

NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS FOR ALL UNIVERSITY STAFF



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY



A GREAT YEAR FOR BANGOR

Bangor University's Vice Chancellor has thanked all the staff for their terrific efforts following a highly successful academic year during which Bangor won numerous awards and dramatically improved its position in a variety of league tables.

Professor John G Hughes said: "I am extremely grateful to everyone for all they've done. Bangor has improved in a variety of ways during what continues to be a challenging time for the sector and I would like to thank every member of staff for their efforts."

"During the next academic year we will see further developments, including the opening of the new student village at St Mary's, the much awaited opening of Pontio, a

complete renovation of the Music building as well as a range of other initiatives which will add to our already excellent reputation for student experience."

During 2014/15 the excellent quality of teaching and the high levels of student experience contributed significantly towards an array of league tables and awards.

Most recently the University climbed up 25 places in the 2016 Guardian University Guide league tables - the second highest climber in this year's rankings.

The University was also 14th in the UK for student experience (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey, 2015) and was ranked in the top 100 Universities

in the world for its international outlook.

The University was rated top in Wales for student satisfaction, and was in the top 10 of the UK's best non-specialist universities, the traditional institutions who offer a broad range of subjects (NSS 2014). Especially notable is that Bangor lies 3rd amongst these UK universities for satisfaction with academic support, scores well for students' ability to contact staff when they needed to (5th in UK), and for fairness of assessment arrangements and marking (7th).

The most recent awards included winning the WhatUni national award for the best Clubs and Societies in the UK. At the same awards, Bangor was placed 3rd in the UK for its

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A GREAT YEAR FOR BANGOR CONTINUED

accommodation, 4th in the UK in the Student Support category, and 7th in the overall University of the Year category.

The University also achieved excellent results in the independent Research Excellence Framework which recognised over three-quarters of Bangor's research as being either world-leading or internationally excellent.

Following our strong performance in REF 2014, the University's Quality Research (QR) funding allocation for 2015/2016 was increased by over 5.5% by HEFCW. This increase was achieved even though the overall QR funding for Welsh universities remained unchanged from 2014/15.

The University is also among the top 10% of the world's greenest Universities and has recently

achieved the internationally recognised ISO14001 Environmental Standard.

Professor Hughes added: "I very much look forward to the new academic year which I'm sure will bring new challenges and successes to the University. In the meantime, thank you all for your efforts and enjoy the summer." ■

NEW TAX-FREE CHILDCARE SCHEME

The University's current childcare voucher scheme, run by Sodexo, will be replaced with a new government Tax-Free Childcare programme in autumn 2015.

There are significant differences, and the scheme that is best suited to you will depend on your individual circumstances.

- If you are already a member of the existing scheme, or join the existing scheme before the

Tax-Free Childcare programme is introduced, you will be able to choose whether or not you want to switch to the new one or stick with the existing scheme.

- However, those who wish to apply for support once Tax-Free Childcare has been introduced will only be allowed to join the new programme.

This makes it even more important for those who care for children to

join the current scheme as soon as possible. Anyone with children up to the age of 15 (or 16 if they are registered disabled) can apply for vouchers. The savings can be significant. You could save up to £933 or £1,866 if your partner also chooses to take vouchers.

For more information visit www.bangor.ac.uk/hr/bangorbenefits or contact Jade Luke in Human Resources j.luke@bangor.ac.uk ■

NEW BOOKS

Craig Halstead, Project Finance Officer at the Research & Enterprise Office, recently launched his book "From Watersheddings to Whitebank – an Oldham Rugby League Memoir".

Craig has been an avid Oldham RLFC supporter since 1971 and the book is his memories, stories, heart-breaking and joyous moments and anecdotes. It provides an insight into how supporting a club – or in this case two clubs – from childhood can provide a lifetime of emotions and experiences, both good and bad.

Craig said: "I have always fancied the idea of writing a book about my



Craig with his son Reece and daughter Megan at an Oldham RLFC match.

Publications expressed an interest and then pursued the idea right through to its publication."

Craig has attended many matches at Watersheddings, the club's original home, regularly taking in away matches and now, despite living in Rhiwlas, watches the new club at Whitebank Stadium whenever he can.

The book can be purchased on-line: http://www.llpshop.co.uk/product_info.php?products_id=184&osCsId=ajcrr99i38dk8e84v1ks0uvva7

NICE TO MEET...

ELWYN HUGHES, SENIOR TUTOR-ORGANISER AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH WALES WELSH FOR ADULTS CENTRE

Elwyn is originally from the small village of Pentre Coch, near Ruthin. He met his wife Eirian whilst they both lived in Cardiff and they have lived in Llanfair PG for the last 30 years. Eirian worked for the University's Information Services department for many years and is now self-employed. They have three children aged 27, 29 and 32, all of whom studied at Cardiff University and have now found work and settled in Cardiff.

Where did you work before the University? My first job after graduating was working as a Welsh for Adults tutor in Cardiff for what was then the University of Wales. I moved to Bangor in 1985 to do the same job, and this is where I've been ever since!

What does your job entail? I teach a wide variety of classes, but these are generally at 8.00 am or in the evening. During the day, I see to general administrative work related to the programme, and there is more than enough of that! The programme has grown substantially over the years: when I started working in Bangor in 1985, there were 22 courses running, 241 learners enrolled and 9 tutors teaching them. These days, there are over 200 courses each year, more than 2,000 learners enrolled and approximately 90 tutors teaching in approximately 60 locations across north Wales. Writing new coursebooks is also a continuous process and I hope to complete the new Cwrs Pellach coursebook this summer.

What do you like to watch on TV? I do not watch a lot of TV, but I enjoy sports programmes, quizzes and a few comedy programmes. I particularly like *Gwlad yr Astra Gwyn* and *Dim Byd* – Welsh comedy programmes.



Elwyn Hughes

What is your favourite movie? I don't think I've been to the cinema since the last century!

What kind of music do you like? I like all kinds of music, anything apart from Country and Western.

What book are you reading at the moment? I'm re-reading *Ffydd, Gobaith, Cariad* by Llwyd Owen at

the moment. I remember being very impressed by the novel when it was first published about ten years ago, and I'm enjoying it even more the second time around.

Do you have any pets? No. Although I was brought up on a farm, I do not like animals at all.

What are your recreational activities? I've spent hours sweating on the squash court over the years, but old age has put a stop to that now, unfortunately. My leisure activities are much more sedate these days: I conduct two choirs, one mixed and one male choir, I really enjoy doing crosswords and sudokus, and I do a bit of gardening and walking to get some fresh air.

Tell us something interesting about yourself ... French was my subject at University, at the University of Birmingham to begin with and then at Laval University, Québec. I still can't understand how I got a job as a Welsh Language Tutor ■

TOP TWEETS

Find out what some of our followers have been saying on Twitter

@WG_EducationMin Talking #Mindfulness in schools @BangorUni with some fantastic pupils and staff from @Friars_School and @YsgolPyB

@Rubywax Find me at @BangorUni Mindfulness in Society Conference <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/mindfulness/documents/PreConferenceBooklet.pdf> ... 3-7 July

@Curlybyrddy Considering applying to uni? Choose @BangorUni - it's awesome! :-)

@guardian Emoji is dragging us back to the dark ages – and all we can do is smile <http://trib.al/6TP6U6d>

@OrgDonationCYM Shout out to @BangorUni - #BIGThanks for supporting #OrganDonationWales by raising awareness about our campaign!! It's #timetotalk ...

@Smiley_Soph_X The Bangor Uni revision guide has basically helped me learn everything for my Triple Science exams. Big thanks @BangorUni ■

MEET THE TEAM: THE CONFERENCE & CATERING TEAM

The conference & catering team are located at Reichel Hall, the University's dedicated conference and events venue which is located on the Ffriddoedd site. The team work with University staff, students and external customers to help organise a range of conferences and events. Each year the team oversee thousands of events ranging from day meetings, evening receptions, academic conferences and weddings.



SHARON HUGHES
Conference Manager
Time at Bangor:
28 years
"I manage the conference and reservations office and ensure that all our events run smoothly. I'm naturally an organised person so I love to help people plan their events. It's

great to meet customers' requirements – even when that involves arranging a Christmas party with a live reindeer, as we did a few years back. To relax I enjoy DIY and gardening."



KAREN EVANS
Conference Co-ordinator
Time at Bangor:
8 years
"I'm involved in helping organising the diverse range of conferences and events that are held here at the University. The job gives me an opportunity to meet lots of different

people, which is something that I love. No two days are ever the same and so we have to be prepared for anything and everything! When I'm not busy at work I like nothing better than getting out in the fresh air and walking in the hills."



AIMEE EDWARDS
Reservations Assistant
Time at Bangor:
8 years
"I work mainly with staff and student societies, helping them to arrange their meetings and events. I also work with external customers from time to time. We occasionally get

unusual requests, in the past we've had to arrange a risk assessment so that a live owl can be present at the Harry Potter Feast in PJ Hall. When I'm not in work I'm spending time with my young daughter and my family."



BRUNO BESSONIES
Executive Chef
Time at Bangor:
5 years
"As Executive Chef I'm responsible for developing outlets and menus, training, enforcing food safety policy and of course cooking. I started my cooking career in France a long time ago and I've been lucky enough to cook

for some well-known faces. Regardless of who's eating, I always focus on using the best ingredients and producing the best possible plate of food. When I'm not slaving over a hot stove you'll find me cycling around country lanes, making the most of the beautiful scenery."



AVRIL HOWEL
Catering Manager
Time at Bangor:
26 years
"I'm involved in organising the catering for events, conferences, meetings and weddings, and I also oversee the University's delivered catering service. We've had some great guests over the years,

perhaps the most memorable group were the Chinese Olympic weightlifting team - they were great fun and their appetite for chillies was insatiable! Outside of work my main passion is travel, I love visiting Asia and am always thinking about the next holiday destination."



ANGELA CHURCH
Head of Catering and Conferencing
Time at Bangor:
6 years
"As Head of Catering and Conferencing I'm responsible for leading the team of staff, managing budgets, ensuring compliance with legislation whilst making sure that quality is maintained

at all times. I love the variety of the job and I'm lucky to work with a team that is committed to delivering the best possible service. In my spare time I can often be found walking with my dogs."



INGRID PEDERSEN
Catering Services Manager
Time at Bangor: 6 years
"Like Bruno I'm originally from France but have made my home in Wales. I manage the catering outlets at the University including the Teras lounge, Teras Café, the Bistro on the Normal site and the Brailsford Café. I'm also involved in the

planning for the Pontio eating outlets and the café at St Mary's. The role certainly keeps me busy and I enjoy the interaction with staff and customers. When I'm not at work I'm spending time with my children, I also go running on a regular basis." ■

FIVE TOP TIPS TO PLAN YOUR CONFERENCE

- 1. Audience & Goals**
Be clear about your target audience and what the conference is trying to achieve.
- 2. Perfect Programme**
Think carefully about your programme – don't try to cram too much in, equally make sure that there isn't too much free time.
- 3. Refreshments**
People may be coming to learn and share ideas but good food is a key component of any successful conference.
- 4. Marketing**
Consider how you will market your conference and allow plenty of time to promote it effectively.
- 5. Don't go it alone**
Don't try and do everything yourself – as a conference team we're here to help!

STAFF PROMOTIONS

We are pleased to announce the following promotions:

PROMOTION TO PERSONAL CHAIR



Following a truly outstanding performance as an undergraduate student here in Bangor, **Professor Jason Walford Davies** was

appointed upon graduation as a lecturer in the School of Welsh, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2005. He has played a substantial role in sustaining and enhancing the University's long-standing commitment to the study of Welsh and Celtic Studies. He is also an acknowledged authority in the field of Welsh Writing in English. His research has focused on R.S. Thomas and Waldo Williams, and he is an award-winning poet in his own right. Professor Davies is also Co-Director of the R.S. Thomas Research Centre at Bangor University – an internationally-renowned archive of the poet's work.



Professor Gareth Griffiths joined Bangor Business School as the Director of Postgraduate Programmes in 2008. Previously he worked at Hewlett Packard

and at two other UK Universities. Whilst at Bangor he has been involved in significant research grant capture and has been Principal Investigator for 3 high profile projects that reach out to small and medium sized businesses in Wales. He has taught at a number of Business Schools around the world and specialises in Business Strategy, Corporate Culture and E-Business. Professor Griffiths is originally from Bangor.



Professor Julia Jones joined the University in 2006 as a Lecturer at the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography. She

was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2010. She leads a £2m consortium project funded by Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation as well as another funded by the Leverhulm Trust. She has consistently high research output and publishes in high impact journals.

PROMOTION TO READER



Dr Charles Bishop was appointed as a Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences in 1998 and was recently promoted to

Senior Lecturer. He is a highly valued member of staff with the additional roles of Senior Tutor and Disability Contact within SBS. His primary interest is the morphological and physiological adaptations that underlie animal locomotor performance and the energetic costs of different behaviours. His work was featured on the cover of *Science* in January 2015.

PROMOTION TO SENIOR LECTURER

Research Led



Dr Rhys ap Gwilym joined the Bangor Business School in 2008. His current research involves developing models which

introduce behavioural factors into macroeconomic analysis. Another key strand of research involves the analysis of financial instruments in a general equilibrium setting. He is also developing a research agenda in spatial economics, exploring the welfare implications of uneven economic development. He regularly contributes to economic news items on S4C, Radio Cymru and Radio Wales.



Dr James McDonald joined the School of Biological Sciences in 2010. He is an early career ambassador for the International Society for

Microbial Ecology, a manuscript reviewer for 18 international research journals and a grant reviewer for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. He has published over 20 peer reviewed journal articles, and his external grant capture for Bangor University is in excess of £4m.

Teaching & Learning Led



Dr Rosanna Robinson joined the University in 2007, as Teaching Coordinator for the College of Natural Sciences. She has designed and organized 9 modules, and is now Director of Teaching for the School of Biological Sciences. As part of the CELT team, she is responsible for the mentoring-for-teaching programme. She is also curator of the Brambell natural history museum, and she leads on organisation of the successful Bangor Science Festival.



Dr Andrew Webb, of the School of English Literature, led on the launch of the MA Literatures of Wales, the first of its kind and the first to be taught in English and Welsh. He is also a member of CELT,

where he is responsible for online module evaluations, and CAH Director of Teaching and Learning. He is a referee for the *International Journal of Welsh Writing in English*.

Wider Contribution Led



Dr Jonathan Ervine joined the School of Modern Languages and Cultures in 2007 and has been Head of School since September 2014. He is regularly contacted by the media to comment

on current issues in France and is a leading member of the French Media Research Group. He is currently working closely with the Confucius Institute in order to enhance the School's provision in Chinese ■

HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR LEADERSHIP

Sandra Begley, Academic Co-ordinator at the School of Lifelong Learning, has been 'highly commended' in the 'Leadership for the Future' category in the Leading Wales Awards 2015.

Developed by a consortium of professional institutes, voluntary and public sector bodies as well as private companies, the Awards seek to recognise and celebrate personal achievement in outstanding leadership in Wales.

Sandra Co-ordinated Elevate Cymru, which was a project that was part of the Work Based Learning programme and was supported by the European Social Fund, through the Welsh Government. It was designed to enable employers to strengthen their companies' performance

through improving the skill level and leadership capability of employees. In north Wales the programme was led by the School of Lifelong Learning in partnership with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai.

Sandra said: "Elevate has really made a measurable difference here in north Wales and it has been an absolute pleasure working with everyone involved in making that difference a reality."

Barbara Chidgey, Chair of the Leading Wales Awards 2015, said: "The judges felt privileged to read Sandra's nominations and to learn about how much she as a person, as well as a leader, is making a real difference. The many nominations we received this year were impressive and inspirational." ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ifan Morgan Jones (School of Creative Studies and Media) is one of 25 writers to receive a bursary from Literature Wales. A reporter and lecturer, his first novel, *Igam Ogam*, won the Daniel Owen Memorial Prize in 2008. He published his second novel *Yr Argraff Gyntaf*, in 2010. He has been deputy editor of the Welsh-language magazine *Golwg*, and online editor of *Golwg 360* website. The grant will enable Ifan to take some time out of his teaching duties next semester so that he can work on his third novel which will be based on Welsh politics and the Assembly.

Staff from the **Research & Enterprise Office** and Santander's University branch held a bake off and cake sale recently, and raised £380 for 'The Osborne Trust', a local charity that provides support, days out and activities for children of parents with cancer. Staff volunteered to bake cakes that were then judged in a 'bake-off' style competition. Renee Taylor from the College of Health and Behavioural Sciences won 'best tasting' with her blackberry spice cake and Emily Hughes from REO won the 'best looking' category with her ultimate carrot cake ■

NEW STUDENT VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE

The £38m St Mary's Student Accommodation development for the University recently passed a crucial milestone with the project team from VINCI achieving its highest point of construction with completion of the last of the steel frame and roof on the numerous new buildings on the development.

To mark the occasion, the University performed a "Topping Out" ceremony on site at the St Mary's Student Village. The development will provide 602 new student rooms created across seven buildings together with social and administration facilities within a modern campus environment.

The scheme is being developed by a consortium comprising Chester based Cityheart Ltd with delivery partner VINCI Construction UK Ltd and CRM Ltd.

Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, said: "This marks an important stage in our ambitions to further develop the excellent student facilities at the University. This will allow us to accommodate more of our students in University-managed facilities rather than in local housing.



L-R Mark McNamee, Cityheart; Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor and Professor Carol Tully, Pro Vice-Chancellor at the St Mary's site.

Delivering all the facilities that today's students would expect to see on a modern residential campus, the new student village will have a real sense of community."

Mark McNamee of Cityheart said: "This is another exciting milestone for the project, which is further proof that the 'partnering approach' adopted by Bangor University, Vinci and Cityheart is paying dividends on this project."

Peter Dodd, Project Manager from VINCI, said: "Completing this crucial stage in the build is a significant

landmark on the project with all the steel frame and roofs in place, the team can move forward and concentrate on finishing internally on what promises to be excellent student accommodation and a unique village concept and facilities for the University."

Work commenced on site in April 2014 with students taking up residence from September 2015 ■

FREEDOM TO THE CITY OF LONDON

The Court of Aldermen recently passed an order to **Dr John Delieu**, School of Medical Sciences for the admission to the Freedom of the City of London in the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, in which he attended a ceremony at the Chamberlain's Court Room in the Guildhall. Dr Delieu had a separate ceremony at the Apothacaries Hall last year where he was put forward by a surgeon. The Spectacle Makers go back to the early 1600s and it is an honour to be invited in as a non-spectacle maker ■



Dr John Delieu (centre) with the Chamberlain and Beadle.

MENAI SCIENCE PARK MAKES PLANNING PROGRESS

Menai Science Park Ltd has received outline planning approval from Anglesey Council for M-SParc at Gaerwen. The high spec and bespoke development is scheduled to welcome its first tenants in 2017.

The project, which will receive Welsh Government funding of £10m, aims to create a unique cluster economy to encourage hi-tech industry and scientific research partnerships in north-west Wales. The project is also applying for ERDF European funding.

M-SParc's 30-year vision is based on creating highly skilled long-term employment opportunities for local people, developing a knowledge sharing environment and creating an economic hub in sectors such as low carbon, energy and environment and ICT. The science park would create a bridge between such companies and the University.

Menai Science Park director, Ieuan Wyn Jones, said: "The outline planning permission is a major step forward for M-SParc and marks the start of an exciting new chapter in the economic regeneration of Anglesey and north west Wales.

"We know from international evidence that science parks work. Start-ups based on a science park can expect a 90% success rate compared to a 56% success rate for those operating outside of a science park environment.

"There is still some way to go until we receive full planning permission, but I look forward to continuing to work alongside the local community in Gaerwen and the wider business

and scientific research communities to create a science park in Anglesey."

Economy Minister Edwina Hart added: "The Welsh Government is committed to supporting science and innovation as important drivers to create economic growth and jobs. We welcome the planning authority's decision to support this new facility which we hope will contribute considerably to the growth of the local economy and lead to the creation of highly skilled jobs."

Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, said: "The planning decision is great news for Wales as M-SParc will provide a unique hub for the commercialisation of ground breaking scientific research and a catalyst for a truly hi-tech regional economy." ■

ARE YOU PART OF THE CONVERSATION ?

Bangor University has joined with an exciting and growing project called *The Conversation*.

Initially launched in Australia, *The Conversation* is an independent source of news and views, sourced from the academic and research community and delivered directly to the public. *The Conversation* UK was launched two years ago and provides a great focus for academic research, opinion and analysis. Articles appear on the site under a Creative Commons licence, meaning that they can be republished elsewhere. This means that the site is a great way of promoting university research, opinion, analysis and expertise. Bangor University articles have been read by close to half a million readers on sites around the world.

As members of *The Conversation*, the University recently hosted a three-day 'Editors in Residence' event. Via a series of meetings organised by the Research and Enterprise Office, academics and researchers were able to speak with *The Conversation* Editor, Stephen Khan and Environment and Energy Editor, Will de Freitas. The residency enabled *The Conversation* to gain a greater in-depth knowledge of our research interests and strengths and our academics to learn more about the opportunities offered by the project and to discuss their own particular ideas for stories.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Shepherd, said: "Experience has shown that institutional participation increases substantially following an 'Editor in Residence' visit, and media coverage also increases as a result. A number of our academics have already written articles for *The Conversation*, and these have been widely read and shared around the globe. I would encourage our academics to consider how they could make best use of this opportunity to promote their research and I hope that Bangor University's presence will grow further over the coming months, reflecting the range of interests and expertise that we have here."

Take a look at *The Conversation's* website <https://theconversation.com/uk> ■

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

More research news at www.bangor.ac.uk/news

Researchers at the School of Ocean Sciences have identified how warm Atlantic water that is flowing deep into the Arctic Ocean is mixing with colder waters above to contribute to sea-ice loss in the Arctic. The results, published in the journal *Nature Geoscience* (16.2.14 10.1038/ngeo2350), show that tidal currents in the Arctic are causing deep, warm water (originating from the Gulf Stream) to mix with cold, fresh water lying above, in turn contributing to melting the floating sea-ice. Lead author, **Professor Tom Rippeth** explains: "We studied the warm body of water from the Atlantic that represents the largest oceanic input of heat into the Arctic – it is 4°C warmer than the surrounding water, and it is the warmest it has been in nearly two thousand years. The top of the warm layer sits at depths between 40m-200m, and its heat slowly diffuses upwards into the cold, fresher water above, but sometimes this movement of heat can be greatly accelerated by turbulence which drives mixing. We have found that tides are producing significant amounts of turbulence over steep sea bed topography, and so are greatly enhancing the upward movement of heat in these regions. In areas where tidal currents interact with steep sea bed slopes, this process causes mixing of the warmer waters with the over-lying colder waters, and this in turn can generate 'hotspots' for sea-ice melt or thinning. Although the Arctic is a long way from Wales, the record seasonal sea ice retreat across the Arctic Ocean has been implicated in the recent run of severe weather in the UK, including the very wet summers of 2007-2012 and the extreme cold winters of 2009 and 2010."

Dr Kate Taylor-Jones, School of Creative Studies and Media, has been awarded a Great British Sasakawa Foundation grant to run a series of workshops on Girlhood in Japanese Visual Culture that will involve academics from the UK, Japan,



Llun/Photo: Ben Lincoln

Hong Kong, USA, Taiwan and South Korea. This is part of a much wider impact project entitled '*Creative Girlhood: East Asian, Visual Culture and Empowerment*' that is working with a wide variety of academics, community and artistic groups all over East Asia. The aims and objectives of this project are to promote girls engagement with the creative arts via a debate on the very nature of 'being a girl' in difference cultures and social groups. This project will allow girls to make, disseminate and critique their own films, creative writing and digital creations. As part of this project's development Dr Taylor-Jones has also recently been awarded two Santander Travel grants to visit Tsinghua University, China and Baruch College, USA respectively to engage with scholars working on globalisation, film networks and East Asian popular culture (Tsinghua) and manga, gender and cultural memory (Baruch).

Dr Andrew McStay, School of Creative Studies and Media, has won an Arts and Humanities Research Council Leadership Fellowship of £166,718 to research a project '*Empathic media: theory-building and knowledge-exchange with industry, regulators and NGOs*'. The project will look at the social, political, legal and industrial consequences of media and technology companies that collect electronic data about people's emotions. This is done to

understand mediated responses to brands/political messages, to target advertising, to create biometrically engaging games, to understand audience behaviour e.g neuroscience and facial recognition in labs, via smart televisions, and through not just what we say but how we say it (through smartphone voice analysis).

Dr Helena Miguélez-Carballeira, School of Modern Languages and Cultures, has been given almost £90,000 to embark on a project that would make a case for studying contemporary Spanish culture and politics from a postcolonial perspective. Her success has come in the face of very strong competition: 323 applications were submitted and the British Academy has been able to make just 35 offers of award. Focusing on questions related to historical practice, representation of national identities and political and cultural repression, Dr Miguélez-Carballeira's project seeks to drive forward a new understanding of contemporary Spain by seeing the country as an example of postcolonial conflict. Her project will engage with internal national politics in contemporary Spain at a time when pro-independence sentiment in sub-state nations such as Catalonia and the Basque Country is mounting ■

STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS 2015

The Student Led Teaching Awards returned bigger than ever for its 4th annual ceremony, along with the much anticipated Course Representative awards.

Organised by the Students' Union, the SLTAs gives students the opportunity to show their support and appreciation to staff who have shown dedication and hard work throughout the students' time at Bangor. With over 300 nominations across 11 categories, it is clear that the student body recognises the fantastic contribution staff members have made across all services and schools.

Lydia Richardson, Vice President Education and Welfare at Bangor Students' Union, said: "This year we have seen a lot of fantastic nominations, showing that the support and experience that our staff members have is second to none. The students' appreciation for the effort staff put into their lectures, feedback, support and guidance is clearly shown through



Dr Mattias Green receiving the 'Teacher of the Year' award

the awards. The SLTAs is without a doubt one of the most anticipated and enjoyed events of the year."

Professor Carol Tully, Pro Vice-Chancellor, said: "The SLTAs are rapidly becoming a Bangor tradition, one which is appreciated by students and staff alike. It is fantastic to see so many different staff being recognised in this way. We are very lucky to have so many

dedicated individuals who go to great lengths to ensure that the student experience at Bangor is the best it can be. It is great to be able to celebrate this along with the Course Rep Awards. Our students work hard to help us improve things for their peers and their efforts are hugely valued by the University".

Congratulations to our highly deserving winners:

Award for Outstanding Pastoral Support	Gillian Griffith, School of Music
Award for the Promotion of Welsh-Medium Education	Peredur Webb-Davies, School of Linguistics and English Language
International Award	Stephen Clear, School of Law
Dissertation/Thesis Supervisor of the Year	Nia Whiteley, School of Biological Sciences
Support Staff Member of the Year	Elizabeth Williams, School of Psychology
Student Service Department Award	Kate Tindle, Counselling Service
Postgraduate Teacher of the Year	Rebecca Jones, School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography
New Teacher of the Year	Matt Hayward, School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography
Fantastic Feedback Award	Sarah Cooper, School of Linguistics and English Language
Open Award	Coleen Suckling, School of Biological Sciences
Teacher of the Year	Mattias Green, School of Ocean Sciences ■

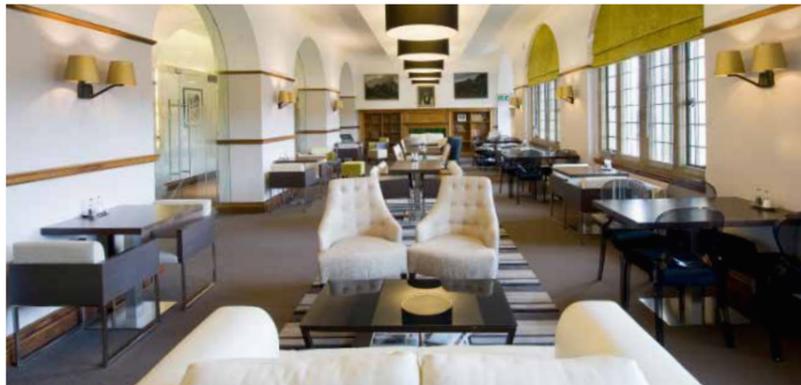
TERAS LOUNGE IS TRIP ADVISOR FAVOURITE



The Teras Lounge has been awarded TripAdvisor's 2015 Certificate of Excellence. The award is a direct result of Teras' consistently great reviews from TripAdvisor travellers.

Ingrid Pedersen, Catering Manager, said: "We're so delighted to receive this certificate. It is fantastic that it is based on customers' feedback.

"The team works hard to ensure that we offer a lovely dining experience as well as a little haven for those who want to come in for a cup of tea. It is a very special time for the team as we have also just been nominated for the Welsh



National Wedding Awards 2015." Teras Lounge is located on the lower ground floor of the University's Main Building and is open Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm and open late Thursday and Friday,

8am – 10pm (term time and on request).

For bookings or enquiries contact teras@bangor.ac.uk or call 01248 388686 ■

BANGOR BUSINESS SCHOOL INNOVATING WITH THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Innovation is key to success in the business world. Innovation is also of key importance to the development of the Welsh language. During the past academic year both these fields have come together as scholars from Bangor Business School have collaborated with Canolfan Bedwyr to ensure that students receive innovative Welsh medium education when studying business, marketing, accountancy and economics modules.

Since September the School of Business has ensured that all first year modules are available in Welsh or bilingual. The ultimate aim is to offer this choice throughout the degree so that students develop the ability to deal with their subject in Welsh. This will enrich their intellectual development and provide them with important skills when seeking employment.

This has therefore been an exciting period of planning and developing as lecturers – in tandem with the Translation Unit at Canolfan Bedwyr – have provided and adapted materials for the modules. This collaboration has meant

that vocabulary, terminology and concepts have been discussed and developed in Welsh for the first time in business studies at Higher Education level.

In describing the collaboration process with the academics, Dr Sylvia Prys Jones, head of the Translation Unit commented:

"It has been a privilege collaborating with lecturers from the Business School on this exciting project. The lecturers have been ready to innovate and deserve praise for this. By now we have translated over 150,000 words as part of the work and have developed around 250

new terms. I have enjoyed getting to grips with the field and being part of a collaborative and creative process."

In describing the experience from a lecturer's view, Sara Closs-Davies said: "I've enjoyed working with the Translation Unit at Canolfan Bedwyr. A close relationship was forged between the translators and myself and this facilitated an effective working partnership. The translators are accessible and ready to help. It was a pleasure to work with the Translation Unit, especially the opportunities to develop technical terminology in my field. I felt I was part of the team."

The success of this work between the Business School and Canolfan Bedwyr clearly shows why Bangor is the lead university in Wales regarding Welsh medium Higher Education ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

The **Centre for Mindfulness Research and Practice** welcomed Ruby Wax to the Mindfulness in Society Conference in Chester in July. Other speakers included Mark Williams, John Teasdale, Vidyamala Birch, Christina Feldman, Willem Kuyken, Rebecca Crane, Tony Bates, Saki Santorelli, Philippe Goldin and Nancy Bardacke who gave talks and workshops on subjects ranging from Mindfulness with Childbirth and Parenting to Mindfulness and Criminal Justice. Further details can be found on the conference webpage: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/mindfulness/conference.php.en> ■

The University held its annual Collaborative and Shared Services conference jointly with Aberystwyth University recently. The conference focussed on the theme of change management. The keynote address was given by Huw Morris, Director, Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Welsh Government. A Change Management masterclass, delivered by Darren Griffiths (Bangor) and Julie McKeown (Aberystwyth) discussed the principles of change management and the need for effective

project management as a tool for change. Case studies of existing collaborative work being pursued were heard before working groups explored future potential areas for collaboration. Presentations and other information relating to the conference are available on the **Strategic Alliance** webpage - <http://www.aberbangorpartnership.ac.uk/conference.php.en> ■

Guided tours of the **University's Art and Ceramic Collections** led by an expert will be held between July and September. Highlights include a mural by Edward Povey in Powis Hall, art and ceramics in the Council Chamber Corridor and a chance to see and learn about works of arts by other renowned artists such as Kyffin Williams, Brenda Chamberlain, Peter Prendergast and Frederick William Hayes. Tours will start from the the Main University Building foyer, one in English at 12.30pm-1.30pm and one in Welsh 2.30pm-3.30pm on Wednesday 22nd July, Tuesday 25th August and Saturday 26th September. Book by phoning 01248 353 368 or email gwynedd@gwynedd.gov.uk ■

The Welsh in Patagonia

Exhibition

18 May 2015 — 18 December 2015

Council Chamber Corridor

150
1865 – 2015



Library and Archives Service



BUSIEST SEASON ON RECORD FOR UNIVERSITY'S CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

The University's Confucius Institute celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Sheep, with events across the region. Calligraphy tasters at Venue Cymru and Gwynedd Museum ran alongside cultural workshops for schools and community groups with all sorts of activities on offer from Chinese music to chopstick lessons, Mandarin classes and tai chi.

A fantastic evening of Welsh and Chinese song in Powis Hall rounded off festivities in February with the Two Dragons Concert, featuring acclaimed singer and harpist Siân James performing with Chinese musicians from the School of Music and pupils from Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Our Lady's.

The Institute was also proud to present two new events for St David's Day under its Two Dragons (Wales-China) banner: Storytelling in Welsh and Chinese at Venue Cymru, followed by a hugely successful Dragon Day at the National Trust's Penrhyn Castle. The spring season drew to a close in May with the Institute's annual Kite Festival at Treborth Botanic Garden. All-in-all, an estimated 4,000 people took part in Confucius Institute events between January and May this year; the Institute's busiest season on record.

Perhaps the Institute's greatest undertaking this year is a collaboration with Treborth Botanic Garden to develop a Chinese garden on site. Treborth's strategic links with Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden in China's Yunnan Province have greatly extended the project's capacity for teaching, research and knowledge exchange, and an intensive programme of activity is planned throughout 2015 with talks from visiting experts, internships, exhibitions, outreach



The Two Dragons Garden team at Treborth.

work, landscape development and public events. For more information, visit: <http://dragons-garden.bangor.ac.uk>

A number of other partnerships have developed as a result of the Institute's ongoing work to promote Chinese language and culture, and long-term programmes are now being implemented with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, Anglesey County Council and Venue Cymru. The Institute continues to work closely with the University's academic departments – particularly Music, Creative Studies and Media, Law, Modern Languages and Education – and teaching continues at local schools with several students at Ysgol Friars and Holyhead High School opting to sit the internationally recognised HSK Mandarin exam later this year. Even more events are planned in the months to come including

courses in beginner's Mandarin and calligraphy for University staff in July and August, another Kite Festival at Penrhyn Castle on Sunday 30th August, and a cultural symposium in October. A second Wales-China business conference, following on from last year's highly successful *Why China? How China?* event, is also due to take place at Reichel Hall on Tuesday 10th November with the aim of investigating some of the opportunities and challenges of doing business with China.

For more information about any of the Institute's events or activities, please visit the website: www.bangor.ac.uk/confucius-institute, Facebook (Sefydliad Confucius Bangor Confucius Institute) or email: confuciusinstitute@bangor.ac.uk ■

LEARNING WELSH, USING WELSH

Ruth Snape Customer Service Assistant / Normal Site Library

What made you learn Welsh / use more Welsh? When I moved to Wales, I started learning a few phrases so I could have a short conversation in Welsh. But when I started working in the library, I realised the importance of being able to offer a service to Welsh people in their own language. I did the intensive super Wlpan course but then carried on learning at a much slower pace. It has taken me a very long time to start to feel confident speaking Welsh.

How do you use Welsh at work? My colleagues in the Normal library are all Welsh speaking and are very encouraging. They will speak Welsh to me if I start the conversation in Welsh, so it is really up to me. We have our staff meetings in Welsh, and I even had my performance review in Welsh



Ruth Snape

for the first time this year which felt like a breakthrough for me. When someone comes to the library desk for help I try to always start the conversation in Welsh. I noticed when I started wearing the orange 'Cymraeg' badge, a lot more people started speaking Welsh to me.

How do you use Welsh outside work? I must admit I don't use Welsh much outside of work. I do have a lot of Welsh friends, but they all speak English to me. I try to speak Welsh when meeting someone for the first time, as then it will be easier to carry on in Welsh. The mechanic who fixes my car has started speaking Welsh to me, and I use Welsh with strangers, such as in a shop.

How would you like to see your use of Welsh developing? I would like to give a group induction/tour of the library in Welsh, hopefully this September. I also need to improve my written Welsh so I can reply to emails and answer the library 'live chat' in Welsh. I also need to make the shift to speaking only Welsh to my colleagues soon ■

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Mike Montgomery of the Finance Department was recently awarded the North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium's (NWUPC) Outstanding Contribution to Collaborative Procurement Award.

The NWUPC Outstanding Contribution to Collaborative Procurement Award is awarded at the Consortium's Annual Conference each year. Eligibility for the Award is any individual from an institution that has worked with NWUPC over and above what would be expected in their normal role. The judging panel is the Central Team of NWUPC that nominates and then considers candidates for the award. The decision is made democratically by the whole team and this year's decision was unanimous for Mike.

Nicola Day, Director of Procurement, explained: "Two sets of criteria are considered. Firstly, a person

who has made an exceptional one-off contribution or, secondly, a longer term consistent contribution over and above what their job role entails. For Mike, the second criteria was remarked upon by the team although there have been one-off contributions as well, including helping to organise

the 2007 NWUPC Annual Conference at Bangor. The panel commented that Mike's attention to detail, his considered and detailed responses to NWUPC communications, and exceptional attendance record at NWUPC meetings has been outstanding from the day he started at Bangor.

"Mike has been a Purchasing Officer at the University since 2000, and retired in May 2015. This is a fitting way to end his career and everyone wishes him a long and happy retirement." ■



Paul Tomany, Managing Director of the North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium (left) presenting Mike Montgomery with the Outstanding Contribution to Collaborative Procurement Award.

THE ARTHURIAN LEGENDS: PAST AND PRESENT

The Library and Archives Service and the School of English Literature have celebrated Bangor's distinguished tradition in Arthurian Studies with several events.

These events took place around the launch of the newly donated Flintshire Harries Arthurian Collection; which included a public lecture and an exhibition of rare books from the Bangor and Flintshire Arthurian collections. The public lecture topic was 'Arthur: the King who never left us', and was given by Dr Roger Simpson. It was followed by a reception in the Council Chamber corridor and the Shankland Reading room in the Main Library, where guests viewed the exhibition curated by Dr Raluca Radulescu, Reader in the School of English Literature and Shan Robinson, Special Collections Officer.

The Flintshire Harries Arthurian Collection was donated to the University in 2014. It was originally donated to Flintshire County Libraries in 1952 by E R Harries, a former librarian of the county. The collection now holds over 2,000 items which enhances Bangor's existing Arthurian collection, in particular through the addition of rare books.

The University and its Library boast a long-standing tradition in Arthurian studies. Arthurian books formed the core of the original collection, later built upon by generations of scholars in Celtic and Arthurian studies, especially P J C Field, now Emeritus Professor at the School of English Literature.

Internationally, the University's reputation in Arthurian studies was confirmed on numerous occasions, most importantly through Professor Field's election as



From left: Lynette Hunter (Exhibitions Manager); Sue Hodges (Director of Library Services); Dr Roger Simpson; Raluca Radulescu (Reader in the School of English Literature) and Shan Robinson (Special Collections Officer) during the launch event.



Queen Guenevere in May, illustration from *Le Morte Darthur*, Ed. A. Pollard, illustrations by A. Rackham (Flintshire Harries Collection).

Collection will also be the focus of the new sell-out Arthurian Summer School, which will be held at the University.

The University's enthusiasm for all things Arthurian continues to reach audiences in numerous ways. This summer the Bangor English Dramatic Society will perform *The Mabinogion* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and more re-enactments and family events are planned later in the year. With Guy Ritchie having filmed his Hollywood adaptation *Knights of the Roundtable: King Arthur* in Snowdonia, it can safely be said that Arthur is celebrated in style in his own country!

For more information see <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/archives/ArthurianCollection.php.en> ■

President of the International Arthurian Society (2002-2005) and Dr Raluca Radulescu's election as editor of the society's publications - *Journal of the International Arthurian Society* and the annual Bibliography of the International Arthurian Society (2011-present). A scholarly society founded in 1949, IAS now has 1,000+ individual and 300+ institutional members from all over the world.

An Arthurian-themed open day was held in June which showcased treasures from the Arthurian Collection, medieval manuscript book-making, storytelling and performance. The Arthurian

BANGOR UNIVERSITY'S GENDER EQUALITY COMMITMENT EARNS ATHENA SWAN AWARD

Bangor University has been awarded a bronze award under the Athena SWAN Charter for Women in Science. The Athena SWAN awards recognise commitment and success in developing practices to support the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) in academia.

To gain the Institutional Bronze award the University commits to the Charter's six principles addressing gender inequality, the need for cultural change within an organisation and recognition of some of the problems facing women in STEMM sectors.

Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, said: "The Athena SWAN project has been given full support by the University's Executive and the award further enhances the University's reputation in research and teaching in science. The award also demonstrates the

University's objective to ensure the participation and contribution of its entire staff".

Athena SWAN initiatives across the University include developing career development guidelines and a career development web page for staff, and further developing female mentoring in the University through publicising the Women in University Mentoring Scheme and examining the potential of group mentoring for early career female academics ■

DO A GOOD DEED

Many staff will already be aware of the University's close relationship with the Tŷ Gobaith charity and that staff and students raise thousands of pounds every year to help the hospice support children and their families. Here are some of the ways in which you can help:

LOTTERY: One way in which every member of staff can help is to join the monthly Staff Lottery at a cost of £1. There are 3 prizes on offer each month and the more people who join the better the prizes. To enter, please complete a form to authorise a £1 deduction from your monthly salary, available here: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/tygobaith/registration.php.en>



ZIP WIRE CHALLENGE: Are you a daredevil? Tŷ Gobaith have a day of zip wire fun on Sunday 19th of July. There is a £25 registration fee and you will need to raise funds for the charity. For further information and to book, visit their webpage: <http://www.hopehouse.org.uk/whats-on/event/velocity-zip-wire.html>

These are just some of the events Tŷ Gobaith put on every year. For more events such as fun runs, marathons, fashion shows, cycling events or even clay pigeon shooting, visit their What's On page: <http://www.hopehouse.org.uk/whats-on.html> ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

The **Centre for Galician Studies in Wales** at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures ran two events recently. The first was the launch of the publication of the Galician translation of Ifor ap Glyn's award-winning collection 'Terfysg' in the Galician literary magazine *Dorna*. This translation was an initiative of the Centre's Assistant, Lorena López, and was carried out

by Philip Davies (School of Welsh) and David Miranda-Barreiro (School of Modern Languages and Cultures). The second event saw Galician poet Isaac Xubín and Galician musician and musicologist Mano Panforreiteiro perform six poems from six different authors in six Iberian Peninsula languages ■

Kerry Thomas, Sports Assistant at Canolfan Brailsford will be participating in a charity bungee jump in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Trust on 12th September. Kerry will conquer her fear of heights in honour of her best friend, who sadly passed away from MS earlier this year. To sponsor Kerry, please visit her *Just Giving* page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/kerrythoma5> ■

THIS BANGOR GIRL CAN

The Sport Development team at Canolfan Brailsford recently organised a campaign to encourage female staff and students to be more active. On the theme of Sport England's 'This Girl Can' campaign, the team rolled out the 'This Bangor Girl Can' campaign.

Iona Williams, Sports Development Officer at Canolfan Brailsford, said: "The afternoon of organised activities included beginners spinning classes, golf taster sessions, rounders, badminton and a female led gym session. All activities were led by female members of staff from Canolfan Brailsford apart from the golf sessions that were led by a local female Golf Development Officer. There were over 40 females involved in all activities and it was great to see new faces participating in sports who had never been to Canolfan Brailsford."

As the beginners spinning sessions were so successful, Canolfan Brailsford now offer a weekly beginners' spin class every Wednesday 2.10-2.50pm which have so far proved to be very popular ■



Golf taster with Golf Development Officer Kim Boulden.



Female led gym session with Tiffany Brannan.

A CIRCUS FEAST FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Prepare to be amazed this summer as Pontio brings the best in contemporary circus and aerial performance to locations throughout the city of Bangor as part of their first 'Gwledd SYRCAS Feast' between 17-25th July.

The main attraction will be FLOWN, the award-winning show from internationally acclaimed contemporary circus company Pirates of the Carabina, which mixes comedy and chaos with bold physicality and live music. Taking place in a Big Top on Beach Road, there will be eight evening performances of FLOWN taking



place between 17-25th July and two additional matinees on Sunday 19th and Friday 24th July.

As well as the headliners, the city of Bangor will also be treated to a whole host of circus-inspired acts, workshops and events during this eight-day extravaganza for the whole family, and there will be a procession through the city on the first day which include local children.

Tickets for FLOWN and some of the other Gwledd SYRCAS Feast events are available at www.pontio.co.uk or through the Box Office on 01248 382 828 ■

