



Welcome to your 2021 Mechanical Engineering Alumni Newsletter



Dear Alumni,

I am delighted to introduce the latest Mechanical Engineering Alumni Newsletter and my first as Head of Department. I am incredibly proud to be the head of this excellent Department, having forged my career as an academic engineer here both as an undergraduate and postgraduate student before becoming a staff member. I recognised that I have a tough act to follow and thank Professor Duncan Shepherd for his excellent leadership over the past years, who is now taking on new challenges as the Dean for postgraduate studies over in the University's Graduate School. We wish Duncan all the very best in his new role.

[Read more from Karl Dearn](#)



School of Engineering presented with keys to new building

Building work was completed in February on the new £46.5m School of Engineering thanks to national contractor, Willmott Dixon. The state-of-the-art 12,000 sqm facility spans five floors and features a double-height atrium. The development aims to not only bring together many of the institution's engineering disciplines, but also provide opportunities for successful collaboration between academia and industry.

[Find out more about the new School of Engineering Building](#)



New material could better protect from injury

Soldiers, athletes, and motorists could lead safer lives thanks to a new process that will lead to more efficient and re-useable protection from shock and impact, explosion and vibration.

[Find out more](#)



Smartphones help to prevent glaucoma blindness

A new study reveals that smartphones could be used to scan people's eyes for early-warning signs of glaucoma – helping to prevent severe ocular diseases and blindness.

[Find out more](#)



Hi-tech solar solution brings hope to energy-starved people of Gaza

Birmingham experts are developing a novel solar energy pilot plant that will help to provide clean and affordable electricity, and improve the health and wellbeing of people living in the Gaza Strip.

[Find out more](#)



High performance, low cost ventilator project awarded grant of £768K by UKRI

Prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, an international team of engineers are developing high performance, low cost ventilators for use in low to middle income countries.

[Find out more](#)



New hardship grants for engineering students funded by Birmingham graduate, Emeritus Professor Barry P Hughes

We are delighted to announce a new bursary to support students in the School of Engineering who are experiencing financial difficulty. Thanks to the generosity of Emeritus Professor Barry Peter Hughes and his family, the Professor BP Hughes Bursary will support Engineering students experiencing hardship and facing unexpected financial challenges. This Bursary will provide comfort, security and peace of mind for cohorts of engineering students across the next decade.

[Find out more about the Professor BP Hughes Bursary](#)



A re-energised MechSoc

This year has been a little different for everyone, but MechSoc hasn't let it stop them! They've worked hard to build their community and offer their members more opportunities than ever before. Plus they have a brand new look!

[Read what MechSoc have been up to](#)



The Engineering Societies

There are now 23 student groups associated with the School of Engineering, each working towards a different project but all with the same aim – to offer something unique for their members and students.

[Learn more about our societies](#)



Success for our students at the annual Societies' Awards

For the second year running we took the EPS Societies' Awards online to celebrate our remarkable student groups. The celebrations were not halted and watch parties were held across our societies and Schools! We're proud to announce the School of Engineering

RFC have won Sports Team of the Year for the third time! Congratulations also to the Women in Science and Engineering Society who were named Society of the Year, and well done to all the nominees, shortlisted students and worthy winners!

[Watch the 2021 Virtual Societies' Awards](#)



Alumni perspective: Chetan Deep Singh

Chetan Deep Singh graduated in 2016 with an MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering and is now a Senior Engineer at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles in Chennai, India. In his alumni profile he shares how his degree has helped shape his career so far.

[Read Chetan Deep's alumni profile](#)



Innovative 'EPS Futures Foundation Year' programme

Through the generous support of donors such as Martin-Baker Aircraft, EPS Futures will provide life-changing opportunities for students. Together we will help unearth future engineers who otherwise may not have the chance to fulfil their potential.

[Find out more about EPS Futures](#)

WE ARE BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI

Help inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire young people and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. What will you share?

[Share your Birmingham story](#)

MENTORING

Could you be a mentor?

We all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, especially when it comes to our careers. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, we'd love to hear from you.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)



Seventy graduates take part in 'Meet your alumni' series

In March 2021, the EPS Community launched the first event series aimed at introducing students to Engineering and Physical Science alumni from a broad range of sectors. More than 70 graduates and professionals took part in 'Meet your alumni', each with a different

experience to share. In Mechanical Engineering we held a speed-networking event where students met five recent graduates and grilled them on their careers so far.

Find out more about the Series

News roundup

Andrew Stephenson, UK Minister of State for Transport, has formally opened a [new purpose-built centre designed to deliver specialist research in railway engineering](#).

Birmingham engineers [win prestigious awards for public engagement](#).

[Supporting students into engineering](#) and physical sciences at Birmingham.

Undergraduate programmes in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Birmingham have [ranked highly in the 2021 National Student Survey](#).

Birmingham researchers confirm [speed, simplicity and sensitivity for new COVID-19 test](#).

The School of Engineering is delighted to announce that Mechanical Engineering student, [Gabrielle McNeelance, has won the 2021 Raymont-Osman Design and Development Prize](#).

[Aviation's contribution to cutting climate change](#) likely to be small.

University of Birmingham provides West Midlands-based SMEs with [access to state-of-the-art manufacturing technology](#).

Do we have the correct contact details for you?

Make sure you update your details to ensure you receive the latest news and information about events in your area. [Update now](#)



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