



Bangor wins £5m Bilingual Research Centre

A major new £5m research centre for the study of bilingualism is being created at the University, underlining Bangor's growing reputation as a centre of excellence in academic research

Vice-Chancellor Professor Merfyn Jones said: "This Centre will bring together some of the greatest experts in bilingualism from across the world.

Academics from the Schools of Linguistics, Psychology and Education will be involved in the five year research project which will examine the relationship between the two languages of bilingual speakers in bilingual communities both within the UK and internationally.

"This investment is a real vote of confidence in Bangor by the Economic & Social Research Council, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and the Welsh Assembly Government who will provide funding for the Centre."

Professor Margaret Deuchar, of the School of Linguistics and English Language will lead the Centre with colleagues Professor Colin Baker of the School of Education and Professor Virginia Gathercole of the School of Psychology as Co-Directors.

Professor Deuchar said: "This is a major development that will no doubt influence the public perception of bilingualism and the formulation of language and educational policy not only in Wales but worldwide.



Over 1,000 school children from across North West Wales visited Bangor University over two days of science fun recently. An excellent range of hands on activities and science 'shows' to stimulate the children's interest in the sciences were presented by the University's Science Schools, with assistance from Cartoon Science (Cardiff University's Science Made Simple) and Techniquet.

"Our research will be enhanced by our location in the well established Welsh-English bilingual community of North Wales, which will act as a springboard for extending our expertise to other bilingual communities."

Professor Virginia Gathercole said: "We will carry out studies on theoretical issues such as bilinguals' linguistic knowledge of their two languages and any potential interactions between those languages, the neurological basis of bilingualism, language development in bilinguals, and cognitive

benefits of bilingualism throughout the lifespan."

Professor Colin Baker said: "This puts Wales and the University at the forefront of international research on bilingualism. Wales is regarded as a world-wide leader in language planning and bilingual education. This Centre celebrates that leadership and will ensure that Wales will continue to innovate and enhance bilingual policy and practice both nationally and internationally."

In Brief

RINGING THE CHANGES

The University's current switchboard has reached retirement age after twenty years of faithful service and its replacement has been in planning for the last few months. Specialist telecoms consultants have been analysing the communication needs of the University and have recommended investment in 'Voice Over IP'. This new technology applies the power of the desktop PC to the telephone system, providing the opportunity to offer voicemail, easy conference calling and many other features. Installation will begin over the summer and will continue in parallel with the redevelopment of the estate.

CENTENARY

Plans are in hand to mark the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Main University Building. A provisional date of 7 June has been set for this occasion. This is intended to raise the profile of this historic building - the restoration of which will be a focus for the University's new fund-raising campaign.

TÛ GOBAITH LOTTERY

Have you joined the TÛ Gobaith / Hope House Lottery yet? So far, 9 monthly winners have received between £10 and £160 while Hope House has received £442. More members are joining by the month, increasing the benefits for all! It's not too late to join if you want to join visit <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/tygobaith/registrationform.php.en> Also, £1,876 was donated to TÛ Gobaith as a result of the 'Pay to Park' day held last year.

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

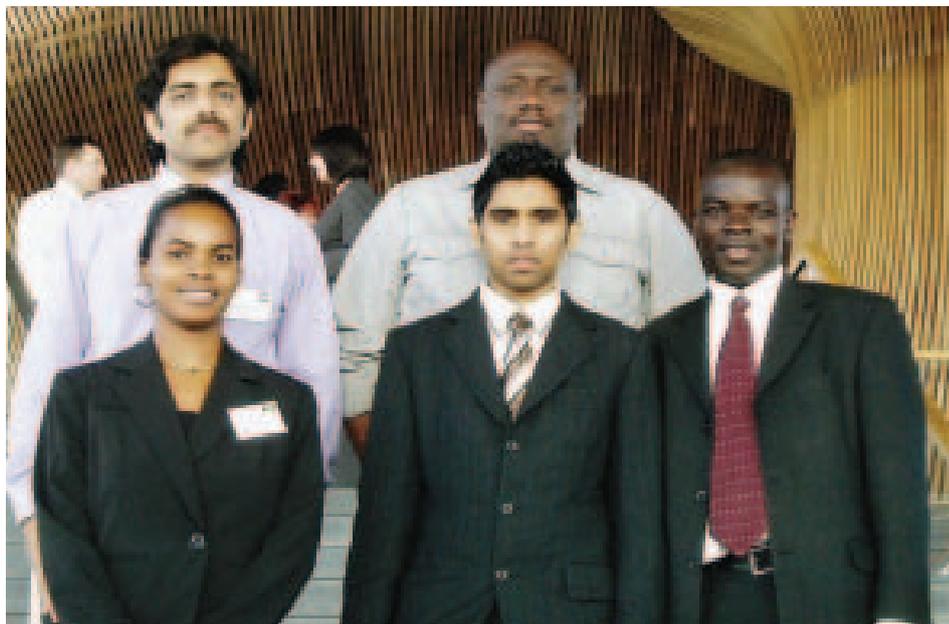
Bursaries

Two hundred first year students at the University received cheques totalling £365,000 as part of the 2006 Entry Bursary Scheme. The bursaries, which range from £1,000 - £3,000, have been awarded to students who demonstrated the "potential to succeed at Bangor". They are designed to offer extra financial support to students.

Scholarships

In addition, 12 bilingual students following environmental courses received £15,000 in Environment Scholarships recently. The Scholarships are funded by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and are available to any bilingual student following an environment related first degree or post-graduate course, and studying an element of the course in Welsh. The aim of the Scholarship Scheme is to increase the number of Welsh speakers working in related professions.

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST



Six international students from Bangor participated in Commonwealth Day Celebrations organized by the Wales Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and held at the National Assembly recently. Bangor's delegation was organized by International Student Welfare Advisor, Alan Edwards.

building are (rear l-r): Rajesh Daswani, (India, studying MBA Banking & Finance) and Stacey Cateau, (Trinidad & Tobago, studying MSC Sports Science); at the front l-r are: Patrena Brookes, (Jamaica, studying MA Banking & Finance), Abdullah Ali (Maldives, studying BA Accounting & Finance) and Mark Lungu (Malawi, studying PhD Banking). Fariha Javed (Pakistan, MA Social Research & Social Policy) is not in the photo.

Seen here at the Assembly's Senedd

BANGOR WINS BUSINESS 'OSCAR'S'



Left:

Being congratulated by the Minister at the Awards ceremony are (l-r) Dr Richard Edwards, School of Computer Science, Mr Bryn Jones, University Innovation Bangor and Ms Wendy Wedmore and KTP Associate Mr Edmond Yau, of Vision Support Trading Ltd.

Below:

Also being congratulated by the Minister are (l-r) Mr Bryn Jones, Mr Adrian Moorhouse MBE, Lane4 Management Ltd, Prof Lew Hardy, School of Sport, Health & Exercise Science, and KTP Associate, Mark Gittins.

Bangor University has been recognised as the best in the UK for fostering successful partnerships with business.

The Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MBE, Minister for Industry and the Regions presented the prize for the best Knowledge Transfer Partnership in the UK to Vision Support Trading Ltd and Bangor University at an Awards ceremony in London. Bangor's partnership with Lane4 Management Ltd was also one of the five award winning partnerships in England. The Minister congratulated all involved and praised the partnerships for what they had achieved.

The Awards were made at the 'Knowledge Transfer Partnerships 2007 Ceremony' in March. The event celebrated the achievements of programmes that have helped businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through better use of knowledge, technology and skills within the UK's universities and colleges. Out of the nine awards presented, two were given to Bangor University.



Bangor University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones said: "We are very proud of the fact that Bangor, out of all the Universities across the UK, has won not only one, but two awards. It is a fantastic achievement and highlights the quality of the research done by our academics and its relevance to the world of business."

Bryn Jones, the University's KTP Manager added: "Bangor University has developed an enviable reputation for its knowledge transfer activities.

These awards recognise the emphasis we place on working in partnership with business".

Vision Support Trading Ltd's partnership with the School of Computer Science has made a significant impact on the company's performance while Lane4 Management Ltd's partnership with the School for Sport Health and Exercise Sciences has allowed the Performance Development Consultancy to remain at the cutting-edge of scientific rigour.

Honorary Fellows 2007

The University has announced the individuals to be awarded Honorary Fellowships of the University during this year's graduation ceremonies in July. Honorary Fellowships are the highest honour that the University can bestow. They recognise individuals who have made particular contributions within their chosen field and who have a link with Wales or with the University.

Dr. Edward John James

Davies OBE Retired medical practitioner in Denbighshire; medical historian: *For services to the community*

Owain Arwel Hughes OBE

Principal Associate Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and founder of the 'Welsh Proms': *For services to Music*

Rhys Ifans Actor and film star; brought up in Ruthin: *For services to the film industry*

Siân James Bangor graduate and Welsh traditional/folk singer and musician: *For services to the performing arts*



*Rhys Ifans,
Actor and film star*

Dr. Owen T. Jones

Bangor graduate; Managing Director and founding partner of Ambiensis Ltd., an agro-environmental technology company: *For services to science and industry*

Dr. David Pritchard Recently retired Medical Director of the North West Wales NHS Trust *For services to medical education*

David Richards CBE Winner of the 1981 World Rally Championship and now Chairman & Chief Executive of the Prodrive Group; a native of Ruthin: *For services to sport and business*

Professor Stefan Rahmstorf

Bangor postgraduate student, 1982/83 and now Professor of Physics of the Oceans at Potsdam University. Member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: *For services to environmental science*

Professor Emeritus J. Gwynn

Williams, CBE Bangor graduate, former Professor of Welsh History and former Vice-Principal of the University: *For services to the study of history*

Iolo Williams BBC presenter and nature expert: *For services to the study of wildlife*

Teaching Fellowships which are awarded during the Graduation ceremonies, are this year to be extended to include Associate Teaching Fellowships. These will reward the contribution of staff who have supported students or the administration of courses and activities.



INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR

Members of the Indian Society performed traditional and 'Bollywood' style Indian dances at an International Evening held at the University recently. Organised by the Student Services Centre, the audience of international students and staff also enjoyed popular and traditional songs from Japan and China, performed by members of the respective student societies as well as a translation of a popular Pakistani love poem. The evening was closed by a performance of Welsh songs by the JMJ Choir. The audience also browsed information stands representing some of the International students' home countries, as well as enjoying light refreshments. The International Evening follows a Reception for Indian Students which is to be the first of a series for different international student groups, providing an informal opportunity for students and staff to meet.

THE BRITISH UNIVERSITY IN KUWAIT



Dr Abdul Aziz Sayed Ali, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the British University of Kuwait and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones sign the agreement

The first British University to be formed in Kuwait is being established with the help of staff and academics from Bangor University. The Bangor Business School will be the lead academic group at Bangor within this initiative.

The 'British University in Kuwait' is a private institution offering degrees mainly in the areas of business and management and will open for degree courses in January 2008.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones attended a ceremony to mark the event at the British Embassy in Kuwait. This was followed by a reception at the Embassy hosted by the Prince of Wales.

Professor Merfyn Jones said: "This is a unique venture by Bangor and we're

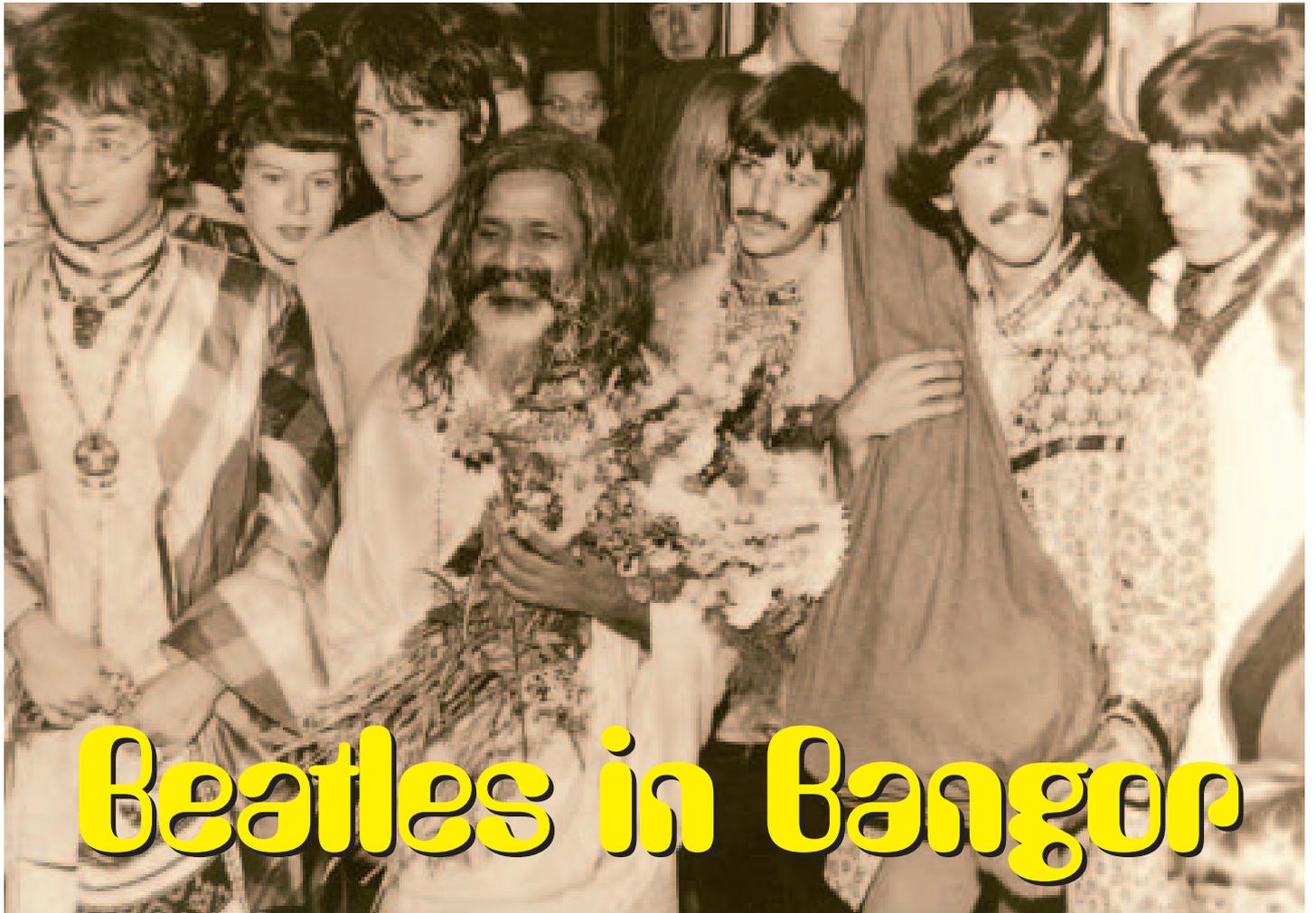
delighted to assist in establishing a brand new university in Kuwait. "Our initial role will include advising and assisting with the development of degree programmes, but we very much hope that this project will lead to staff and students from both Wales and Kuwait working together in a spirit of partnership in years to come."

The new university will distinguish itself from existing universities by providing specialised education, following the high quality British system of undergraduate higher education.

Professor Ted Gardener, Director of the Bangor Business School said: "This new university will provide high-quality tertiary education, producing graduates with significant skills in all areas of business.

"We envisage a strong and enduring relationship with our colleagues in Kuwait, with many new and exciting initiatives that will help to support the business and financial community."

Dr Abdul Aziz Sayed Ali from the British University in Kuwait said: "We will provide high quality programmes across a broad range of disciplines. In its dedication to excellence in teaching, the University will strive to instil in its students discernment, intellectual curiosity, as well as the knowledge and skills essential for their personal development and the ability to contribute to society. We also have a strong commitment to post-graduate or further education by offering an MBA programme that emphasises the development of professional, research, and scholarship skills." Initially, the new university will operate from existing buildings in Kuwait City whilst a new campus is constructed.



Beatles in Bangor

Acme TV have been commissioned by BBC Radio Wales to produce an hour long radio documentary on the Beatles visit to Bangor in 1967.

I was wondering whether any of you reading this were there and have memories to share about the event.

The Beatles together with their partners and friends attended a conference

run by The International Meditation Society whose guest speaker was the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. They travelled by train to Bangor arriving on Friday the 25th of August and left by car on the Sunday.

It was on that fateful day that they received the news of the death of their manager and friend Brian Epstein.

If any of you reading this have any memories of this weekend, would you be so kind as to leave a reply or contact us via my e-mail address; gari@acmetv.net.

Thanking you in anticipation.
Gari Melville, (Assistant Producer)
Acme TV Cyf. 75, Maes Iago,
Pontardawe, Abertawe, SA8 4 LR
01792 862086, 07967 024282

University's popularity continues to grow!

The latest university application figures released by UCAS show that applications to Bangor are up by 7.8%, bucking a slight (-0.1%) downward trend for applications to Welsh higher education institutions. This is the sixth year in succession that the University has seen an increase in applications and

according to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones, is clear evidence of the growing success of the University.

The UCAS figures show Bangor as having the highest percentage increase in applications from home/ EU applicants out of all Welsh Universities.

A new centralised admissions procedure has also drastically improved turnaround time in dealing with applications, enabling the university to double the number of offers made by the end of January compared to the same time last year.

Driving the Knowledge Economy

'Knowledge economy' seems to be a phrase that all politicians are keen to use- but how do you drive the knowledge economy?

Professor Sian Hope, Pro Vice Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer and Enterprise, recently shared her views on 'Science and Technology as Knowledge Economy Drivers' when she was invited to address a 'New Economic Opportunities in North West Wales' Conference organised by the North Wales Branch of the Institute of Welsh Affairs.

Prof Hope was able to draw on the very successful Technium CAST project, an idea conceived of and instigated initially by staff at Bangor. The University is now a partner in the



Technium at Parc Menai which is drawing new and exciting IT companies to the area. As well as CAST's fantastic location and facilities, the opportunity to access, not only academic expertise at the University but also a pool of highly skilled and educated potential employees among graduates and current undergraduates at the University act as strong motivators for companies considering establishing themselves in CAST.

"The expertise, knowledge, ideas and know-how at a research University such as Bangor really can be the catalyst for companies moving to the area and the uptake of research to solve problems", she said.

HARVARD PROFESSOR VISITS SCHOOL OF WELSH



Dr Jerry Hunter of the School of Welsh with Professor Catherine McKenna of Harvard University.

Professor Catherine McKenna from Harvard University recently visited Bangor's School of Welsh. Professor McKenna succeeds Professor Patrick Ford, as Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University in July 2005. Her visit served as a means to strengthen the special relationship that already exists between the two academic centres. During her visit, she led a research seminar which drew upon the academic expertise contained within the School of Welsh. Her discussion centred upon 'Marwnad Gruffudd ap Cynan' ('The elegy of Gruffudd ap Cynan') by Meilyr Brydydd, a poem co-edited by Professor Peredur Lynch – a current member of the School of Welsh - and the late Professor J.E. Caerwyn Williams – a previous head of the Department of Welsh at Bangor.

Through the link, Bangor was able to hold its North American Alumni event at Harvard in Autumn 2005 and has hosted a number of post-graduate exchanges and plans to send Bangor students to Harvard in the future.



SO GOOD THEY LAUNCHED IT TWICE

At the Westminster Launch are, from left to right: Malcolm Wicks MP (Minister for Science and Innovation), Prof Noel Lloyd and John Farrar, representing Aberystwyth and Bangor, Mark Williams MP (Ceredigion) and Betty Williams MP (Conwy).

The Research & Enterprise partnership between the Bangor and Aberystwyth universities has now been officially launched at both the Welsh Assembly Government's home at the Senedd Building in Cardiff and at Westminster. Both launches were well received, drawing an audience of AMs and MPs respectively as well as a wide range of civil servants, academics and other interested parties.

Commenting that the Assembly launch marked a historic moment, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Davidson said: "The Research and Enterprise Partnership is a very exciting and significant development for the universities. As well as the academic benefits, it will enhance the social and cultural development of Wales. I'm sure the partnership will prove invaluable."

Mrs Betty Williams MP who co-hosted the Westminster event said: Mrs Williams said, "This is an exciting, ambitious and important development in the history of both institutions. The new Partnership significantly enhances the United Kingdom's research and development capabilities in a number of areas."

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones, said, "The Research and Enterprise Partnership will enhance the academic global competitiveness of the two universities and, by building sustainable relationships with the private sector and government, create a vibrant business environment which will contribute to the social and cultural environment within Wales and the UK."

KYFFIN MEMORIAL

The University is to erect a plaque in memory of Sir Kyffin Williams, an Honorary Fellow of the University, who died last September. In his Will, Sir Kyffin left a number of items including books, furniture, a dinner service and a number of works of art (which were already on loan) to the University.

OLD PHOTOS

Does anyone have old photos of student activities that could be used on UWB's Eisteddfod stand? If so, please contact Alumni Officer, Rachel Davies, e mail Rachel.davies@bangor.ac.uk ext 8332.

STAFF SURVEY

Last year all staff received a Work Related Stress Questionnaire from the Occupational Health & Safety Unit to examine how staff feel about various aspects of working conditions and how the University is performing in the management of work related stress. The response was very good with 45% of staff responding and overall the results were positive. As a follow-up to this work, a further study will now take place in a cross section of Schools and Central Departments conducted by an external consultant. This Newsletter will feature an item on the results of the survey once it's completed.

O.B.E. for former staff member

Charlotte Williams, Former Senior Lecturer and Director of Studies, Social Work and Social Policy, School of Social Sciences was awarded an O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours list, 'for services to ethnic minorities and equal opportunities in Wales'.

Charlotte left Bangor for Keele in January 2006, and acknowledges that much of her public service work has been done whilst working at the University, where she worked for 13 years. She still lives in Llandudno and remains closely associated with colleagues at Bangor. Her research continues to be based in Wales.

Charlotte has worked extensively with public policy organisations in Wales, she is Chair of the Welsh Assembly Government Task Group on the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales and is a member of the Communities Directorate Steering Group for the Evaluation of the Communities First Anti-Poverty Strategy. She is also a member of the Commission for Racial Equality's (CRE) National Advisory Committee.