



October/November 2017



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

YOUR NEW  
WEB POSTER  
INCLUDED INSIDE.

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

## YOUR BUZZ

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

Front cover image: Celebrating Success

Well, it was quite a summer! Hardly a day went by when universities were not in the headlines, and most of those headlines did not wish us well.

Universities being in the spotlight is not new. Hostile stories about universities in the August season are not new. What was new was the sustained attack on universities. Some of this was predictable, and doubtless welcomed in some quarters, with Vice-Chancellors' salaries and alleged 'perks' to the fore.

What was much more troubling, though, was the persistent suggestion that universities were out of touch, delivering poor value, and anything but 'anchor institutions' in their communities.

Contrast this with the year that we have just experienced at the University of Birmingham. Our best ever year in terms of research grant income, TEF Gold, an outstanding National Student Survey outcome compared to our peers, record recruitment, opening signature buildings in the Library and the Sports Centre, and announcing a new campus in Dubai and a major presence in Jinan. The list goes on.

Moreover, while universities were being traduced in the national press, I was being approached on an almost daily basis to support the Birmingham bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022, with it becoming increasingly clear that material as well as moral support from the University would be critical to the bid.

So here is the paradox. Our best universities have never been more successful or more relevant. Despite the headwinds of Brexit, a far from supportive approach to recruiting international students, and the pall of regulation which now hangs over the sector, we continue to thrive, make massive contributions to our communities, and offer what is globally regarded as one of the best higher education experiences in the world.

We will therefore need to re-engage in the public and political debate. Doubtless some of the more astringent and ill-informed criticisms of universities will fall away as the new cycle returns to its autumn normality. Nevertheless, criticisms will persist.

It would be pointless to respond to this in a self-interested way, and it would be

ineffective to respond by simply restating old arguments. In many ways the best response to our critics is simply the quality of what we do. Outstanding research, brilliant teaching, and a university environment which enables the best to flourish.

Simultaneously, as our *London Economics* report demonstrated, we are probably economically, as well as socially, the most important institution in our city. Shouting this from the rooftops will probably avail little: demonstrating it day in, day out, by the way in which we engage and the quality of what we deliver will change minds and the temper of the debate.

So, as the year unfolds, we will redouble our commitment to engage and to transform.

At the same time, however chill the winds, and however challenging the political environment, it is critical that we do not allow ourselves to be deflected. *Birmingham 2026*, the next stage of our strategic thinking, which I will launch on 17 October at the Vice-Chancellor's Forum, charts an ambitious course for our University. I believe that this is the right course, indeed the only course to ensure that we continue to thrive as a leading global university. We have the resources to underpin our autonomy, and our most recent admissions round tells us that we have never been more attractive to outstanding applicants both within the UK and internationally.

As we continue to recruit outstanding staff, and as we commit together to achieve still greater things, we will thrive: thrive because we are building something exceptional; thrive because we stand for and embody the values which have and always will make universities great; and thrive because, whatever our critics might say, we are one of the crucial pillars on which a prosperous, enquiring, resilient, and socially progressive society is built.

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

BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL

# BRAZIL

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TEAM HOSTS BRAZILIAN UNIVERSITY DELEGATION FOLLOWING BRITISH COUNCIL FUNDING SUCCESS.

Researchers and staff at the University welcomed a delegation of senior colleagues from a leading Brazilian university to further strengthen ties between the two institutions.

Led by their Vice-President, Professor Sergio Nobre, senior colleagues from UNESP (Sao Paulo State University) took part in interactive workshops with counterparts from the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham to help develop UNESP's international strategy.

Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) hosted the visit, which was arranged by international experts at the two British universities. The four-day event saw Brazilian delegates representing international engagement, research, graduate and undergraduate studies working with their colleagues from the UK.

Birmingham leaders included Professor Jon Frampton, Director of the China Institute; Professor Peter Kraftl, Director of Internationalisation for the College of Life and Environmental Sciences; Professor Jeanette Littlemore, Director of Internationalisation for the College of Arts and Law; and Peter Clack, Director of International Relations.

Professor Mason said: *'The University of Birmingham is proud to work with our partners at the University of Nottingham to welcome our colleagues from UNESP. This excellent collaboration presented us with opportunities to develop new ways of working together and further map out exciting research initiatives.'*

*'This partnership with UNESP and Nottingham is testament to Birmingham's reputation for innovation and intellectual*



*curiosity. As a global 'civic' university, we have a responsibility to enrich the life of our home city and the wider world, enabled by our world-class research and education.'*

The workshops are part of a long-term relationship between the University of Birmingham and UNESP, one of Brazil's most prestigious universities.

The visit was organised in partnership with the University of Nottingham and backed by the British Council's 'Capacity Building and Internationalisation for Higher Education' fund. The fund supports UK universities with a successful track record of working with Brazilian institutions, who wish to continue to work closely with partners and help them develop their 'internationalisation' strategies.

For more information on the visit and to discuss our engagement with Brazil, please contact Dr Erica Arthur, Director of International Development and Mobility, International Relations at [e.d.arthur@bham.ac.uk](mailto:e.d.arthur@bham.ac.uk)

The Higher Education sector in Brazil is moving forward after 'Science without Borders' – a large-scale nationwide scholarship programme primarily funded by the Brazilian federal government. A new government-funded initiative 'More Science, More Development' will support student mobility, research collaboration and knowledge transfer. Under both schemes, the University of Birmingham has supported and will continue to support its Brazilian partners, as part of its long-term presence and engagement in Brazil.

As part of the British Council funding, a return visit to UNESP is planned, to develop further UNESP's international strategy and deepen the collaboration between the universities.



Käthe Buchler, 'Nurse with patient and Christmas tree in the military hospital', 1914–1918  
© Estate of Käthe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig/Deposit Stadtarchiv Braunschweig

# Beyond the Battlefields

The Voices of War and Peace WW1 Engagement Centre is organising an exhibition in the Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb Building and in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, open from 20 October. *Beyond the Battlefields: Käthe Buchler's Photographs of Germany in the Great War* will include images showing life on the German home front.

The exhibition on campus will also feature material relating to the University and its role during the war as the 1st Southern General Hospital. The exhibition closes on 14 January 2018.

Please see the website for more details, [www.voicesofwarandpeace.org](http://www.voicesofwarandpeace.org) or contact Dr Nicola Gauld, Centre Coordinator, [n.gauld@bham.ac.uk](mailto:n.gauld@bham.ac.uk).

## Dates for the diary

### Vice-Chancellor's Forum

Tuesday 17 October 2017,  
12.30–1.30pm

Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall

Join the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood, for his first staff address of the new academic year.

Universities have been in the political spotlight in recent months. The Vice-Chancellor will offer his personal insight on the politics and policy of the sector, and the challenges and opportunities that they present for Birmingham.

The Vice-Chancellor will also introduce *Birmingham 2026* – the next stage of our strategic thinking.

### Birmingham Professional Forum

Thursday 26 October 2017,  
11.00am–12noon

Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall

Join us for the first Birmingham Professional Forum of the new academic year. The Forum is introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders, and the agenda will follow shortly.

## BUAFTA nominations now open!

2–30 October

It's that time of year again! The BUAFTAs (Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement) are an opportunity for us to share and celebrate some of the exceptional work of Professional Services colleagues from across the University. Staff and students are invited to make nominations in ten different categories – so if you know an individual, team or project that you think deserves an award, please follow the link and let us know.

Thank you to all colleagues who completed the BUAFTA survey earlier this year. Based on your feedback we have made a few changes to the nominations this year. There are two new categories that will be specifically chosen by students and academic staff, and will give everyone at the University the opportunity to get involved with the process and make these awards the most successful yet.

Winners will be announced at the



celebration event on 16 February, so please start thinking about your nominations – we look forward to receiving them and hearing about the great work that goes on at the University!

For further information and to make your nominations for BUAFTAs 2018, visit [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buaftas](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buaftas)



# Paintings reunited for Barber Autumn exhibition

Two paintings that were first seen in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts just after the outbreak of the Second World War are to be reunited in the gallery for this autumn's lead exhibition, *Pride and Persecution: Jan Steen's Old Testament Scenes*, which opens on 27 October.



In the autumn of 1939 – the Barber's opening year – Austrian Jewish-born art dealer Kurt Walter Bachstitz (1882–1949) transported *The Wrath of Ahasuerus*, c.1668 to 1670 (pictured left) and *Samson and Delilah* 1668 (pictured above), to Birmingham, in the hope that the Henry Barber Trust would purchase one of the masterpieces for the Barber's collection.

On the advice of the first Director, Thomas Bodkin, the Trustees chose *The Wrath of Ahasuerus*, regarded as the superior painting, and also the more expensive. *Samson and Delilah* returned with Bachstitz to his gallery in The Hague.

When the Nazis invaded the Netherlands in May 1940, Bachstitz's position as a prominent Jewish-born businessman became extremely precarious, even though he had converted to the Christian faith following his marriage to his second wife, Elisa, who was a Protestant. His brother-in-law, Walter Andreas Hofer, had managed Bachstitz's gallery in The Hague – and was to become chief art agent to Hitler's deputy, Field Marshall Hermann Göring. A keen art collector, Göring acquired *Samson and Delilah* from Bachstitz as a bribe, thanks to Hofer's intervention – and the art dealer and his wife were allowed safe passage to neutral Switzerland in 1944.

Following the war and the capitulation of the Nazis, the Allies restituted *Samson and Delilah* to Bachstitz, who returned to the Netherlands, dying there in 1949. The painting was subsequently sold, and now is owned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

# YOUR WELLBEING

'WEEK OF WELLBEING'  
9-13 OCTOBER



'Week of Wellbeing' at the University will be taking place from 9-13 October to tie in with World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10 October, and our Workplace Wellbeing team have put on a series of events and activities for staff. The week will be themed on the **Five Ways to Wellbeing**, with a different action dedicated to each day.

## WHAT ARE THE FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING?

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are a set of evidence-based actions, which have been introduced by the New Economics Foundation. The principles and advice can be adopted to help you to improve both your physical and mental health. The concept aims to promote your wellbeing by suggesting simple activities that can be carried out in your everyday life.

## SO, WHAT'S GOING ON DURING WEEK OF WELLBEING?

There will be lots of fun, informative, and engaging activities organised throughout the week, helping you to find your favourite thing to do, discover more about what's on at our campus, and learn some useful tips to improve your own wellbeing.

**Here's a taster of what you can get involved with on campus. Visit the website for the full programme and registration details.**

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

ECT

## CONNECT

With the people around you. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

## BE ACTIVE

Go for a walk or run, step outside, cycle, play a game, dance. Exercising makes you feel good.

## TAKE NOTICE

Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

## KEEP LEARNING

Try something new. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

## GIVE

Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.

### BE ACTIVE

#### Monday 9 October

- Fun activities at UoB Sport and Fitness – try things out and find out more about getting active!
- VIP guided walk of Winterbourne gardens – spend some time outdoors and get some exercise at the same time!
- Student Wellbeing Relaxation session (students only)
- Mental Health awareness course (staff only)
- Join an informal bike ride led by the Sustainable Travel team

### CONNECT

#### World Mental Health Day

#### Tuesday 10 October

- 'Connect over coffee', take a break and get away from your desk or study
- Start conversations about mental health and what helps you to get through an average day
- Recovery Arts Exhibition, Barber Institute of Fine Arts

### TAKE NOTICE

#### Wednesday 11 October

- Guide Dogs 'Doggy de-stress' sessions – interact with a guide dog for ten minutes. Contact with animals is proven to improve how you feel.
- Post a photo to Twitter of something you have taken notice of during your day.
- Have a go at the campus culture trail, visit the Lapworth Museum, see a show or play at the Bramall, view the art at the Barber, or explore Winterbourne.

### GIVE

#### Friday 13 October

- Join a philanthropy tour of campus hosted by the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO). Discover more about the University as a charity and how you can volunteer on campus.
- Visit the stand in Staff House Foyer and learn more about staff networks, support available through Workplace Wellbeing and Equality and Diversity at the University.

### KEEP LEARNING

#### Thursday 12 October

- Get crafty at the Barber during your lunchbreak or between lectures
- Take a look at the learning and development opportunities available through People and Organisational Development
- Visit one of the campus museums



# GIVE. VOLUNTEER. CHANGE 10,000 LIVES.

Launching this Autumn, the 10,000 Lives programme has the ambitious aim of changing 10,000 young lives through the support of donors and volunteers.

This University-wide initiative also forms the first phase of our next campaign. It will inspire our supporter community to create 10,000 life-changing opportunities for pupils, students and young alumni (aged 11–25) by making donations or giving their time.

The campaign will help recent graduates, current and future generations of Birmingham students by providing scholarships, mentoring and careers support.

Simon Lerwill, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, says: *'We're so excited about this new initiative. In a first for UK Higher Education, 10,000 Lives will focus on*

Brandon Doherty (BA Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, 2016) received several different scholarships that enabled him to study at Birmingham. He is now on the Lloyds HR graduate programme.

*'I wouldn't have had the opportunities I've received without the support of my scholarships. I'm from a low-income family and before University I didn't really get the chance to do anything outside my group of friends. When I came to Birmingham I studied a great course and met people from all over the world in a unique place.'*

*the number of lives changed, rather than a monetary target. It will raise aspiration in 11–18-year-olds, develop confident and employable students and support our young alumni as they start their careers.'*

The initiative will be formally launched by the Vice-Chancellor at the House of Lords in November but staff can find out more at the Birmingham Professional Forum on 26 October. More details will also follow in the December edition of *Buzz*. In the meantime, if you would like to help spread the word about 10,000 Lives across the University by becoming a champion, please contact Kerrie Holland at [k.holland@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.holland@bham.ac.uk)

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/10000lives](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/10000lives)

**THE BIG SLEUTH BIRMINGHAM 2017**

**WIN YOUR VERY OWN MINI BIG SLEUTH BEAR**

On 12 October, our bear-illiant Big Sleuth friends, Buzz, Rosie and Professor Bee Kind, will be off to auction to raise valuable funds to support the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. We have no doubt that our bear-utiful bears will be a hit with the bidders. To celebrate their success, we are giving two lucky people the chance to win their very own mini Big Sleuth bear. To be in with a chance of winning, tweet us a bear joke using the hashtag #uobbigsleuth.

**YOU HAVE UNTIL FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER TO ENTER.  
WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YOUR PAW-SOME JOKES!**

# Celebrating Success 2017



The Celebrating Success feature is becoming an annual fixture in *Buzz*. The achievements, outstanding skills, and expertise of our staff are increasingly recognised by organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

As a community we have presided over yet another remarkable year: building on our excellent QAA Review with TEF Gold; receiving Nobel recognition for our research; and, of course, becoming the sporting home of gold medal Olympians!

On campus, our success stories are celebrated at our internal awards such as the Outstanding Teaching Awards, the Founders' Awards, and the Professional Services' BUAFAs, which I urge you all to participate in again this year.

Beyond campus, I am immensely proud of academic and professional services colleagues who have been commended for their considerable talent. As ever, the breadth and depth of the accomplishments is impressive and emphasises the quality of people we have here in Birmingham. I hope that in reading about just some of these successes you also share the same sense of pride.

The achievements listed here are the culmination of invested time and effort, of creativity and applied ingenuity. Let me offer my warmest congratulations to all, and my sincere thanks for your contribution to the University.

**Professor Sir David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor



## 2017 New Year Honours

The Queen's New Year Honours saw remarkable staff, students and alumni recognised for their achievements.



**Professor Susan Hunston** was awarded an OBE for services to Higher Education and Applied Linguistics in the Queen's New Year Honours. Professor Hunston began her career as one of the leading researchers on the pioneering COBUILD project, which involved the creation and analysis of the first electronic body of contemporary text, the Bank of English, and the production of the world's first dictionary based on entirely authentic language. This has now become the default method of writing dictionaries and the approach has been adopted by all major publishers worldwide. Professor Hunston also played a key role in what is widely recognised as one of the outstanding achievements of 20th century linguistics: the development of Pattern Grammar, which changed how dictionaries, course books and grammar books are written.

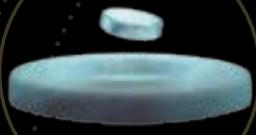


- **Professor Peter Weissberg**, University alumnus and British Heart Foundation Director, received a CBE for his work with the British Heart Foundation
- **Professor Keri Thomas**, Honorary Professor in End of Life Care, received an OBE for her services to End of Life Care
- **Martin Devenish**, University Council member, received an MBE for services to Higher Education and voluntary service to Educational Development Overseas
- Current student, **Lily Owsley** along with fellow Olympian and psychology graduate **Sophie Bray**, received MBEs for their services to hockey, and Paralympian and double world champion **Lorna Fachie**, who studied physiotherapy at the University, also received an MBE for her services to cycling

## Nobel Prizes

The start of the 2016/17 academic term got underway in spectacular fashion with three Nobel Prizes being awarded to former colleagues.

**2016**

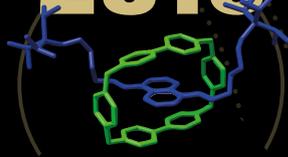


**PHYSICS PRIZE  
DEEPENING OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF  
EXOTIC MATTER**  
Professor David J. Thouless  
Professor J. Michael Kosterlitz

### Nobel Prize in Physics 2016

**Professor David Thouless and Professor Mike Kosterlitz.** Both scientists were academic members in the University's Department of Mathematical Physics, now the Theoretical Physics Group, in 1973 when they published the seminal work that indicated that matter can have an internal geometry or 'topology', which can have measurable effects on their properties.

**2016**



**CHEMISTRY PRIZE  
PIONEERING MOLECULAR  
MACHINES**  
Professor Sir J. Fraser Stoddart

### Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016

**Professor Sir J. Fraser Stoddart.** The Nobel Prize was awarded jointly to Professor Stoddart, along with Jean-Pierre Sauvage and Bernard L. Feringa, for work done in the 1990s into the design and synthesis of molecular machines, when Professor Stoddart was Head of the School of Chemistry at the University.

## Outreach and Engagement

As England's first civic University, we were founded to serve our community. To this day we are proud of our work with the local community, work which has been recognised. Here are just a few examples of where our work has benefited Birmingham and beyond.

**The Lapworth Museum of Geology** was named Runner-Up in the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017, the largest museum prize in the world. Art Fund Museum of the Year recognises museums that have undertaken transformative projects; brought their collections to life for audiences in exceptional ways; delivered an innovative programme of audience development, learning or outreach; and won the support of their visitors.

**The University's Law School** has been recognised for its services to the community, assisting individuals and groups in need from across Birmingham and further afield, gain access to free legal advice. The School received 'Best Contribution by a Law School' at the LawWorks and Attorney General's Pro Bono Awards.



**Dr Clare Ray** was runner-up in Health Education England's National Widening Participation Awards, which recognises the achievements in the health sector of outstanding widening participation partnerships, research and initiatives.

## Getting Greener



Throughout the University, staff work to cut our carbon footprint and work towards developing a campus that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.



### Making Birmingham Greener and Healthier Awards *(pictured)*

The University scooped two accolades in Birmingham City Council's 'Making Birmingham Greener and Healthier Awards'. The University was winner of the 'Birmingham Connected Sustainable Travel Award' for work promoting sustainable travel to staff and students, and runner-up under the 'Best Waste and Recycling Scheme' category for our work with BioBean, where we have established a recycling solution for the estimated 22 tonnes of used coffee grounds generated in the coffee outlets across campus.



### UniGreenScheme – Green Gown Awards Final

The University and UniGreenScheme, which helps us to recoup space, generate revenue and hit environmental targets, have been shortlisted for the prestigious Green Gown Awards Final. The winner will be announced on 15 November.

### Green Flag Award Winner *(pictured)*

The University has won a prestigious Green Flag Award, which is an international mark of quality and recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces.

## Little Learners

**Congratulations to the staff at our two day nurseries, who help little learners get off to a great start in life.**

### Ofsted Outstanding.

Congratulations to the University of Birmingham's day nursery, the Oaks, for achieving a rating of 'outstanding' in their Ofsted inspection. The Oaks was described as providing an exceptionally rich and varied environment for its children.

### Millie's Mark.

Both the Elms and the Oaks day nurseries have received national recognition for going above and beyond the minimum requirements in paediatric first aid, with 100% of staff trained in paediatric first aid. The 'Millie's Mark', is a new quality mark by the National Day Nurseries Association in collaboration with the Department for Education and Millie's Trust.



## Strategic Influence

The quality of staff at the University can often lead to requests for their expertise to be shared and utilised by other high-profile organisations, businesses, government departments and charities. Here are some recent examples.



**Professor Paul Jackson** will join the United Nations Secretary-General's Committee of Experts (CEPA) in the coming year. Professor Jackson has also been appointed Programme Director for the British Academy to help deliver an anti-poverty programme.



**Professor Joan Duda** has been elected as European College of Sport Science (ECSS) President. The European College of Sport Science (ECSS) is the leading association of sport scientists at European level.



**Professor Paul Burstow** has been appointed as Chair of the national improvement agency and independent charity, the Social Care Institute for Excellence.



**Professor Karim Raza** has been appointed Arthritis Research UK Chair of Rheumatology. Karim will play a pivotal role in the treatment of patients with inflammatory rheumatic conditions and also help to shape the future of rheumatological services by providing a voice of authority to government and health bodies.



**Professor Kiran Trehan** has been appointed to the role of Vice President Research at the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE).



**Professor Hisham Mehanna** has been appointed President of the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists.



**Dr Tim Hall** has been selected by Oracle to be a member of their new Oracle Developer Champion group.



**Professor Paulus Kirchhof** has been appointed as board member of the European Society of Cardiology and Chair of its Education Committee.



**Professor David Hannah** has become the first UNESCO Chair in Water Science to facilitate inter-disciplinary research, education and awareness raising to tackle water scarcity around the world.



**Professor Jonathan Reinartz** has been appointed President of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health.

## Teaching Triumph

We all know about our Gold success in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), but did you also know that an international panel of judges shortlisted the University for the Higher Education Academy's (HEA) first Global Teaching Excellence Awards (GTEA)? The award is open to providers of higher education from around the world, and is awarded to an institution in recognition of institution-wide approaches to teaching excellence.

## Guild Glory

A special mention to the Guild of Students, who have been awarded the Quality Students' Union 'Excellent' Award, which is a National Union of Students accreditation. The award recognises the Guild as one of the top three Students' Unions in the country! It is part of a string of recent achievements for the Guild, including the awarding of Investors in People Silver, Green Impact Excellence, and Best Bar None Gold.

## Enhancing equality

The University is enhancing equality and valuing diversity through our Equality Scheme 2016–2020. We currently hold a Bronze Athena SWAN Charter award and are proud to be members of Stonewall, and are ranked 75th in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers Index 2017. Recently, we've launched our BAME Staff Network and have signed up to the Race Equality Charter. Below are a few examples of where staff have been recognised for their equalities work.

- **People and Organisational Development** achieved the runners-up award for the 'Learning and Development' category in the Universities Human Resources (UHR) Awards for Excellence in HR 2017, for their leadership programme to develop aspiring Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) Professional Services staff
- **Dr Nicola Gale and Dr Nicki Ward** were awarded 'Role Model of the Year' at the West Midlands Stonewall Awards for their work in developing the Inclusive Curriculum in Higher Education project

### Super Structures

Our new building developments have, between them, received five regional industry awards for their design and development. At the West Midlands Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the following awards were received:

- **Infrastructure** – Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR)
- **Residential** – The Chamberlain Residence Scheme
- **Innovation through Design** – The Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry
- **West Midlands Project of the Year** – BIFoR

At the West Midlands **Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)** Awards, Birmingham Business School's new Postgraduate Teaching Centre, the Alan Walters Building, was recognised for excellence in design.

### Ones to watch

These awards recognise emerging talent at the University, and the significant contribution already made by academics to their chosen field of study.

- **Dr Bodo Winter**, Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics, was awarded the 'Young Researcher's Award' at the Third International Symposium on Figurative Thought and Language, in Osijek, Croatia, for his paper *Synesthetic metaphors are neither synesthetic nor metaphorical*
- **Dr Joseph Galea**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology, has recently been awarded the British Association for Cognitive Neuroscience (BACN) Early-Career Award for his significant contribution to the field of Cognitive Neuroscience
- **Professor Owen Addison**, School of Dentistry, has been awarded the Young Investigator Award from the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist Award

## Fine Fellows

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

- **Professor Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias**, Honorary Professor – Fellow of the British Academy.
- **Professor John Skelton** – Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
- **Professor Simon Halsey CBE** – Fellowship of the Royal College of Music.
- **Professor Angela Creese** – Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.
- **Professor Steve Busby** – Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.
- **Professor Roy Harrison OBE** – Fellow of the Royal Society.
- **Professor Leam Craig** – Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.
- **Professor Anna Whitaker** – Fellow of the British Psychological Society.
- **Dr Alex Conner** – Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.
- **Dr Alex Conner, Dr Andrew Coney, Ronnie Meechan and Dr Clare Ray** – Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Authority.
- **Dr Caroline Bradbury-Jones** – Winston Churchill Fellow (Winston Churchill Memorial Trust).
- **Dr Deirdre Lane** – Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology.
- **Professor Laura Piddock** – Fellow of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID). Professor Piddock is also a member of the expert committee of Global Antibiotic Resistance and Development Programme, and Chair of the EU Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) for the Antimicrobial Resistance Scientific Advisory Board.
- **Dr Jean Assender** – Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

## Our success continues...



**Buzz is pleased to highlight accolades received by staff across the University who have been recognised for their skill, hard work and dedication. We recognise that we may not have captured everyone, but we hope this list demonstrates the breadth and scale of our achievements.**

- **Professor Mikhail Cherniakov**, Head of the Microwave Integrated Systems Laboratory, has been honoured by being awarded the first Christian Hülsmeier Award by the German Institute of Navigation (DGON).
- **Professor Paula Mendes**, Professor of Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, School of Chemical Engineering – IChemE Global Award.
- **Dr James West** – Fulbright Scholar Award to the USA.
- **Dr Luke Kennard** – longlisted for the Desmond Elliot Prize for his novel, *The Transition*, and Shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas prize for his book of poetry *Cain*.
- **Dr Jonathan Parry** – American Philosophical Association's (APA) 2017 Frank Chapman Sharp Prize.
- **Professor Pete Alcock** – presented with the 'Special Recognition' Award by the Social Policy Association (SPA).
- **Professor Kalwant Bhopal** – visiting scholar at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for 12 months from September 2017.
- **The Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis (MEDMIG) project**, co-led by **Dr Nando Sigona** – nominated for a *Guardian* University Award 2017 for Research Impact.
- **Nasrin Akhtar**, a PhD student with the School of Social Policy – 'Mentor of the Year' in Mosaic's Princess Badiya Mentor of the Year Awards.
- **Dr Nicola Rollock** – selected as the winner of the 2016 PRECIOUS Award for 'Outstanding Woman in Professional Services' for her work in the field of race.
- **Dr Sarah Forbes**, along with colleagues from Massey University and the University of Otago – Ig Nobel Prize for Economics 2016.
- **Professor Steve Busby** – awarded the 2017 Marjory Stephenson Prize Lecture.
- **Dr Eugenio Sanchez Moran** – awarded an EU Innovative Training Network Award.
- **Professor Ian Fairchild** – awarded the Coke medal of the Geological Society of London.
- **Professor Ole Jensen** – Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.
- **Dr Simon Hanslmayr** – Royal Society Research Merit Award.
- **Dr Dipak Kotecha** – NIHR Career Development Fellowship.
- **Dr Helen Roberts** – Sir Wilfred Fish Research Prize from the British Society of Periodontology.
- **Dr Joanna Morris** – Wellcome Investigator Award (2017).
- **Dr Myriam Chimen** – Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship.
- **Dr Ronan Ryan and Professor Tom Marshall** – Royal College of Physicians' Excellence in Patient Care Award for Innovation.
- **Dr Saj Sarwar and Professor Gregory Lip** (Human Interface Technologies Team) – Innovative Team of the Year Award – WMAHSN Celebration of Innovation Awards.
- **Dr Vibhu Paudyal** – Associate Editor of *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.
- **MDS Senior Management Team** – *Times Higher Education* Leadership and Management Award – Outstanding Administrative Services Team (shortlisted).
- **Professor Damien Walmsley** – John Tomes Medal, British Dental Association.
- **Professor Domenico Pagano** – elected as Secretary General of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery.
- **Professor Gregory Lip** – NIHR Senior Investigator and NIHR Clinical Research Network Research Impact award.
- **Professor Ian Henderson** – appointed Deputy Chair of Panel B (Plant and Microbial Sciences) for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.
- **Professor Steve Watson** – Wellcome Investigator Award (2016).
- **Professor Willem Van Schaik** – Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.
- **Professor Yotis Senis** – Associate Editor, *Research and Practice in Thrombosis and Haemostasis*.
- **Sarah Pontefract** – accepted as a member of the Q-Community.
- **The Cardiology Atrial Fibrillation Research Team, the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences** – Star Award for Excellence in Research (Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust).
- **Professor David Charlton** – Richard Glazebrook Medal and Prize.
- **Human Interface Technologies team, headed by Professor Bob Stone** – Innovative Team of the Year award, West Midlands Academic Health Science Network's Celebration of Innovation awards.
- **Department of Civil Engineering**, led by Professor John Bridgeman – ICE West Midlands Civil Engineering Awards. The team won the award for developing a low-cost device which checks whether water is safe to drink.
- **Steven Hale**, BiSON Instrumentation Engineer, School of Physics and Astronomy – overall winner of **#TechniciansMakeItHappen**, a campaign celebrating the UK's 1.5 million technicians.
- **Valter Jantara Junior**, Metallurgy PhD student at Birmingham – Len Gelman Award for the Best Paper by an Early Career Researcher at the first World Congress of Condition Monitoring.
- **Dr Lewis Makana**, Research Fellow, Department of Civil Engineering – Best Paper Award, International Conference on Utility Management and Safety (ICUMAS) in Hong Kong.
- **School of Computer Science** – Recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) as an NCSC-EPSC Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACE-CSR) for another five years.
- **Professor Lee Chapman**, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences – awarded the Harry Otten Prize for Innovation in Meteorology.

# Meet Creative Media

– the icing on your cake



*Behind the scenes during congregations*



*University Annual Meeting*



*Miscarriage direct mail campaign*



*Dubai Prospectus*

If you've heard, watched or read something about the University of Birmingham, it's a fair bet that Creative Media has played a part in it – including this very edition of *Buzz* you're reading now!

Based in External Relations, Creative Media have helped develop multi-channelled communications in collaboration with colleagues across the University, adding the sparkle to high-profile projects such as the award-winning Heroes campaign, the stunning makeover of the University railway station and the visuals that added a bit of 'pizzazz' to the last University Annual Meeting.

Many of you will have seen the incredibly moving miscarriage research campaign that the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) ran recently. The campaign, which resulted in the largest single gift donation to the University following a direct mail promotion, featured beautiful designs for both print and e-communications, complemented by sympathetic video footage shot by Creative Media in their professional studio.

The degree congregations in July and December are a busy and exciting time for the whole University, but have you ever stopped to think about how the magic is made? Thanks to the full range of services on offer, Creative Media play a vital part every step of the way. Having already designed, printed and distributed the tickets and programmes for the prestigious event, pop into the offices in the Aston Webb Building and you'll find wires and cables running from the director's edit suite to the cameras in the Great Hall, as HD-quality images are captured and streamed to proud watchers across the world.

In fact, Creative Media supports a wide variety of projects across the University to promote research and recruitment activity and help deliver messages of support and guidance to staff and students. At the beginning of the recruitment cycle, there are open day materials, followed by brochures, videos and digital communications, signage across campus, even printing the exam papers!



*Rupea (far left) and the Client Relations team*

If you've got a project you'd like to talk to us about, email Corrina Kimberley, Head of Client Relations on [cm-clientrelations@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:cm-clientrelations@contacts.bham.ac.uk). It really could be the icing on your cake.



# transforming OUR campus

## Green Heart: gathering pace

It is a time of great development on campus, and between the end of term in June 2017 and the beginning of term in September 2017, much has happened. The old library has now been demolished. We have worked closely with the contractor carrying out the work to remove and preserve the shields that formed part of the frontage of the Library. These are being carefully stored and will become part of the Green Heart when it opens in 2019.

Part of University Square has now been cordoned off to allow landscaping work for the Green Heart to begin, and staff will already be able to see some of that work taking place. Coming soon will be the addition of some mature trees, which will be craned into their locations. A total of 160 new trees will be planted.

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.

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](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheart360)

Find out more at [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheart](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheart) or [@uobgreenheart](https://twitter.com/uobgreenheart) on Twitter.



*Artist's impression of the Green Heart*



*Artist's impression of the Green Heart*

## Running track and sport pitches

The new running track, housed behind Winterbourne, is now complete. The 400m floodlit track has eight-lanes, with a full range of facilities for throws and jumps. The first athletes to use it were the Jamaican Track and Field team, who held a training camp there as part of their World Championship preparations.



As well as becoming a home for the athletics stars of the University and local schools, the track will also be available for local club bookings.

New sports pitches parallel to the Bristol Road are also at the point of completion. This includes two international-standard hockey pitches, one of which will be used for football, a 3G rugby pitch, and ten courts for netball and tennis. A new pavilion and club house to provide changing and catering facilities for outdoor sports, will also be opened as part of the Bournbrook Residence, which welcomed its first students in September.

**To find out about booking the running track for your club, contact [book@sportandfitness.bham.ac.uk](mailto:book@sportandfitness.bham.ac.uk)**

## Phase 2 of the Estates Strategy

The University has an ambitious £606 million plan for the development of the campus, and the next phase, which represents around £200 million of the total investment, has been announced. This phase will focus on teaching and research in the shape of four flagship projects:

- A new teaching and learning facility, which will be a hub for education. The building will provide a large lecture theatre and an interactive lecture theatre with supporting social space to support the modern learning experience at Birmingham.
- The new School of Engineering, due for completion in 2020, will bring together engineering disciplines into one state-of-the-art building. It will incorporate a new centre of excellence in rail innovation, bringing industry into the heart of our campus.
- The new Molecular Sciences Building will be a focal point for strengthening our core research capabilities in the chemical, environmental and bio-molecular sciences. A designated hub for the School of Chemistry will be created and office and laboratory accommodation will be provided for existing School academic staff and researchers.
- An extension to the University Business School will provide much needed facilities to a successful and growing centre of excellence, allowing the majority of its activities to take place in one building from 2019.

This phase continues key work that focuses on our students, with a significant academic building being delivered every year for five years, starting in 2018 with the completion of the CTL, which will transform Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning.

This ambitious programme is part of the important role we have in celebrating, protecting and upgrading University buildings for the benefit of students and the academic community, building on the history of the institution.

## Collaborative Teaching Lab reaches new heights

The Collaborative Teaching Laboratory (CTL), due to open in September 2019, will celebrate topping out this month. Staff and students will come together to celebrate this critical point in the development at a special event.

The CTL will house a wet lab, a dry lab and an e-lab and will enable us to rethink the way Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are taught at the University. It will make more efficient use of staff time and resources through the effective use of practical teaching space, innovations in teaching delivery and the reinvention of practical classes.

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/building/Collaborative-Teaching-Laboratory.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/building/Collaborative-Teaching-Laboratory.aspx)



Artist's impression of the CTL

## CAMPUS CURIOSITIES

### What is it?

Spectacles belonging to Raymond Lodge

### Where is it?

Rotunda Gallery,  
Aston Webb Building



These wire-rimmed reading glasses once belonged to Raymond Lodge, who was the son of Sir Oliver Lodge (a prominent scientist and the first Principal of the University of Birmingham). They were found on Raymond's person when he was fatally wounded during World War One.

Raymond Lodge, the youngest son of Sir Oliver and Lady Lodge, was born in Liverpool in 1889 and was educated in Birmingham. He enrolled on a Mechanical Engineering degree at the University of Birmingham in 1906. After two years' practical training he went to work for the family engineering company, Lodge Brothers. Having volunteered for military service in 1914 he was trained in Liverpool before being sent to France to fight in the trenches. He was killed on 14 September 1915 and his death prompted the beginning of his parents' interest in spiritualism. Oliver expanded his work into radio waves to explore the feasibility of contacting Raymond through the ether. His book *Raymond Revisited* documented this piece of work.

Raymond's efforts have been commemorated by the University through the War Memorial in the Aston Webb Reception.

**Find out more:** These spectacles are on display, along with Raymond's other personal effects, in the exhibition *Beyond the Battlefields: Käthe Buchler's Photographs of Germany in the Great War*. The exhibition is in the Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb Building from 20 October 2017–14 January 2018.

## Chancellor's column

Although British universities are the jewel in our country's crown, we often encounter criticism. This summer, a leading national newspaper suggested that its investigations proved domestic students were losing out on places being given instead to foreign students at British universities, who shunned domestic students in order to earn more money.

I, along with others, immediately corrected their false accusation by stating that, for example, at the University of Birmingham, UCAS figures show that there has been a phenomenal rise in students – both international and domestic – between 2006 and 2016, with international student numbers rising from 640 to 945 and domestic students rising from 4,625 to 5,455. This increase in undergraduates in the last decade has been reflected across the UK.

On top of this, we have had a constant battle with the government; we have had to correct the falsehoods about the numbers of international students overstaying their visas, estimates which are used to back up the government's negatively-charged rhetoric about immigration.

I have personally asked the government to reintroduce physical visible exit checks at our border so that

we have accurate data on who is entering and leaving our country.

And I feel vindicated that, in July, the Office for Statistics Regulation published a report lowering the International Passenger Survey to 'experimental' status, and advising that they should not be used when calculating net migration.

Furthermore, the government finally released a report that many of us have demanded to be released, drawing on more accurate exit-check-based data from 2016. This revealed that, quite apart from 100,000 international students overstaying their visas every year, over 97 per cent of international students departed or stayed on in work or further study by the time their visas expired, leaving only 4,600 international students in the country who overstayed.

There is now real hope that the government will change its negative policy and remove international students from net migration figures. In fact, we should have a target to increase the number of international students studying in the UK.

According to a Universities UK study, international students bring over £25 billion to the UK economy and enrich the experience of domestic students.

And they are one of our greatest forms



of soft power. Research by the Higher Education Policy Institute in August found that British universities have educated more heads of state than any other country in the world, including the United States.

In the last few months, the evidence has all been made public, and we hope that the government too will now take decisive action.

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

## in the news...

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

**Dr Abd Tahrani's work into diabetes and sleep apnoea leading to vision loss was covered by a range of international media including the *New York Post*, *Hindustan Times* and *Business Standard India*.**

An international team, including Dr Amaury Triaud, used the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope to discover that the seven Earth-sized planets orbiting the nearby dwarf star TRAPPIST-1 might harbour substantial amounts of water. Their research was covered by *the Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Mail* and others.

**Professor Alexander Milner's work on glacial melting was covered by more than 40 European outlets including *Salzburger Nachrichten* and ORF (Austria), *Sudostschweiz.ch* (Switzerland) and *La Liberte* (France).**

Dr Hugh Houghton's English translation of a 4th-century Latin Gospel Commentary, continued to capture the attention of media. He spoke to BBC Radio 4 *Sunday Programme*, *The Church of England Newspaper* and *Christian Post*.

**Research led by Professor Tony Belli into a pitch-side saliva test for concussion in rugby players reached an audience of almost 70 million. The study was featured on Sky News, BBC News, ITV News, *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*, *The Independent*, *The Sun*, *The Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.**

Professor Yvonne Elsworth commented to *The Sun* and *Daily Express* on research into solar oscillations. Her work was also covered widely in Australia.

**Professor Robin May's research discovering a way to stop deadly fungal infections spreading to the brain was featured in *medicalexpress.com* and *International Business Times*, as well as *Financial Express*, *Business Standard India* and *Deccan Chronicle*.**

Professor Robert Stone featured on ITV News regarding a clinical trial using virtual reality technology in an effort to help patients in critical care to recover more quickly.

**Professor David Gilborn's research into GCSE results and the black/white attainment gap over a 25-year period was published in the *Times Educational Supplement*.**

## Join the UoB online community

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



## feeling social...

There was a great buzz online around A level results day this year, with students sharing that their place at Birmingham had been confirmed.

We also saw current students and alumni sharing positive messages about joining the University and sharing the excitement with incoming students.

Our social media activity focussed on Twitter, where we engaged with those celebrating, replying with congratulatory messages and sharing animated GIFS with them. For the fourth year running the #hellobrum hashtag was trending in the region. We also shared more content on our Instagram Stories channel where we encouraged new students to share their excitement about joining us.

# FOUNDERS' AWARDS

The Founders' Awards are named after some of our most influential founders and benefactors, and demonstrate that their principles and vision of a 'great school of universal instruction' where our groundbreaking research has true benefits locally, nationally and internationally, are as alive today as they were in 1900.

Presented at the Chancellor's Dinner in July and hosted by Professor Alice Roberts, the awards provide an opportunity to recognise our stellar academic colleagues and celebrate their achievements with our most distinguished friends from business, politics, government and academia.



## The Joseph Chamberlain Award for Academic Advancement

### Professor Jo Morris and Professor Grant Stewart

Jo and Grant are both international leaders contributing to our understanding of the cellular response to DNA damage, making Birmingham a recognised centre of excellence in this area. Jo's principal interest is in the breast cancer associated gene BRCA1 and the mechanism by which it causes breast cancer, and Grant has been working on a group of genes including the cancer predisposing ATM and related genes where deficiencies can result in cancer, microcephaly or progressive neurological disorders.



## The Charles Beale Award for Policy Advancement

### Professor Arri Coomarasamy and Dr David Lissauer

Arri and David have placed research from the University of Birmingham at the forefront of policy and practice in global maternal health through the World Health Organization (WHO). They are currently implementing research and quality improvement programmes at 26 frontline healthcare facilities in Malawi, Tanzania, Pakistan and Uganda.



## The Aston Webb Award for Outstanding Early-Career Academic

### Dr Derek Kyte

Derek is a lecturer in Health Research Methods and deputy director of the Centre for Patient-Reported Outcomes Research. Derek's work on the use of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in clinical trials has led to the development of international consensus guidelines. This year, Derek was awarded a fellowship exploring the use of electronic PROs – allowing patients to send symptom reports to their doctor, potentially transforming patient care in the NHS.



## The Josiah Mason Award for Business Advancement

### Professor Kai Bongs

The Birmingham Quantum Technology hub was established three years ago, under the leadership of Kai. The Hub has grown substantially with very strong industry partnerships. The Hub draws together a wider academic community across the University, including expertise in civil engineering and geophysics to draw in collaborative projects with companies such as RSK Geophysics.