

NEWSLETTER

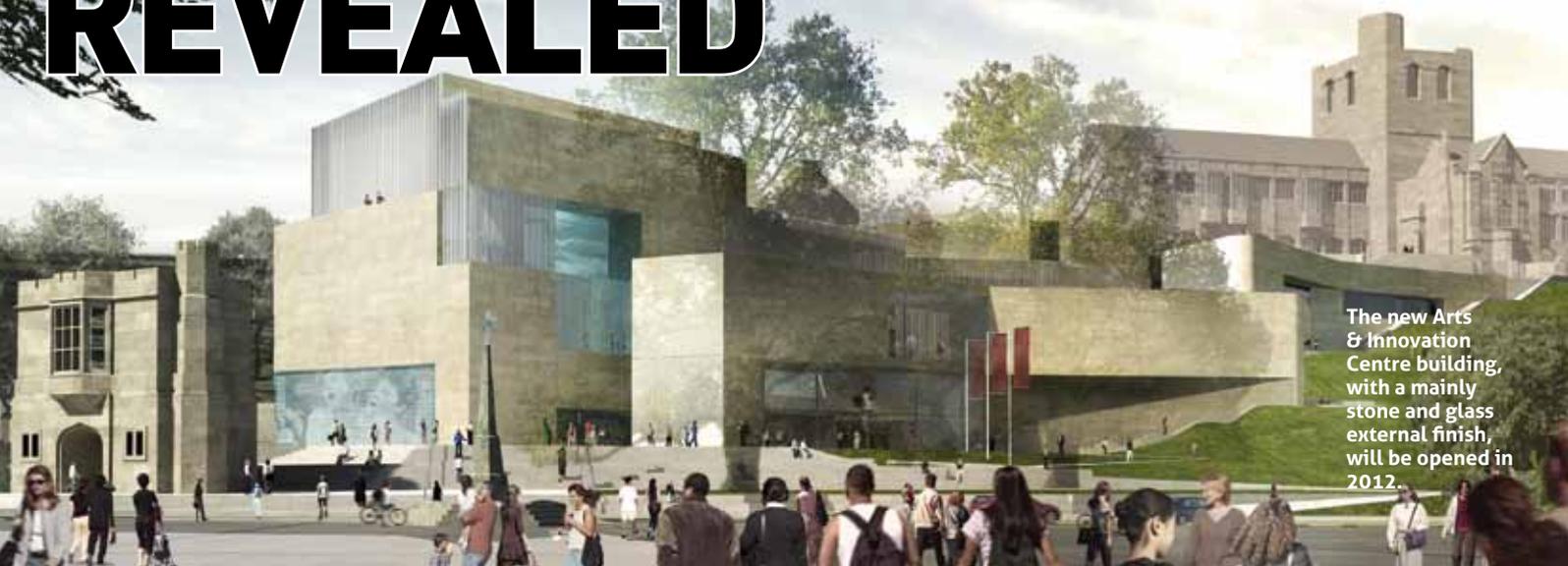
THE LATEST NEWS FOR ALL UNIVERSITY STAFF

JUNE 2010



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

DESIGN FOR 'PONTIO' REVEALED



The new Arts & Innovation Centre building, with a mainly stone and glass external finish, will be opened in 2012.

The design for the new £35+M Arts and Innovation Centre at Bangor University has just been revealed.

This exciting initiative will establish a world-class centre for innovation in science, technology and the creative industries and an internationally significant centre for learning and the performing arts. The new building, which will be a fantastic facility for staff, students and the Bangor community, will bring together arts and sciences in novel ways, and forge closer links between the University and the City.

The project, which is backed by £15 million Welsh Assembly Government funding, will have a very positive impact on the community, creating and safeguarding approximately 900 jobs. The building is being designed by a partnership of award-winning companies, including Atkins, Arup, and the architects Grimshaw. The latter have designed many other iconic buildings such as Cornwall's Eden Project, and the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in New York State.

Aptly titled 'Pontio', which is Welsh for 'to bridge', the new development will include a dynamic Innovation Hub, cutting-edge teaching and learning facilities, a range of indoor and outdoor performance spaces



including a theatre, and a brand new home for the University's Students' Union.

The Centre will have new teaching and social learning spaces to provide high quality modern learning environments for all students. In addition to the main theatre itself, there will also be 4 lecture theatres. Along with teaching and innovation spaces, the Centre will have state-of-the-art digital showcase facilities where work can be displayed using the latest technology.

The Innovation Hub will support multidisciplinary design approaches in the University and local businesses. It will bring together staff and students from different departments to equip young people for future careers in high level science and engineering. It will be a high quality skills base that will generate new technologies for businesses in areas as diverse as digital technologies, environmental goods and services, bioscience, advanced software, and visualisation, amongst many others. It will strengthen academic links

with the business community, and will provide a platform for interdisciplinary working across academic and community boundaries. It will also showcase and help to develop a range of world-class research on pressing socio-economic issues, particularly in the areas of health and protection of the environment.

The project's public performance spaces are designed to provide innovative and inspirational platforms for engaging new talent and providing dynamic artistic events. Plans are for a 500-seat theatre, cinema space, studio theatre, and an outdoor amphitheatre, all accompanied by exciting new social facilities including bars, cafés and parkland areas.

More images and details of the project can be seen at www.pontio.co.uk and there will also be an exhibition in the centre of Bangor during the next few weeks so that staff and students, as well as a wide cross-section of the local community, can learn more about the scheme.

The building will physically bridge the University's upper campus with the science site and a major re-development of the existing College Park will be incorporated into the scheme. It will be a bridge in other ways too: between the community and the University, between the University and commerce, and between different disciplines.

INSIDE FOCUS ON STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, GOOD TO MEET LAURA EDWARDS, NEW DEVELOPMENTS, STAFF REWARDED & RECOGNISED AND MORE...



The Central Foyer.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Fergus Lowe, who is leading the scheme said "The project is ambitious and iconic, and will have a transformative effect on staff, students and all the people it touches. It will promote new skills, nurture new and sustainable ways of thinking, and enormously enrich the cultural lives of us all. It will provide a Centre of such remarkable innovation and artistic excellence that it will draw the attention of people from near and far. This is an extremely exciting project for us at the University, which will really put Bangor on the map."

To ensure that there is minimal disruption on campus when building work starts this autumn, and subject to relevant permissions from Gwynedd Council, the Student's Union will be relocating temporarily to the Robinson Building. Situated in a central location, opposite the Deiniol library, the Robinson Building will include a home for Student Union services and facilities, a shop, a café and a brand new nightclub.

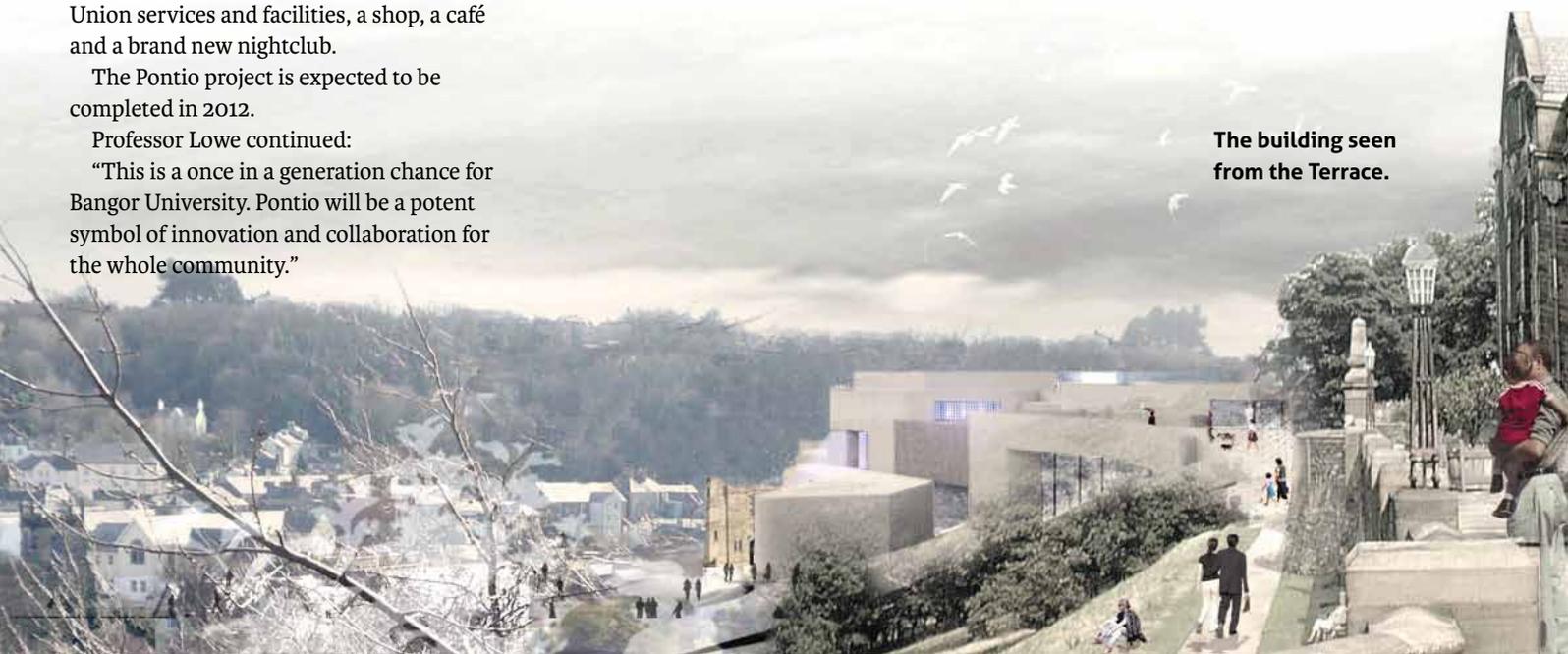
The Pontio project is expected to be completed in 2012.

Professor Lowe continued:

"This is a once in a generation chance for Bangor University. Pontio will be a potent symbol of innovation and collaboration for the whole community."



View from the Design Studio.



The building seen from the Terrace.

PROVIDING THE BACKBONE TO BANGOR'S CARING ATTITUDE

Staff at Student Support Services deal with between seven and eight thousand student contacts a year. This is an increase that reflects general trends of participation in higher education- particularly in respect of widening participation, increased numbers of international students and students with disabilities. The Services aim to meet the challenges of supporting students through their time at university and helping them to stay the course, whatever the problems, through innovative ways of service delivery and by some small but significant service enhancements.

International support

Fifty five international students in national costume attended a National Assembly St David's Day Celebration in Llandudno in March, accompanied by staff. This was one of the ever-popular trips and events arranged for Bangor's growing international student community.

With the incorporation of the ELCOS Unit, which provides English language courses to students, into Student Services, and the demands of the new Home Office Points Based Immigration Service with its enhanced visa requirements, a new post is being created within the International Student Welfare Service which will enable it to provide a greatly enhanced service.

An innovation last year was the introduction of the International Student Ambassador Scheme which has proved a great success. There are currently eight student ambassadors, mainly postgraduate students, from a wide range of countries whose role is to assist students during induction, to assist at events and to accompany the University's international office staff on recruitment trips to their home nations.

Supporting disabilities

The University has also experienced a threefold increase in the numbers of students with disabilities in the last five years. Bangor's excellent support, including trained individual mentors, has been recognised, with the National Autistic Society citing Bangor and Cardiff as the two universities in Wales providing exemplary support for students with autism spectrum disorders.



Left to right: A member of the Health and Safety Executive; Mair Owen - Advice Centre, Students Union; and Amy Jones - Housing Office, Student Support Services, provide advice to a student during a recent event.



Left to right: Jan Roberts, Tracey Morris and Amy Jones - all staff in Student Support Services.

Counselling

The Student Counselling service has also been able to increase the availability of counselling, both at one-to-one and group sessions. The trained counsellors have been providing staff development opportunities too as part of the University's Retention Strategy; providing sessions to personal and senior tutors to enable them to enhance their skills in supporting students. Monthly support sessions for Senior Tutors have been introduced this year.

Student Retention

Bangor is fairly unusual in having an adviser who can assist students in continuing to study in the face of personal or academic difficulties. The advisor can point them to a

wide range of options including temporary suspension of studies, change of course etc. to enable them to continue studying at Bangor and obtain a degree. Student Support Services also provides staff and parents with information on all aspects of student welfare provision and procedures at the University.

Money Advice

Chaos at Student Finance England at the beginning of the year saw thousands of students throughout the UK experiencing delays in receiving their student loans. At Bangor, Money Support Unit staff saw 500 students in the first semester, many of whom were assisted with funds to enable them to remain at Bangor during this difficult time.

Head of Student Support Services, Fran Tate said: "We've been through a challenging time, which has seen us come under increasing pressure to provide more services to students, but I'm pleased to say that I believe that we are meeting that challenge with enthusiasm."

IT'S ALL ABOUT BUSINESS AT BUBC

The Bangor University Business Club (BUBC) was launched in November 2008. Membership currently stands close to 600 members, the majority of which are private sector individuals, a quarter are members of staff from the University and the remainder are public sector personnel.

Based at and organised by The Management Centre, BUBC has hosted over 60 business events, seminars and networking opportunities during 2009 and is well supported. All information regarding these events is circulated by the BUBC events and administration team. Up to date listings can be found at: www.themanagementcentre.co.uk/businessclubevents2010.php

The Business Club is also home to a number of special interest groups where members have the opportunity to further their business and personal interests while meeting other members.

A bilingual seasonal news sheet "Business Bytes" is circulated to all members and is also available in printed form from the reception area at The Management Centre. If you would like further information about the Business Club or to register for membership please contact info@themanagementcentre.co.uk.

BUBC Membership also entitles you to make use of the Business Suite, the Business Lounge Bar and Brasserie at The Management Centre as well as offering preferential booking rates for bed and breakfast in the 4* business class guest accommodation.

DISABILITY EQUALITY DUTY – HAVE A SAY

The University produced its first Disability Equality Scheme three years ago and it is now time to review progress and produce a second Disability Equality Scheme. During the last year the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales reviewed our Scheme and was very positive and complimentary in its comments. The Human Resources Department want to build on this success and would like to encourage the involvement and participation of anyone who identifies themselves as being disabled to take part in developing the new Scheme. So if you have any comments or wish to be involved please contact: Mrs Jackie Ellis, ext 8321 or Mrs Carolyn Donaldson-Hughes, ext 2570 or email eandd@bangor.ac.uk

STAFF REWARDED



Back left-right: Mr Kevin Williams, School of Sport, Health & Exercise Sciences; Dr Andy Beaumont, School of Ocean Sciences; Mr Gwynn Lloyd Jones, BioComposites Centre; Dr David Roberts, Registrar; Mr Andre Lomozik, Mr Brian Price, both IT Services. Front are: Mr Gareth Williams, Mrs Carys Bowers, both School of Biological Sciences; Mrs Lyn Meadows, Director of Human Resources; Mrs Gwyneth Williams, School of Welsh.

Two Awards for Excellence were presented to members of support staff who had been nominated for their outstanding achievements recently.

Presenting a cheque for £1,000 each to Adrienne Hebenstreit, curriculum administrator at the School of Social Sciences, and Kevin Williams, technician at the School of Sport, Health & Exercise Sciences, Dr David Roberts said, "There are examples of outstanding service, and of unwavering loyalty and commitment to the University amongst support staff, and it is right that the University recognises this. The recipients this year were highly deserving of the 2010 Award for Excellence."

For the first time, the University has also introduced this year an award for long service. Ten members of staff, who between them, have given 435 years of service to the University were rewarded at a Long Service Awards Ceremony on the same evening. Each individual employed at the University for 40 years or more received a gift voucher of their choice. Each was personally thanked for their excellent contribution over the years.

"The night proved to be a great success and we hope to hold this event on an annual basis to recognise staff for their long service," said Lyn Meadows, Director of Human Resources.



Ms Adrienne Hebenstreit receives her cheque from Dr David Roberts.

Not pictured but also receiving awards were: John Cambridge, Richard Gwyn Williams, both School of Electronic Engineering; and Aled Williams, IT Services, who has sadly passed away since the awards ceremony.

CAERSAINT

Dr Angharad Price, Senior Lecturer within the School of Welsh has had her third novel published recently.

Caersaint was written after she won a scholarship from The Welsh Academy. Her first novel, *Tania'r Tacsi*, was published in 1999 and was followed by *O! Tyn y Gorchudd* which was awarded the Prose Medal at the 2002 National Eisteddfod and named Book of the Year by the Welsh Arts Council in 2003.

Angharad said: "*Caersaint* has been inspired by Caernarfon today. It follows Jaman Jones' attempt to 'find himself' after he inherits a house from an old lady called Arfonia Bugbird. I hope that it is a humorous story which portrays life within a Welsh town at the start of the twenty first century."

Angharad has been writing the novel for over three years. She said:

"The hustle and bustle of working at the University is not always helpful when you are trying to write (be that creative or academic!) but I learnt to make the most of every spare minute. However, the opportunity that you have as a lecturer to collect ideas and to discuss books by other authors, not to mention the inspiration that



Dr. Angharad Price.

you get from the students, enriches the experience of being a writer.

"I have wanted to write about Caernarfon for years and I've had so many half written novels in my desk! It's not easy to write about Caernarfon because there is such a wealth of history and legends, and sometimes it was hard to toe the line between the town's unique characteristics and the stereotypes of the town that exist. I feel privileged to live in such an interesting town and I wanted to portray that appreciation within the novel.

Angharad added: "At the moment I am in the process of finishing a series based on the life and work of T.H. Parry Williams when he was a student in Germany and Paris before the First World War. It is an extremely interesting subject and Parry-Williams is a writer that I have a lot of respect for.

"I'm sure I'll write another novel at some point but there is no concrete plan at the minute – we'll just have to wait and see the reaction to *Caersaint* first!"

Caersaint is available in all good Welsh book shops, including the two Palas Print shops in Bangor and Caernarfon.

PROFESSOR JOINS ARTS COUNCIL

Professor Gerwyn Williams of the School of Welsh is among six new members of the Arts Council for Wales, appointed by Alun Ffred Jones, the Heritage Minister.

Prof Williams will serve as a member of the Council from 1 April 2010 for three years. He said: "I am a passionate believer in the arts and their potential to enrich individual lives and society in general. The Arts Council of Wales has a vital role to play in the nation's life and I relish the opportunity to contribute creatively to its activities."

Professor Gerwyn Williams has served as Deputy Director of the School for Welsh Medium Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Head of the School of Welsh and Deputy Head of the College of Arts and Humanities. He was awarded a Personal Chair in November 2005.

His research interests include Welsh literature relating to the First and Second World Wars and the Falklands War. He was awarded the National Eisteddfod Crown in 1994 and won the book of the Year competition in 1997. He has acted as adjudicator for literary competitions at the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod



Professor Gerwyn Williams.

on a number of occasions. He edits several literary series and is a former editor of the journal 'Taliesin'.

Also joining the Arts Council are John Geraint, Osi Rhys Osmond, Richard Turner, Alan Watkin and John Carey Williams.

Alun Ffred Jones said: "I am pleased to appoint these six new Members to the Arts Council of Wales. They bring with them a wealth of valuable experience from a range of backgrounds across the arts and I am sure that over the three years of their term of

appointment, they will contribute a great deal to the work of the Arts Council."

Dai Smith, Chair of Arts Council of Wales said: "We will be welcoming six new members whose qualities of expertise and passionate enthusiasm so impressed in their application and will be so vital to us in this coming year of Strategic Investment Review. The new Arts Council that has now emerged is a terrific blend of personalities and experience, and one which, as Chair, I am really proud to lead over the next three crucial years."

BREAK THE STONE

The printed score of a new piece of music, commissioned by the University to celebrate its 125th Anniversary has been presented to the University.

Guto Puw, of the School of Music, and BBC NOW resident Composer, was commissioned to write the piece, titled 'Break the Stone' Overture, which premiered at the BBC National Orchestra of Wales Concert at the Prichard-Jones Hall in November.

He says this about the work:

"Having considered the history behind the founding of the University, this piece is a tribute to the strong desire, aspirations and vision of the local people to bring higher education to north Wales. Many of them were local quarrymen and farmers who donated a monthly sum from their wages over a number of years towards the cost of such institution. The piece celebrates those principles, which Bangor University still maintains."

"The title, 'Break the Stone', is captured from a folk song which refers to the skill of local slate quarrymen in north Wales. I was attracted to the literal meaning of the words, especially in the way the quarrymen, with their expert skills and geological knowledge, were able to break off a piece of stone from the mountain side, to change its shape, re-work it and literally transform it into another object, the most common end product was of course the roofing slate.

Similarly, in this piece the opening rhythmic theme is subject to a constant re-working, transformation and development whereby the original idea takes on new characteristics, such as a march-like theme suggested by the brass, a distant trumpet solo accompanied by descending woodwind scales, or the calm atmospheric central section. The use of some rather unusual percussion instruments, notably a masonry hammer and chisel, a roofing slate and shell chimes, faintly suggests sounds from the quarry. "

Throughout the piece a constant semi-quaver rhythm is present, together with some dramatic interchanging of ideas between various sections of the orchestra, all within the symbolic number of 125 bars!

ROYAL VISIT FOR MANAGEMENT CENTRE



H.R.H Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Bangor University during their recent tour of north and mid Wales. Their tour included a visit to the University's Management Centre, where they viewed the recently developed facilities. The Royal party also met staff and invited dignitaries, over a reception and lunch.

Management Centre Chief Executive, Professor Colyn Gardner said: "It's fantastic that the Queen chose to visit Bangor University and the Management Centre."

Here, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones, is introduced to the Queen by the, Lord-Lieutenant for Gwynedd.

CONTRIBUTION RECOGNISED



Photographed at the Conference are Heidi Heard (left) and Dr Michaela Swales (right) receiving the Award from Prof Linehan.

Psychology Lecturer, Dr Michaela Swales, received the Cindy Sanderson Outstanding Educator Award at the International Society for the Improvement and Training of DBT (Dialectical Behaviour Therapy,) in New York in November. Dr Swales received the award, along with Heidi Heard, for their work in developing the British Training programme and for their co-authored book, 'Distinctive Features of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy' published by Routledge in late 2008.

DBT is a psychological intervention for the treatment of suicidal behaviour in people with Borderline Personality Disorder, which is recommended by UK's NICE guidelines for women with these problems. The treatment was developed by Prof Marsha Linehan from the University of Washington in Seattle who has conducted several randomised controlled trials demonstrating the efficacy of the treatment.

Dr Swales was a member of the first team of professionals in the UK to train in the treatment in 1994 and a founder member of the British Isles DBT Training Team. She has directed the national Training Team since 2002. Since 1997 they have trained over 1,000 mental health professionals across the UK.

HEALTH & SAFETY SCOOP AWARDS

Bangor University can end its 125th celebratory year in the knowledge that the promotion of staff health and well-being has been judged to be the very best in the UK.

Bangor University won the Occupational Health, Health Promotion and Well-being award, and, more significantly, was declared "Overall Winner" at the awards ceremony, held by Occupational Health, the magazine reflecting the professional body in the UK.

To quote Dr Charlie Vivian, Director of Quality NHS Plus and Category Judge "Bangor's quality of presentation far exceeded the other entries. The argument developed logically, identifying World Health Organisations justification for health, and explaining why it should be promoted at work. Excellent leadership was demonstrated. Health assessments were conducted, resulting in assessments of smoking, alcohol, diet, exercise and back pain and mindfulness..."

According to Gareth Wynne Jones, Head of Health & Safety Services, the award highlights the high standard held for health promotion at Bangor University

as well as Occupational Health Practitioner, Joe Patton's leadership and championing of health at work.

Bangor's submission was judged against all manner of employers, including multi national and multi-million pound organisations such as Nestle, E-on, The DWP, BT, Metropolitan Police, Lotus Cars, Premier Foods and NHS Direct.

H+S

Following hard on the heels of the Award came the news that the local Health & Safety Group (which has been run by Health & Safety Services for many years and by the University for over twenty years) has been awarded "best overall programme 2009" and received a "highly commended" for the annual conference (held at PJ Hall in the autumn). The awards, the "Alan Butler Awards", are presented annually by Safety Groups UK - a national association supported by RoSPA, HSE and others.

Lisa Fowlie, Health & Safety Adviser, recently took a lead in arranging the Group's speakers and scheduling. Her wealth of conference experience and connections as a former UK



Pictured L- Rt: Noel Reilly, 'Occupational Health' editor, Gareth Jones (head of health & Safety, Bangor University), Dr Mark Simpson (Clinical director AXA - the event sponsor) Joe Patton (health practitioner, Bangor University) and Dominic Holland (comedian and MC for the event).

Chair of the Institution of Occupational Safety & Health has provided many University staff and local employers, with valuable information in the areas of health, safety and well-being.

Membership of the North West Wales H&S Group is a good spread of public and private

sector employers from across North Wales. The exchange of information provided via the Group is considered an important aspect of HSS work and a great opportunity to engage with and support other employers in the region.

Stop Press The Business Services team at the Estates & Facilities Department would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in their Sport Relief fund-raising event recently. With everyone's help they managed to cycle a distance virtually as far as half way to Cardiff and raised nearly £100. Once again a big thank you and well done from the team.

INVENTORS - YOUR UNIVERSITY NEEDS YOU!

Calling all academics and researchers with new ideas, inventions or technologies - a new project being run at the RIO office is keen to hear from you.

The Intellectual Property (IP) Commercialisation Project, funded by the Academic Expertise for Business (A4B) Support Programme, can assess whether ideas, inventions or technologies developed by our academic staff have the potential to generate significant, long-term financial returns for both researcher and the University.

Working with Aberystwyth and Swansea Universities, the project aims to increase the identification and flow of potential

ideas and inventions from within each University. It also aims to increase the level of intellectual property commercialisation and embed a culture of commercialisation within each institution.

Simon Pollock, IP Development Manager explains: "The project will gather all the ideas and evaluate them using other A4B funding sources to progress the best ideas further. We are really keen to hear from academics and researchers who have may not have considered that there may be a commercial aspect to their research work."

Contact Simon Pollock by e mail to newideas@bangor.ac.uk or call 01248 388028.

BUILT 1910 – REOPENED 2010 MÔN HALL 100 YEARS ON

One hundred years after its first opening, the beautiful grade II listed Môn Hall at Bangor Business School's Management Centre has now re-opened its doors.

A £1.2 m contract to refurbish the hall has provided an additional 40 business class guest bedrooms, completing the final phase of restoration to the facilities offered by The Management Centre. The contract was awarded to local construction company, Watkin Jones & Son.

The Management Centre now offers 57 en-suite Visit Wales Tourism 4* graded study bedrooms - putting it on the map as north Wales' premier, residential conference and training centre.

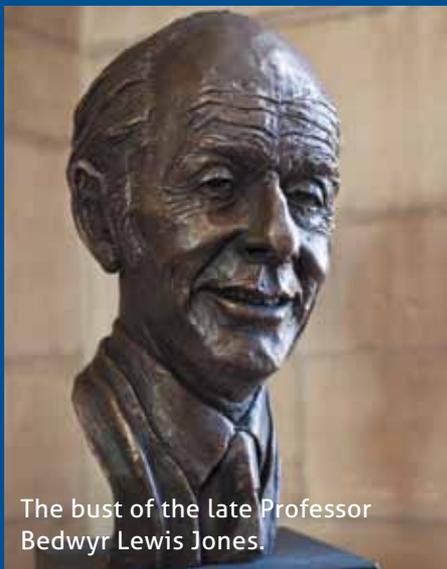
With its Gold business class accreditation for its meeting and conference rooms, The Management Centre proves to be a popular destination for business networking activities as well, enhanced by the launch of Bangor University Business Club in November 2008. This state of the art facility makes a valuable contribution to the area, particularly by attracting business tourism to the region.

Colleagues, friends and visitors are welcome to book the use of this facility which is open all year round.

Part of the Bangor Business School, The Management Centre was established as a result of a £14 million project funded by Gwynedd Council, WEFO and Bangor University which has been offering adult training and learning programmes to individuals, SMEs and business people locally, regionally and nationally since May 2008.



Professor Merfyn Jones unveils a plaque to mark the reopening of Môn Hall, with Professor Colyn Gardner, Chief Executive of the Management Centre.



The bust of the late Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones.

UNIVERSITY UNVEILS NEW SCULPTURE

A bust of the late Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones, one of Bangor University's foremost past Professors, was unveiled recently. The bust, the first to be commissioned by the University in over fifty years, is to be seen on the corridor outside the Vice-Chancellor's Office and Council Chamber in the Main University Building.

Bedwyr Lewis Jones was Professor of Welsh at Bangor University from 1974 until his death in 1992 and a lecturer at the University since 1959. Following an appeal among his friends and colleagues, the University was able to commission the bust from leading Welsh sculptor, John Meirion Morris.

Mrs Eleri Jones, Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones' widow, said: "Bedwyr rejoiced in his connection with Bangor University and his place in the lineage of Welsh scholars, drawn from the strong foundations laid by Sir John Morris Jones.

Seeing a bust of him at the University is a privilege and an honour.

We, as a family, are grateful to everyone who was a part of the campaign to make this possible and especially to John Meirion Morris for creating such a well-crafted image, which bears such a close resemblance to Bedwyr."

Laura is one of a research team at the School of Ocean Sciences contributing to and funded by the Natural Environment Research Council's National Centre for Earth Observation.

Laura has just returned from being encamped on the sea ice near the North Pole. She was asked to join a scientific exploration team headed by polar explorer, Pen Hadow. She joined an international team who are discovering more about the increasing acidification in our oceans.

Where do you come from and how long have you been here?

I'm originally from Bournemouth, did my undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Southampton and my doctorate at the University of Bristol. I've been at Bangor since March 2009 on a contract that runs through to next September, though I'm hoping that it will be extended.

What's your greatest challenge?

This field trip is pretty challenging. Temperatures will be at least 30 degrees below freezing, dropping to around -70 with wind-chill. My part in the survey is to measure the rate of transfer of CO₂ between the sea and air through the sea ice. Very few such measurements have been made and so simply acquiring the data for the Arctic winter period will be a major result in itself. I've worked in Greenland in the past, but this

trip is longer and in much harsher conditions and so although exciting it is also a little daunting! The data we gather on this expedition will make an important contribution to our growing knowledge of the Arctic Ocean and its atmospheric interactions and so is worth a little hardship.

What does your day to day work involve?

I'm basically data processing and trying to develop a model to look at movement of CO₂ between the water and air through the sea ice. I'm trying to write papers and get my research out there. I sometimes work at home in Aberdeen, (My fiancé and I met in Bristol. As he was the first to get work in Aberdeen we settled there – and so I commute a lot!) I can access all the software I need there.

What are you enjoying about Bangor?

It's quite nice coming back to oceanography which were the subjects for my degree and masters, having moved to glaciology for my PhD and it's nice to work with different research groups, having been at Southampton for 4 years. I've got involved with teaching some tutor groups - which is interesting and rewarding though a lot of hard work. I hadn't realised how much time it would take, but it's well worth doing, a good experience.



ELECTRIC SHOCK!

Did you know that each year Bangor University spends around £2.3 million on electricity, gas, and oil generating nearly 14 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in the process?

In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, mains electricity is our most polluting source of energy, so it makes sound environmental as well as economic sense to reduce consumption as much as we can. That's why we have invested in over 120 automated meters that are taking energy and water readings every half hour from all of our main buildings and relaying the information back to the Estates Team. This means that we now have access to real time

data, and can identify which are our most, and least, efficient buildings. Initially, we are looking at electricity usage; Andrew Easter, Building Services Engineer explains, "Typically, electricity use increases gradually during the day as staff and students arrive and equipment is switched on. This then drops back later in the day, levelling out to a "base load" that remains constant while the building is unoccupied (e.g. overnight and at weekends). This base load indicates how much equipment is being used when everyone has left the building. We're using the meter data to look closely at buildings with a high base load to see if equipment that's

being left on overnight and at weekends is essential or if building users could reduce consumption by switching off before going home".

An initial campaign in Brigantia has shown that simply by raising awareness amongst occupants, and encouraging staff to switch off equipment before they leave for the evening, electricity use can be reduced by nearly 10%. We're aiming to carry out similar campaigns in our larger buildings – Brigantia has set the marker in the sand – can your building do better?

A Treborth student work party.



TREBORTH AT 50

Treborth Botanic Garden turns 50 this year and a week of celebrations is planned for this June. The celebrations start with the ever popular Botanical Beats on 6th June and culminate with an alumni day on 12th June. The Botanical Beats music and arts event will be part of Wales' celebration of International Biodiversity Week with local wildlife organisations and volunteers from across North West Wales coming together to provide an array of wildlife activities and exhibitions. It's a collaborative event organised principally by the Students for Treborth Action Group (STAG) and supported by The Friends of Treborth Botanic Garden and Bangor University

Established by Professor Paul Richards, Head of the School of Botany at the then University College of North Wales, Treborth rapidly developed a plant collection of over 2000 species. Half of Treborth's 18 hectares is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and includes such rarities as Bird's Nest Orchid as well as an exceptional diversity of commoner species of plants and animals. This natural diversity adds significantly to the value

and appeal of the Botanic Garden for teaching and research which nowadays is directed not only at university students but also an increasing number of schools and members of the public. The seven glasshouses exhibit the diversity of the tropics and warm temperate regions and the outdoor grounds include Britain's largest underground laboratory.

The present Curator of the Garden, Nigel Brown, is ably assisted by volunteer members of the Friends of Treborth Botanic Garden, a public support group with over 350 members. In addition students regularly work on practical projects including woodland management and creating an educational wildlife pond. The practical experience gained by students on such projects is a valuable addition to the academic experience of life at Bangor.

If any members of staff are interested in gardening, plants or the natural world, The Friends of Treborth Botanic Garden have a full calendar of events including lectures, workshops, field outings, garden visits, plant sales and open days. Membership details are available from: www.treborthbotanicgarden.org/friends.htm

ABSEILING AND RELAYING FOR LIFE!

A new member of staff, Llinos Thomas, an Administrative Assistant at the ESRC Bilingualism Centre, who joined the University last November has got involved in organising a Relay for Life event at the Treborth Running Track on 26/27 June and even abseiled the Marquis of Anglesey's Column in May to contribute further towards the Relay for Life total for Cancer Research UK.



Llinos says, "Relay for Life teams have at least one member of the team on the track at all times, walking or jogging, there is no race so they don't have to run! This symbolises the ongoing search for a cure to cancer.

"I was previously part of two Relays in Aberystwyth, where I used to live, so when I moved home to Anglesey last year I knew this was an event which I wanted to experience again. I have never abseiled before so I am very excited!"

About the Relay for Life event, Llinos says "There will be camping, games, music and a general party atmosphere. Teams can be made up of family, friends and work colleagues. Also the event kicks off with a lap by cancer survivors, to celebrate their survival and inspire the teams. Then at midnight, we will have the Candle of Hope Ceremony, where we have candles dedicated to those we have lost to cancer."

Llinos is happy to be contacted (ext 8864 e mail l.m.thomas@bangor.ac.uk) should anyone want to sponsor her, take part as a team or survivor or to dedicate a candle. Please see their website: www.cancerresearchuk.org/relay/venues/gwyneddandanglesey



STEL BREAKS MORE SWIMMING RECORDS

Stel Farrar, a Welsh tutor for the College of Education & Lifelong Learning, broke two British swimming records in the 800m and 1500m freestyle at the Amateur Swimming Association National Championships in Sheffield recently.

Among the impressive British records shattered that day, were those by Stel Farrar, who knocked nearly 28 seconds off the previous time in the Women's 50-54 age group touching in 20:02.09. "It was magical," she said. "About six months ago I hit a plateau and my times were getting slower so I thought I had lost my chance for a British record. But today was a good day and it felt good as I was swimming. I was ahead of the woman who just broke the European record so I knew I must be doing well. I'm really pleased I didn't just scrape under the record."

She also broke the 800m record whilst swimming the 1500m, and then went on to improve that time when she swam the individual 800m event 2 days later.

Newsletter is pleased to hear of triumphs by members of staff in sporting or other arenas!