been cordoned off to allow the first phase of landscaping work to take place. The mesh surrounding the area means that staff, students and visitors can see progress for themselves. Wilmott Dixon, who are leading on the work, are working with colleagues from Estates to make sure that all of campus remains accessible and easy to get to. They have specifically taken into account feedback from staff and students with disabilities in their plans.

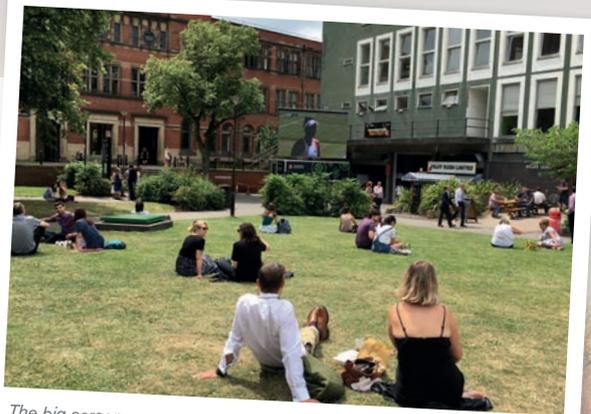
This area of University Square will be complete towards the end of 2017, at which point the other part of University Square, closest to Staff House, will be cordoned off and landscaping carried out there. This second phase of work will complete in Spring 2018, allowing an early flavour of what the completed Green Heart will feel like. Look out for the planting of the first of 160 trees this coming autumn, including some mature trees that will need cranes to enable their installation. By the time the project is complete, there will be a wide variety of different kinds, including apple, cherry, beech, oak and maple.

Structural demolition of the old library has begun, and will be complete in time for the students' return after the summer break. Inevitably there will be some minor disruption as a result, and the team has worked hard with staff across the campus to mitigate that where possible.

Once complete, the project will open up the centre of campus, measuring more than 12 acres and factoring in learning, performance, socialising and relaxation space.

Responding to feedback from staff and students, we have already installed a big screen, which you will have seen streaming graduations (and Wimbledon) by Staff House earlier this summer. If you want to put your content on the screen, or find out more, visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/screen

If you want to step inside a virtual Green Heart before its completion in 2019, check out our 360° experiences at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheart360



The big screen

Bournbrook Student Accommodation ready for the new term

The University's new Bournbrook residence on Edgbaston boulevard in Selly Oak, which comprises 178 new student bedrooms over three blocks, will be opening its doors to students when the new Autumn Term starts.

The building is a brand new, purpose-built facility for student accommodation and sports recreation: it comprises 34 flats housing between four and seven people each, including 11 wheelchair accessible rooms. There is also a new pavilion for student sports clubs, which will accommodate a café and bar. This is due to open during the Autumn Term, coinciding with the completion of the new sport pitches, raising the quality of sports facilities on this side of campus.

Lapworth Museum of Geology runner-up in Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017

At a formal ceremony at the British Museum, the Lapworth Museum of Geology was named Runner-Up in the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017. The honour, previously won by the V&A and the British Museum, is the world's largest and most prestigious prize for museums. The 2017 prize was won by The Hepworth in Wakefield.

Museum director Jon Clatworthy said: *'To be a runner-up is a fantastic honour for us here at the Lapworth Museum of Geology.'*



The Lord Mayor visiting the Lapworth with Jon and Anna Chrystal

'The last two years represent a transformative redevelopment which has allowed us to reach out to the wider community. I am thrilled that every day I work in an environment now where we see families and school parties engaging with the Lapworth, as well as students and academics. I am delighted that the Art Fund has seen the value of this work, which has been carried out by so many people here.'

This is the culmination of a remarkable year for the Lapworth, in which visitor numbers have more than doubled and the museum has been consistently named in the city's top ten visitor attractions. Last week, the Lapworth was named as a National Portfolio Organisation by Arts Council England, which includes a major funding grant of £418,984 over the next four years. This comes on the heels of visits by senior Birmingham cultural leaders, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and the Director General of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Helen Judge.



The Big Sleuth

The Big Sleuth has arrived on campus, and akin to *Goldilocks*, there are three bears for intrepid explorers to find. Colleagues from MDS, HAS and the Green Heart team have worked in partnership with Birmingham Children's Hospital and Wild in Art to bring the giant sculptures to the University. This is part of a city-wide trail of around 100 bears. If you haven't already spotted the furry trio, then check out their web page for a trail map and details of some family-friendly special events including a teddy bear hospital. www.birmingham.ac.uk/uobbigsleuth

Ironman World Champion dedicates Chrissie's Gym in the new Sport & Fitness building

Birmingham's Sport & Fitness opened its doors in May, and in June alumna and four-time Ironman world champion and record holder Chrissie Wellington OBE came to dedicate the fitness gym. The state-of-the-art facility, featuring 200 pieces of kit, along with an integrated wellness app facility and interactive screens, was named in her honour as a result of a public vote in 2014.

Chrissie, who is Global Lead for Health and Wellbeing at Park Run, said: *'My dad told me on my first day at the University of Birmingham to make a mark for all the right reasons. To know I have left a mark like this gym is very important to me. For me it is less about winning medals, it's more about inspiring people to achieve more and live healthy active lives. This gym will help the University do that and I am proud to formally open it.'*



Chrissie opening the centre

Parking

The current developments on campus are among the most ambitious since 1909. As a condition of planning, the number of car parking spaces will remain the same, however there will be changes made as capital work progresses. North Car Park closed permanently in July and there will be temporary changes made to other central car parking provision.

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

CoSS Outstanding Impact Prizes 2017

The College of Social Sciences' Outstanding Impact Prizes recognise researchers who have made a big impact through their research. Last month, at a ceremony hosted by Professor Saul Becker, Head of the College of Social Sciences and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, the College celebrated its most impactful academics.

'Congratulations to all the winners and finalists of the CoSS Impact Prizes. The awards recognise the fantastic achievements of academics at the University, whose positive societal impact is a demonstration of the purposefulness and value of our research on both a national and international level.'

Professor Tim Softley,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research
and Knowledge Transfer



Outstanding Impact in Business and Enterprise

This prize recognises outstanding research which has brought about impact with business and enterprise.

Winner: Chris Lonsdale and Joe Sanderson, Facilitating International Innovation and Change at Rolls-Royce plc (Civil Aerospace Division)

Insightful application of research into buyer-supplier power and supplier behaviour in supply chains enabled Chris and Joe to develop a research-led competence development programme and provide business strategy support at Rolls-Royce. The improvements achieved through the programme have been felt across organisations, internationally, and can be valued in multiples of £100 million.



Outstanding Impact in Public Policy

This prize recognises research that has contributed to the development of UK public policy, at the local, regional or national government level.

Winner: The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues

The Jubilee Centre has achieved significant impact on education policy and practise in the UK and internationally. The Centre has informed government policy on character education, developed and delivered a range of teaching resources, informed teaching practise with a MOOC, and shaped public debate on character education with a high impact media presence.



Outstanding Impact in Society

This prize recognises research that has made a contribution benefitting a specific group of the public or society more widely. This prize recognises research that has made a contribution benefitting a specific group of the public or society more widely including local or community groups and charities.

Winner: The Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS), Refugees in Europe – from departure to settlement
IRiS is addressing the human, social and economic challenges presented across Europe by the refugee crisis by positively shaping policy and practice at a national and local level. This research is profoundly important in tackling one of, if not the single biggest social and humanitarian crisis affecting the EU. IRiS is changing the way refugees are perceived and provided for through a combination of training tools and policy recommendations.



Outstanding ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Project

This prize recognises a CoSS researcher/team that has made excellent use of funds provided by the ESRC IAA. This prize is sponsored by the ESRC IAA.

Winner: Christalla Yakinthou, Multiple IAA projects: Engaging Children and Youth in Transitional Justice Processes: Building Impact out of the Kenyan Experience, Writing the Unvoiced: Women's stories of Repression In Tunisia, Assisting the Cyprus Peace Negotiations.

Christalla's different projects have made significant contributions to truth-seeking and transitional justice systems in a variety of contexts. Her projects have influenced practice and policy in Kenya, negotiations between Greece and Cyprus, and have given Tunisian women a voice after almost 60 years of political violence.



Outstanding International Impact

This prize recognises research that has achieved impact at an international level.

Winner: Nicolas Lemay-Hébert, Working Towards A Resolution: Haiti, Cholera and the UN

Nicolas has worked closely with the Institute of Justice and Democracy in Haiti on the cholera crisis in Haiti. This work led to numerous high-level officials joining forces to elaborate a three-pronged framework for the resolution of the crisis. This framework respects the ability of the UN to operate in a difficult environment while allowing the rights of victims to be heard and compensated when harm is done.



Outstanding Early Career Impact

This prize recognises social scientists at the beginning of their academic careers who have achieved or show potential in achieving outstanding impact.

Winner: Andy Hodder, Union renewal in the UK

Andy's research has led to him providing strategic advice leading to crucial strategy and structural changes across one of the UK's largest Trades unions, the Public and Commercial Services union (PCS). This work has also informed the international debate around young people's engagement with trade unions.



Outstanding Impact Judges' Choice

This prize recognises a researcher/team whose nomination made a significant impression on the judging panel.

Winner: Monder Ram and Kiran Trehan, Enterprise and Diversity Alliance (EDA)

As shown by their strong nominations in two prize categories, Monder and Kiran's commitment to developing the EDA and their astute use of funding has seen the EDA go from strength to strength enabling it to bring about changes in attitude and practice nationally.

Youniversity

To succeed in the globally competitive market of higher education requires the collaborative effort of colleagues from across the academic spectrum and Professional Services departments.



Each of us has a stake in the success of our University, and everyone a role to play in helping Birmingham to thrive as a leading global university. In achieving this, the views, opinions, and expertise of our staff are invaluable; a university is no more than the people who make it.

In our recent internal communications survey, you told us that you want to have opportunities to engage with University leadership, and that you would value honest and open discussion with those who lead our University. It is crucial that, to fulfil our potential, people have the opportunity to have their voice heard on the future direction of the University. Surveys such as Have Your Say are the most explicit examples of when we ask for your feedback, but there are many more ways in which the University listens to its staff, some of which you might not know about.

Did you know that the Vice-Chancellor runs marquee events, and many more events, each year for new starters, as well as dinners for newly appointed professors and breakfast meetings for Heads of Schools? In addition, the Vice-Chancellor's Open Forums, held twice a year – usually in The Bramall – are your chance to hear from the Vice-Chancellor on key issues facing the sector and the progress of the University, and they also give you the opportunity to share your opinion during a question and answer session.

Vice-Chancellor's Staff Lunches take place termly; these small, informal events with 12–15 people, nominated by Heads of College and Senior Officers across the University, provide staff with the opportunity to chat with the Vice-Chancellor about their experiences and ways in which the University can be improved.

Each year we celebrate the outstanding commitment of our long-serving staff at the Vice-Chancellor's long-service awards, recognising those who have been with us for 25 years. This year, the Vice-Chancellor hosted a celebration in a marquee at Meadowcroft for 48 members of staff with a combined 1,200 years' service, with colleagues, friends, and family.

Professional Services staff also have the opportunity to attend the termly Birmingham Professional Forum, hosted by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders – an event which packs out The Bramall and gives colleagues the opportunity to hear from, and question staff who are leading the University's major developments and performing world-leading research.

If you have a question you would like to ask the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar, we would encourage you to attend the relevant forum, or alternatively you can email Matt Collins using the internal comms email address with your question: internalcomms@contacts.bham.ac.uk

'I recently joined the University. One theme I have noticed since joining the University is the willingness from colleagues across disciplines to meet and work collaboratively to solve a collective challenge. This was reinforced when I was invited to attend a working lunch with the Vice-Chancellor and a variety of academic and Professional Services staff of varying grades. Discussion points were driven by staff and varied from improving academic standards to recruiting, retaining and developing our staff. I found it very open and positive experience and it underlined the ambition of the University to engage with its staff to improve the performance of the institution.'

Gareth Mainwaring, Director of Operations and Development, Birmingham International Academy

'I recently attended my 25-year long-service award (has it really been that long?!). Typically, it rained so we were based in a marquee at the bottom of the garden at the Vice-Chancellor's residence. Following the speeches everyone was presented with a commemorative folder and received congratulations from the Vice-Chancellor.'

'It was a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours with other members of staff from all different areas of the University who've also worked here for 25 years. Amazing to think we've all, literally, been here for more than a combined millennium!'

Kathryn Barnett, Office Manager, Student Recruitment

'The lunch was a great opportunity to engage with the Vice-Chancellor and other colleagues and to share ideas for enhancing the University.'

Professor Suzanne Higgs, School of Psychology

If you've missed the Birmingham Professional Forums, or want to recap, you can view the recordings on the Birmingham Professional intranet pages: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/strategic-framework/professional-services/birmingham-professional/bham-pro-forum.aspx



...ON CAMPUS. HAVE YOU FOUND OUR BEARS YET?

On 10 July, three Big Sleuth bears made our campus their home for the summer until 17 September.

But have you found them yet? In support of the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, we challenge you and your colleagues to get out of the office and discover our bear-illiant new friends. You don't have to be Goldilocks to spend time with our giant teddies, but you will have to track them down using our interactive trail map which is downloadable from our website. Plus, if you download the Big Sleuth app, you can make your lunch break paw-some by collecting rewards for finding our bears! And, if you send us a bear-utiful selfie to the bear's Twitter, you will be automatically entered into our selfie competition.

Why not get your friends and family involved too?

As well as an interactive trail, we are hosting an array of family events and much more to keep little cubs entertained this summer! All our events are free, and you still have time to book onto a Winnie the Pooh screening at The Bramall on 9 August, and the Teddy Bear Hospital at the Medical School on 18 August. New events to be added soon! Don't forget to make sure your cubs also create their own bear on their map and tweet us their masterpiece using the hashtag #uobbigsleuth.

THE BIG SLEUTH

We are delighted to be supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, in collaboration with Wild in Art, to host The Big Sleuth. A free public art event taking place this summer which will see up to 100 giant bear sculptures leave their paw prints all over the region for ten weeks. The Big Sleuth, so named because sleuth is the collective noun for a group of bears, will see the individually designed sculptures appearing throughout Birmingham and beyond, inspiring residents and tourists to uncover Birmingham's cultural gems and discover areas of the city they may not have explored before. At the end of the trail, the bears will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. thebigsleuth.co.uk

THERE WILL BE PRIZE GIVEAWAYS FOR THE MOST BEAR-ILLIANT BEAR DESIGNS AND SELFIES!

FOLLOW OUR BEARS AND SEND THEM YOUR SELFIES

**@ROSIE_THE_BEAR
@BUZZ_THEBEAR
@BEEKIND_THEBEAR**

TWEET US USING THE HASHTAG #UOBBIGSLEUTH

Brought to you by:



**DOWNLOAD THE TRAIL MAP NOW
BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/UOBBIGSLEUTH**

CAMPUS CURIOSITIES

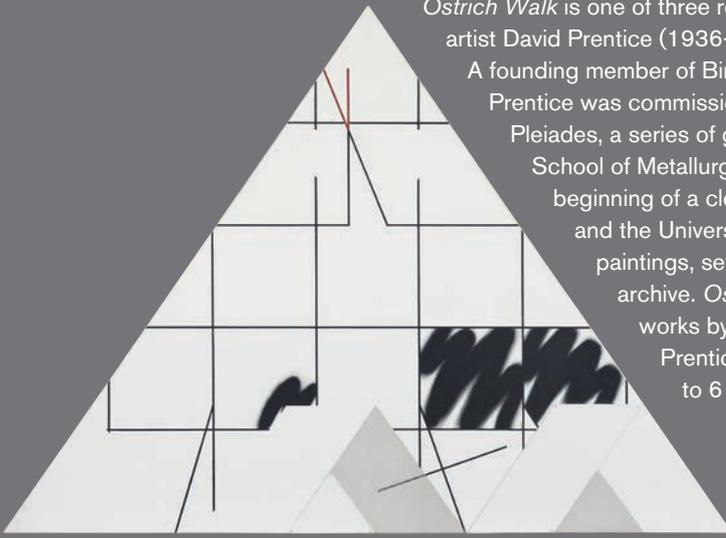
What is it?

Ostrich Walk by David Prentice, 1979.

Campus Collection of Fine and Decorative Art, Research and Cultural Collections

Where is it?

Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb Building



Ostrich Walk is one of three recently gifted large-scale triangular paintings by British artist David Prentice (1936–2014), which the artist referred to as 'delta field grids'. A founding member of Birmingham's internationally renowned IKON gallery, Prentice was commissioned by the University of Birmingham in 1970 to create Pleiades, a series of grids on mirrors which are permanently displayed in the School of Metallurgy and Materials (G6). The commission marked the beginning of a close relationship between Prentice, his artist-wife Dinah and the University; culminating in the gift of the three delta field grid paintings, several smaller works and Prentice's meticulously kept archive. *Ostrich Walk* will be on display alongside other 1970s works by the artist in a new exhibition, Delta Field Grid: David Prentice, in Aston Webb Rotunda Gallery from 4 August to 6 October 2017.

Learn more

To find out more about the exhibition and associated events, please visit www.rcc-redmarley.tumblr.com.

Chancellor's column

The annual Chancellor's Dinner is an opportunity to highlight the tremendous success of the University and the contribution made across the board by our amazing staff and students.

We have seen decorations for our teaching staff, presenting our Outstanding Teaching Awards, as well as the government's newly implemented Teaching Excellence Framework where Birmingham achieved a Gold standard in the first series of annual assessments.

Over 6,000 of our students volunteered their time locally, including our lawyers, our medical students, and our engineering students. The University and our local community would not be the same were it not for the contribution of our students.

And 48% of our graduates stay on in the region, including starting their own businesses. Every year, we report that our students and graduates start over 50 new businesses and, as an entrepreneur, that is music to my ears.

With three more Nobel Prizes under our belt this year it is no surprise that our research continues to be accomplished and wide-ranging, with 81% of our University's research classed as world-leading or internationally excellent.

We also co-hosted the World Shakespeare Congress in Stratford with over 800 Shakespeare scholars, and we officially opened the fantastic Birmingham Institute of Forest Research in Staffordshire, the result of a £15 million gift.

Our work in digitising railways has attracted over £60 million in industry investment, and the rest of our business collaborations go from strength to strength, including the announcement of an innovative new joint degree-apprenticeship with PwC.

Our international collaborations continue to blossom, including our partnerships with the University of Melbourne and with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, one of North America's top public universities.

All round tremendous success and progress on all fronts – onwards and upwards!



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



news+views

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

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

in the news...

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

Dr Rishi Caleyachetty and the Institute of Applied Health Research team's work into busting the myth of 'healthy obesity' was covered by *the Guardian*, *The Independent*, BBC News and many major media around the globe.

Our Institute of Forest Research's (BIFoR) work into carbon absorption was featured by the *Daily Mail* and covered by *Made in Birmingham TV*. It was also covered internationally in *Nasdaq.com*, *Reuters India* and *Yahoo (USA)*.

Dr Robin Thompson and PhD student Freya Watkins' research into the impact of left- and right-handedness on people's ability to understand sign language was covered internationally by *India Blooms*, *MedIndia*, *Information Nigeria* and *Science Times (USA)* among others.

The University of Birmingham was mentioned in the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *City AM*, *Birmingham Mail* and *The Birmingham Post* for ranking high in the inaugural Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) – following our 'gold' award. The award was also covered internationally by *News Amed (Turkey)* and *Kerennews (Indonesia)* among others.

Professor Clive Roberts spoke to the *South China Morning Post* about remote monitoring and artificial intelligence creating more efficient railway systems.

The launch of our Dubai campus generated coverage in the region with articles in *The Gulf Today*, *Emirates News Agency* and *UAE Interact* among others. It was covered in the UK by *BBC Online* and *The Times* among many others.

The visit of Indian coaches to learn about the latest research and techniques in fitness and conditioning was covered by *Business Standard India*, *Press Trust of India* and *Zee News* among others. *China Daily*, *Sina* and many other Chinese media covered the launch of our dual degree programme with Jinan University.

Professor Nick James was mentioned on *BBC Midlands Today* and *BBC Radio 4 News* for his research into prostate cancer treatment, which was also covered by the *Evening Standard*, *Telegraph*, and *The Independent* among others. The research was also covered internationally by Chinese media giants *Xinhua* and *Sina*, *Economic Times (India)* and *Dotemirates (UAE)*.

Join the UoB online community

Follow us on Twitter at @unibirmingham. If you use social media at work and would like to increase your visibility, find out more at: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/socialmediaguidelines



feeling social...

At our two June open days, the social media team were on campus to show the world what happens at a University of Birmingham Open Day.

On Twitter we shared images, video clips, asked visitors to share a hashtag with us, recorded Student Ambassador video tips, and engaged with our audience throughout the two days using the hashtag #hellobrum, which trended in the region during Saturday.

We also expanded our Facebook Live posts this year; featuring academics and colleges to give an insight into studying a subject with us; showcasing Civil Engineering, Palaeobiology and Basic Life Support. Facebook Live posts were also shared from the Vale Village and Chancellor's Court, and all posts were viewed across the world.

We also kept our Instagram Stories busy over the two days by sharing some fun and some serious top tips for the day.

Professor Ilya Mandel and PhD student Simon Stevenson's use of gravitational waves to analyse the formation of black holes was covered by *the Guardian*, *The Independent* and *the Daily Mail*.

The University's Lapworth Museum was mentioned on *BBC Radio 2* for being shortlisted for Art Fund Museum of the Year, with its nomination picked up by *The Telegraph*, *FT*, *the Guardian* and *The Birmingham Post*.

Stephen McAuliffe ...in my own words



Stephen McAuliffe is the University's Academic Registrar.

‘You might be wondering what an Academic Registrar does. It's a fair question. I lead Academic Services across the University, in our colleges and central professional teams. My role is to bring these Professional Services closer together to ensure that our cycles of activity are in harmony and complement each other, enhancing our capability to deliver excellence. We can do a lot by working together across Academic Services to ensure we get the most from all the talent and expertise we have within our University.

My journey here began with an undergraduate degree in geography and history, followed by postgraduate study at Canterbury Christ Church University. Following my days as a student, I was elected President of the Students' Union (SU). This sparked my interest in working within higher education (HE). Aside from a few forays outside the sector after graduating, HE has been a constant throughout my working life. Jobs at the University of Kent, the Kent Institute of Art and Design, the University of Nottingham (including at their Malaysia campus) and most recently the University of Essex have shaped my pathway to this point. The variety of roles, have, by and large, been focused around the student experience; a mixture of student life, wellbeing and academic support. My more recent MBA from UCL Institute of Education has helped fuse my experience with wider learning from the sector.

Personally, I do not believe that the relationship between a university and a student is a consumer relationship. Here, staff and students are members of the University of Birmingham community, where decisions have a collective impact – so it's vital to involve and engage with students in partnership, to develop their potential and our offerings around learning, our environment and our society. I take this stance into every conversation I have with the Guild and its SU Officers, but inevitably there will be occasions where we disagree. We are all custodians of the University – which will outlive us all – and we have a responsibility to make decisions in the best interests of its long-term future.

The Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) open up challenges and opportunities to providers of higher education as the government seeks to promote student choice and opportunity. When making that choice, students can be certain that the quality of education at Birmingham is outstanding! On top of our excellent QAA Review, graduate outcomes and employability, our TEF 'Gold' rating adds to Birmingham's reputation

for teaching excellence. Though we have concerns over the small number of proxies used to inform the TEF, it is a significant achievement for the University and yet another stunning endorsement of the everyday hard work and qualities of our academic colleagues – but we must continue to innovate and improve the experience of our students.

Of course I cannot talk about the future of HE, of recruiting the most talented researchers and the best students, without talking about Brexit. If we absolutely must leave the European Union, then any negotiations seeking to achieve a 'good deal' for the UK must include retention of the mobility of people. Additionally, securing EU or alternative funding from our government is crucial for research, but even more crucial are the opportunities for collaboration with peers across the world. Financial, cultural and procedural barriers must be guarded against.

Regardless of these external challenges, we've still got to get on with our role of being a world-leading university. I have been impressed, since I arrived here ten months ago, by our ability to respond to challenges, to pull out all the stops when we really need to, and to do it well with professionalism and skill. I want to take this expertise and drive forward the way we do things to such a level that people in the sector routinely ask, *'I wonder how they do it at Birmingham?'*

If you asked me what I liked most about working here, I'd probably say the balance it offers, like having such a brilliant new sports centre, where one – in theory – can keep fit and focus the mind. I go to the gym every day and see one of the personal trainers twice a week, but I counterbalance all this by eating. So if you're wondering what an Academic Registrar does off the clock, well this one likes to eat a bit of cake. This manifests itself in my ventures around the sites of the National Trust, where, in my opinion, their wonderful places of natural beauty and buildings of historic and cultural significance are only superseded by their delightful home-made cakes. When I'm not watching the cake stands, I'm watching rugby, where my allegiance lies with Wasps. I'm also a keen traveller, enjoying weekend breaks – I've just got back from Salzburg where I went on a Mozart and a Sound of Music tour (separately!). I like to live life with a smile, I like to laugh – colleagues say I have a really loud laugh* – and whilst I am dedicated to my role I try not to take myself too seriously. I'll certainly continue working hard to improve what we do at Birmingham, but I think we can have some fun on the way. **;**

**Buzz can qualify this statement: occasionally Stephen's laugh is audible above everything else in the recording and occasionally the volume had to be turned down during the transcript!*