



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

A new Unit has been set up in the School of Education to deliver professional development for academic staff at all stages of their careers. For several years, UWB has run the very successful 'teaching in Higher Education' scheme for staff new to teaching, and this has been a model for similar programmes throughout Wales. However, there has been little provision to help more experienced staff identify ways in which they can teach more effectively. The new Academic Development Unit (ADU) aims to fill that gap.

The Director of the ADU, Dr Sue Assinder, says "The University has established an excellent reputation for high quality teaching but there is an inevitable cost in terms of academic staff time. There are many ways in which staff could make their teaching more efficient and at the same time enhance student learning. However, they are often reluctant to experiment with new teaching methods because they think it will take up time that they should be devoting to other parts of their job, particularly research. In the ADU, we want to show staff that adapting their teaching styles does not have to involve excessive investment of extra time, and that the pay-off is worth it in terms of more efficient teaching and enhanced student learning. With the right tools and approaches, it is possible to have 'more learning for less teaching' and so free up time for other activities".



Children and parents were enthralled by the **Chemistry Show** that took place at the University's exhibition hall at the Eisteddfod in Swansea in August. The Show, in the capable hand of Robyn Wheldon Williams (here) and his liquid nitrogen, marked the launch of the first ever Welsh language version of the Periodic Table of Elements, published by the Chemistry School - one of a successful programme of activities during the week.

Over the coming months, Sue and her colleague Romy Lawson (the Director) will be working closely with Schools and Colleges to assist the University in its aim to maintain excellence in teaching and learning. A wide range of activities will combine to achieve this goal, including workshops, seminars, research projects, and interactions with individual staff. Such activities may include assisting with the development and review of modules and courses, and

providing advice on teaching, learning, and assessment strategies.

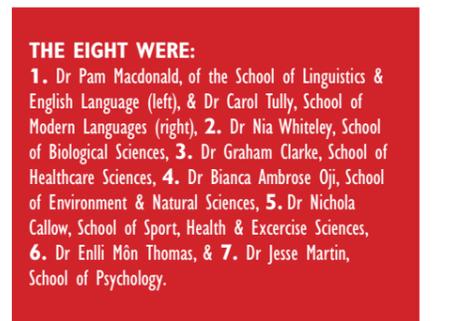
The establishment of the new Unit is part of bigger plan to support the personal and professional development of UWB staff. The combined efforts of the ADU and other providers, such as Human Resources, IT Services and the Department of Lifelong Learning, will create a cohesive framework for staff and educational development across the University.

# EXCELLENT TEACHING AND STUDENT CARE REWARDED AT BANGOR

Eight lecturers were awarded Teaching Fellowships during the summer's Degree Ceremonies. This was the first time that the University has awarded so many Teaching Fellowships to its staff and it reflected an increase in nominations received. Teaching Fellowships acknowledge outstanding teaching and student support. Lecturers are nominated for Teaching Fellowship by their lecturing colleagues and students.

"We are justifiably proud of the standard of teaching and student care at Bangor and have been awarding Teaching Fellowships for a number of years, in order to highlight and reward excellent teaching and pastoral care" explained Academic Registrar, Dr Ioan Ap Dewi. "The University values the particular expertise and contribution of these individuals and has also created an Academy of Teaching Fellows within the University as a forum to discuss and share good practice in higher education teaching."

All the citations emphasised the excellence of delivery of both traditional and innovative new teaching methods and a focus by these individuals on the needs of their students.



#### THE EIGHT WERE:

1. Dr Pam Macdonald, of the School of Linguistics & English Language (left), & Dr Carol Tully, School of Modern Languages (right), 2. Dr Nia Whiteley, School of Biological Sciences, 3. Dr Graham Clarke, School of Healthcare Sciences, 4. Dr Bianca Ambrose Oji, School of Environment & Natural Sciences, 5. Dr Nichola Callow, School of Sport, Health & Exercise Sciences, 6. Dr Enlli Môn Thomas, & 7. Dr Jesse Martin, School of Psychology.

## News from Psychology

**Professor Bob Woods has been invited by the British Psychological Society's Division of Clinical Psychology to present the MB Shapiro Award Lecture at their Annual Conference in London this December.**

An invitation to present this lecture implies that the speaker has achieved eminence in the profession and has had a significant impact on the knowledge and practice of British clinical psychology.

This is an achievement for Professor Woods personally and also recognition for the work on the clinical psychology of older people at UWB and the North West Wales NHS Trust, and for the development of clinical psychology of older people in the UK.

The attention given to Prof Woods and others in the team confirms Bangor and North West Wales' status leading the UK in research on the Clinical Psychology of Older People. Linda Clare, a member of the research group, has also recently been promoted to Reader.

Meanwhile, Dr Judy Hutchings of the Incredible Years Wales team has been advising those in senior office in the land! Dr Hutchings and her team work on intervention for conduct disorder in children. Her views have been sought by policy makers, and Judy was invited by the Prime Minister's office to Chequers for a seminar on social exclusion at the end of August.

Last but not least, Acting Head of School, Richard Hastings, has been awarded a British Psychological Society Fellowship for his innovative and creative research in the field of learning disabilities.

## Bangor's Newest Honorary Fellows

Wales' foremost harpist and musician, Elinor Bennett was among six individuals who received Honorary Fellowships during this year's degree ceremonies.

"All the Honorary Fellows were delighted to have been awarded their Fellowships," said Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones. "After careful consideration, Fellowships are awarded to those who have made a great contribution in their chosen field and have a close link with the University, the region or Wales," he added.

#### The new Honorary Fellows are:

**Elinor Bennett**  
Harpist; for services to Music

**Goronwy Cleaver**  
Managing Director Kroll (Cayman Ltd.); for services to the development of Law at Bangor

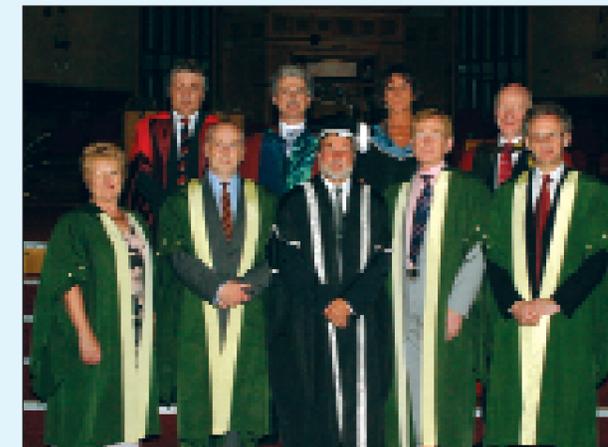
**Professor Sir Richard Friend FRS,**  
Physicist and former Bangor student; for services to science

**Dr Raymond Garlick**  
Poet and former Bangor student; for services to literature (received on his behalf by his son, Iestyn Garlick).

**Professor Russell Jackson**  
Director of the Shakespeare Institute, Birmingham University; for services to the study of literature and film.

**John Walter Jones OBE**  
Former Chief Executive Welsh Language Boards; for services to the Welsh language

**Hywel Williams**  
Historian; for services to history and journalism



At the rear are the Honorary Fellows' presenters, left-right: Professor Denisil Morgan, Dr Wil Griffith, Pro-Vice Chancellor Meri Huws and Professor Martin Taylor. The Honorary Fellows with Vice-Chancellor Professor Merfyn Jones are (left-right), Elinor Bennet, Hywel Williams, John Walter Jones OBE and Sir Richard Friend. Pictured also are Professor Russell Jackson (top) and Goronwy Cleaver (bottom).

## NATIONAL POET

A double celebration of National Poets will occur at a Conference organised by the School of Welsh, **17-18 November**. Wales' National Poet, Emeritus Professor Gwyn Thomas will be speaking at "Mwy na Rhywbeth i'w wneud? Barddoni mewn canrif newydd" (More than something to do? Writing poetry in a new century), a conference open to the public, along with Wales' first National Poet, Gwyneth Lewis - a coincidence, as the Conference was arranged prior to Prof Gwyn Thomas' appointment as National Poet, in order to celebrate his 70th birthday!

"I had no idea that Prof Gwyn Thomas was to be appointed National Poet when organising the Conference!" said Gerwyn Williams, Head of the School of Welsh. "But everything has fallen into place and I'm sure we'll have a very successful conference!"

"Gwyn Thomas's appointment as National Poet is a public recognition of the pioneering role that he played in Welsh poetry since the 60's. Of course, he has also had a long association with Bangor University throughout most of his professional career," he added.

The Conference is organised in conjunction with the Welsh Institute for Social & Cultural Affairs (WISCA) with support from the Academi

Gymreig. Gwyneth Lewis will be speaking about her experience as Wales' first National Poet on Friday evening 17 November. Dr Jason Walford Davies will be interviewing Gwyn Thomas on Saturday 18 November. For more information contact 01248 382133 or [wisca@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:wisca@bangor.ac.uk) or visit [http://www.bangor.ac.uk/wisca/siteenGLISH/conf\\_sem/conf\\_prog/poets.htm](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/wisca/siteenGLISH/conf_sem/conf_prog/poets.htm)

#### Other forthcoming public lectures include:

'Hidden Depths' - the fan, an object of mystery, Helene Alexander FRSA, **6.00 Wednesday 8 November 2006** Main Arts Lecture Theatre

Award winning author and playwright, Philip Pullman discusses 'Strangeness and Charm' - the fundamental particles of narrative, in this lecture, previously postponed, now being held at **6.00 on Friday 10 November** in the Main Arts Lecture Theatre.

Toni Schiavone presents the Sir Hugh Owen Memorial Lecture - "A sense of place" at **6.00 on Wednesday 15 November 2006** in the Main Arts Lecture Theatre. The lecture will be delivered in Welsh with simultaneous translation facilities available.

# THE POWER OF THE WEB!

A heart warming (and possibly mouth-warming!) story from Dr Dave Harris at CAZS Natural Resources shows that you should never underestimate the power of the internet to spread whatever your good word is.

CAZS Natural Resources have been using a low tech method of 'seed priming' which involves soaking the seeds before planting, to improve germination and consequent harvest. This work has mainly been carried out in Asia on staples such as millet, but in theory, could work for anything.

Our story moves to the heat of Sinaloa in Mexico. An entrepreneur there invested in land, greenhouses and organic seeds to introduce organic chillies to his region. He faced problems however, as he was only achieving

germination in around 4% of his trial crop. He was at his wit's end having asked for advice locally, when he found an article about seed priming by Dr Dave Harris on the web.

He contacted Dave for further advice and reports back that having used the method, that his crop of organic chillies has flourished from a 4% germination from seeds to a fantastic 95%- ensuring a success for his investment in rural Mexico! (Reporting back- he promised to send some chillies, but we haven't heard how hot they are!)

As Dave says "I thought that this was a fantastic example of the way the system was supposed to work: research-results-website query-advice- problem solved."



Seed priming can be useful in many locations and for many different crops. Here, in Peshawar, Pakistan, seed priming means the difference between a viable crop of mungbeans on the right and no crop at all!

## Partnership Appoints Director

Dr Hugh Aldridge has been appointed Director of the newly established Research and Enterprise Partnership between Aberystwyth Bangor universities.

Prior to his appointment Dr Aldridge was Director for Industry at The Cambridge - MIT Institute at Cambridge University. He has previously worked as Associate Director Corporate Liaison Office at the University of Cambridge and as Strategic World Wide University Relations Manager for Hewlett Packard.

**The Research and Enterprise Partnership** is an initiative of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales aimed at enhancing research and enterprise activities at both universities.

The Partnership features a joint research management structure and targets investment in academic areas where the institutions have research synergies. A joint Research and Enterprise Support Unit will also be established to support academics in identifying research funding priorities, increase research grant funding and manage large projects. There are initially four joint research centres; The Centre for Catchment and Coastal Research, the Welsh Centre for Integrated Research in the Rural Environment, the Centre for Advanced Functional Materials and Devices Research, and the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

## DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

**Residential Estate Update:** Contracts have been signed and Cowlin Construction will commence on site very shortly, initially setting up their site compound and hoardings for the first phase of the three year development. Llys Tryfan remains open this academic year.

**Environment Centre, Wales:** Pochin, the University's Contractor, is progressing well on site with locally sourced oak cladding now being fixed to the exterior of the building.

**Management Development Centre:** Operon, the MDC's Contractor, has commenced on site and is well advanced in the strip out of the old building interior. Architectural and engineering designs and working drawings are well progressed for the new Centre, which is due for completion in August 2007. The new Centre will provide state of the art facilities for the North West Wales postgraduate education market including training and conferencing resources.

The consultation period for the new **Estate Strategy** came to a close on 15th September. A total of 17 written responses were received, 15 from within the University community and 2 from external organisations. As a result a number of minor changes have been made to the original draft. Council formally approved the revised document at a special meeting on 25th October.

## In Brief

### New Appointments

The University has a new Director of Human Resources. Mrs Gill Hemus has taken up the post since 4th September 2006. Previously Gill Hemus was Director of Human and Corporate Resources, Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust.

Ms Kristen Gallagher has taken up her post as the new Head of Development and Alumni Relations at the Corporate Communications & Marketing Department. Kristen comes from a similar post at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Dr Janet Pritchard has been appointed Head of the College of Education & Lifelong Learning and Prof Ted Gardener has been appointed Head of the College of Business, Social Sciences & Law.

A number of posts have been successfully filled as part of the University's expansion plans, which include over 50 new academic posts and 27 Chairs.

## Garden Party



**Gwyn Lloyd Jones** and his wife Eleanor, attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace over the summer as representatives of the University. Gwyn has worked at the BioComposites Centre since its inception, and previously worked in the forestry and plant biology departments. He began work as a technician and is now a scientist, having been able to take up further training and education during the course of his career. He has worked on many interesting industrial developments as well as contributing to teaching on a number of courses over the years. He is currently involved in two major research projects, one European project to develop cradles made out of waste crop materials and recycled plastics for mussel farming, and another to develop more effective preservative and weathering treatments for wood.

# AWARDS SCOOPED AT FIRST ATTEMPT



A student discusses her Business Plan as part of B-Enterprising's Business Plan mentoring support service

Two projects at the University's Careers & Opportunities Centre have received national professional awards. The B-Enterprising Student Entrepreneurship Programme and the E'Polyability ICT Development were both awarded second place in the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services Awards for Excellence, presented every two years.

The B-Enterprising Project, the University's main entrepreneurship project which receives Welsh Assembly Government Knowledge Exploitation Fund funding, was awarded second place in the Entrepreneurship Category. The E'Ployability was placed second in the UK for the Technology category. This project provides employment and learning resources for students via the web. The programme provides an on-line diary for reflective learning as well as careers guidance and management advice online.

**“AGCAS represents over 180 University careers services so I'm really delighted with our success. We've never entered for any national awards before and to be placed in two successful places first time out is very heartening!” said Eluned Jones, Head of the Careers & Opportunities Centre. “These two projects have been well regarded in Wales and are now gaining the attention of our colleagues elsewhere in the UK,” she added.**

## Degree Awarding Powers - Could our name change?

After nearly a year of inspection and assessment, QAA assessors left UWB in July 2006, but the outcome of the University's application for Degree Awarding Powers is not yet known. The assessors visited the University 33 times during the last academic year, conducted 63 separate 'engagements', interviewed 167 staff and students and observed 34 meetings. There is no formal feedback on the process, but the assessors' report is going forward through various procedures to the Privy Council – which takes the ultimate decision.

The Registrar, Dr David Roberts, said: “This is the most intensive inspection the University has ever experienced, and the assessors conducted a very thorough and rigorous exercise. The outcome is eagerly awaited because it will undoubtedly have an impact on our status and reputation”.

Although the outcome is unknown, the University Council has already been thinking ahead. On 6 October the Council decided that, if we were to achieve Degree Awarding Powers, we should then apply for 'University title' - a separate process available to those institutions which acquire Degree Awarding Powers – and should begin a process of consultation on a new name. The preferred name at present is 'Prifysgol Bangor' or 'Bangor University', but it is recognised that there are other options.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones commented: “Applying for a University title will clarify and safeguard our status as a University – which is particularly important in view of the changing structure of the federal University of Wales”.

The consultation will begin during November.

Newsletter is published by the Corporate Communications & Marketing Department, University of Wales, Bangor.

Items for inclusion should be sent to the Editor: Elinor Elis-Williams, at the Department. e-mail: [press@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:press@bangor.ac.uk)

© University of Wales, Bangor. Please contact the Editor for permission to reproduce any article.

Updated University news can be found at [www.bangor.ac.uk/news/](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/news/)