

Careers and admissions conference

This summer's inaugural Careers and Admissions Conference provided over 100 Heads of Careers and VI Forms and Connexions Personal Advisers from all over the Midlands with an update on current issues in Higher Education.

The event, organised by the Student Recruitment Team, was opened by key-note speaker, Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive of UCAS, with an engaging speech on UCAS' response to the changing environment for admissions that covered issues including variable fees and bursaries, access and widening participation, how to make admissions fairer and e-applications.

Delegates were given the opportunity to attend workshops on a range of topics from Graduate Employment to Student Finance as well as subject-specific workshops in Law, Engineering and the Sciences.

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The conference is part of an extensive programme of activities organised by the Student Recruitment and Outreach Office for teachers and careers advisors. These activities allow the University to build and develop valuable contacts with schools and colleges.

Conference delegates certainly found this year's conference beneficial with one visitor commenting: *'One of the best days I have been on, and definitely I was left with the feeling that I would be more than happy to recommend Birmingham to students as a place of professional staff and excellent teaching and approachable knowledgeable staff.'*

The Student Recruitment Team would like to thank everyone who was involved in organising and running the event and look forward to running next year's conference. Colleagues who are interested in getting involved in the programme of activities should contact Katherine Pagett on Ext: 43501 or email: k.a.pagett@bham.ac.uk

Student wins award to engineer the future

A student from the University's School of Engineering has won a prestigious award from the Royal Academy of Engineering. Anne Berrisford, a fourth year student in the department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, has won a total of £7500 towards her future in Engineering.



The programme, called the Engineering Leadership awards, is run by the Royal Academy of Engineering to provide support and motivation to some of the most exceptional engineering undergraduates in British universities.

Anne won the award after a gruelling two-day selection process which included an interview

Anne, who is 23 and from Derbyshire, says, *'I would like to put the money towards furthering my language skills. I am currently studying Spanish at evening classes and I hope to be able to complete an intensive Spanish course*

overseas. I also plan to use the money to help me gain work experience abroad.'

Once Anne finishes her degree at Birmingham she would like to work for JCB, with whom she has just finished a year-in-industry placement.

Anne continues, *'I am really enjoying my time at Birmingham and am looking forward to my final year. The Engineering School has a great atmosphere – this is one of the reasons that I chose to study here.'*

Enterprising students on campus

As part of National Enterprise Week the Student Recruitment and Outreach department are hosting an exciting event that will appeal to all young, budding entrepreneurs.

The Enterprise Conference, which will be held at the Business School on Wednesday 16 November, will bring 120 Year 12 students onto campus to give them an invaluable insight into the world of business and enterprise.

Carolyn Moody, Student Recruitment Officer, said: *'This has been a very popular initiative. We have had an overwhelming response with over 500 applications from schools for only 120 places. Due to the popularity of this conference we are planning on hosting another event in 2006.'*

The programme will include business simulation games run by City of London firms Pricewaterhouse Cooper, IBM and Deloitte and Touche.

Workshops hosted by Birmingham graduates, Rupert Forsythe (Founder and MD, Campus Clothing), Stefan Lewandowski (Founder and Director, 3form Ltd, Creative Design & Technology, Birmingham Young Professional of the Year), Robert Taylor (Founder & MD, Birmingham Breakfast Co.) and James Eder (Founder and Director, Studentbeans.com) will give attendees the opportunity to ask questions and gain advice from successful entrepreneurs.

Participants will also get the option to go on a campus tour and experience the excellent facilities that are on offer to our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Winterbourne blooms

November may not be the most popular month to visit gardens but at Winterbourne there is still plenty to see. Here are just three reasons to take a stroll around the garden this month.

Cyclamen

These dainty members of the Primrose Family, *Primulaceae*, may be small but there are different species to guarantee flowers every month of the year. In the wild they grow through Europe, North Africa and West Asia from the melting snows of alpine meadows to shaded woodlands. A really good value plant, many will naturalise and form a colourful carpet.



Callicarpa

These unusual shrubs come from both America and Asia. In our Geographic beds we have both purple and white berried specimens and they are well worth a look on a dull day. The vibrant berries are not a favourite of birds so they will last through winter after all the leaves have gone.



Gentians

Many Gentians are difficult to grow, but this is one of the easiest as well as one of the best in terms of colour. These trumpet like flowers are true blue and are a great addition to any autumn rock garden.

