

NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS FOR ALL UNIVERSITY STAFF



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE PARK GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

The University Council, at its most recent meeting, gave the go-ahead for a major new project – the development of a Science Park on Anglesey, which the University will lead.

After careful examination of the proposal, the Council agreed to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary company – ‘Menai Science Park Ltd’ – to take forward and manage the development. Detailed governance procedures will now be drawn up, and steps will be taken to appoint a Managing Director of the company. A full risk analysis, and a clear plan for the Science Park, are also being prepared.

The ‘Science Park’ is not a new concept: there are more than 100 in the UK, and many have been created in other countries since the first was established at the University of Stanford in the USA over 50 years ago. The concept essentially involves

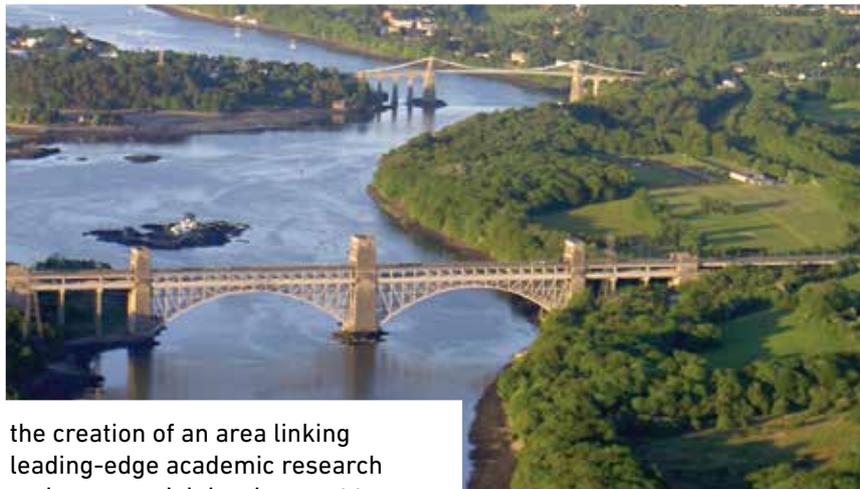


Photo: Jamie Hogan

the creation of an area linking leading-edge academic research and commercial development to the benefit of the local and national economy.

North West Wales, and particularly Anglesey, is well-placed to benefit from a combination of factors – the anticipated major investment in low-carbon energy projects and Enterprise Zone designation, and of course a nearby University and its partner organisations.

The Menai Science Park will be centred around the academic fields of clean technology, clean energy and systems – which are aligned to the Anglesey Enterprise Zone, and which also provide collaborative opportunities for several University

Schools.

The project is being supported by £10M of capital funding from the Welsh Government, and revenue funding of £250k in the first year together with an expectation of further revenue funding for the 3 following years.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes, said: “This is an outstanding opportunity, and the University is delighted to play a full and active part. Economic regeneration is vitally important for this area of Wales, and the University will do everything possible to make this venture a major success” ■

PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO BANGOR PHILOSOPHER



Dr Lucy Huskinson, Senior Lecturer in the School of Philosophy and Religion, has been awarded a prestigious *Mythos* grant of \$4,500 to further her research into the phenomenology of architecture and urban design at the *Opus Archives and Research Centre* in Santa Barbara, US.

Some of the monetary award will be used in the organisation of the conference, *City Margins, City Memories* (April 2014) that she is organising with colleagues in the School of Modern Languages. Her monograph, *Architecture of the Psyche: how buildings make and break our lives*, is forthcoming with Routledge: London and New York (2014) ■

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UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

For the first time in over 10 years, a team from Bangor University made it through to the semi-final round of *University Challenge*. In the 50th anniversary series of TV's most challenging quiz show, Bangor University took on the University of Manchester on Monday April 22.

Students' Union President, Antony Butcher, said: "It's brilliant to

see Bangor being the only Welsh University to have got so far this series – I truly think they have done Bangor proud."

Bangor University's University Challenge Team were: Team Captain, Nina Grant, (French & Linguistics); Simon Tomlinson, (Psychology); Mark Stevens, (Environmental Science); Adam Pearce (Translation Studies) and

Team reserve, Catriona Coutts.

Team Captain Nina Grant said: "The whole experience has been brilliant. We had no idea when we started out that we'd get this far, but I think we have a wide range of knowledge among the team members."

A team from Bangor last reached the semi-finals in 1999 ■

BANG GOES THE THEORY

Following the furore over horse meat contamination in other meats, BBC's popular science show, *Bang Goes the Theory*, looked at how new DNA techniques can be used to identify the fish on your plate and turned to Bangor University for expertise in this field.

Professor Gary Carvalho, from the School of Biological Sciences, showed presenter Maggie Philbin how the ability to identify the fish in a pie can help in safeguarding the consumer and safeguard all our fish stocks.

Up to a quarter of fish catches across the world are caught illegally. Being able to identify illegal catches by species or capture location provides a valuable new source of forensic tools to tackle



Maggie Philbin and Professor Gary Carvalho.

mislabelling and illegal fishing.

Prof Gary Carvalho explains: "We have developed a method that can be used throughout the food supply chain and across the fish industry and have shown its effectiveness in four common European species.

"The tools can be used to identify or compare a set of pre-identified genetic markers within fish samples at any point in the

consumer chain from net to plate, and to trace the fish back to their region of origin or breeding group.

"With the use of these tools, consumers will be able to purchase fish confident in the knowledge that they are buying or eating the product described on the label or the menu and that their purchases are from sustainable fish stocks" ■

NICE TO MEET...

TRACY WILLIAMS, CATERING ASSISTANT



Here Tracy tells us more about herself: Tracy, from Bangor, has been working at the University for the past 12 years. Her first role was at the Halls of Residence serving breakfasts and dinners but now she mainly works at the Teras Café in the Main Arts building, also occasionally helping with conferences and events. Tracy has a 14 year old son, Jonathan, who attends Ysgol Tryfan.

What do you like watching on the TV? I love period dramas, such as Downton Abbey and I also enjoy watching documentaries and films on the history based channel, *Yesterday TV*.

What is your favourite film? My all-time favourite film has to be *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

What kind of music do you listen to? My favourite type of music is Soul and Motown, I don't have a particular favourite group or singer, I just enjoy all of it!

Have you ever met anyone famous at any University events? I've met Hollywood actor, Rhys Ifans, at the event following his Honorary Fellowship ceremony during the 2007 graduation week. I got his autograph and he told me not to sell it on eBay! Also during the same graduation week, I met BBC presenter and nature expert

Iolo Williams, he was absolutely lovely! He came up to us before he left to thank us all for the meal.

What do you do in your spare time? I recently bought a scooter – a Vespa 125, and I've just passed the CBT – a lifetime ambition. Most scooter riders must take Compulsory Basic Training before riding on the road. Once I've passed the full test, I will be attending scooter rallies across north Wales and generally zooming around on my Vespa!

Do you have any plans for the summer? A few years ago, I bought an old, red telephone kiosk that needs restoring. This summer I plan on doing the work with a friend, and then it will be in my garden housing a music system; so when I'm throwing a BBQ or party, the entertainment will be taken care of ■

TOP TWEETS

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

@Mountain_UK Attended a fascinating lecture last night by Prof Lew Hardy, Bangor University on Psychology of Client Care re Leadership and Motivation

@BangorNightline We just won Best Fundraising Event at the national Nightline association awards! So happy! Proud day for @BangorUni #NLConf2013

@hearinglossCYM Many thanks to our student volunteers from @BangorUni. They helped us to raise £202.37 by bag packing @marksandspencer Bangor last Saturday!

@maggiephilbin And coming up soon on @bbcbang ... @BangorUni and something very fishy ■

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR GYMNASTICS AT MAESGLAS

Bangor University's Maes Glas Sport Centre is now home to a newly refurbished gymnastics hall. Thanks to funding from the University's Estates Department, the tired and dated hall has been completely transformed.

New energy efficient LED lighting has been installed, and the entire hall has been painted in University colours. As the only permanent gymnastics hall west of Deeside, the renovated facility will greatly enhance the experience for all that use it. In addition to regular student use, the gymnastic hall is used by more than 150 members of Bangor Gymnastic Club who have a long waiting list of others who are also eager to join.

Richard Bennett, Director of Sport, said: "We are very pleased with the refurbishment. It was something that



(L-R) Clive Jones, Assistant Maintenance Manager; Sam Wallwork, Maes Glas Centre Manager; Howyn Roberts, Maintenance Engineer.

drastically needed to be done and will now hopefully create a much better training environment for the users of the gymnastic hall."

Mike O'Connor, Assistant Director of Estates and Property, said: "It's great that the Estate Maintenance Team have been able to work with the team at Maes Glas on this project. The refurbishment of the lighting and updating has enhanced both the first impression and the

overall experience of training in the gymnastics hall for students and the wider community."

Following the refurbishment of the Gymnastics Hall, a larger renovation project will be taking place throughout Maes Glas with many existing facilities at the centre also being modernised. For more information visit www.maesglas2014.co.uk ■

PROMOTING OUR HISTORY & HERITAGE

The next phase of the restoration of the Main University Building is focussing on the public areas of the building (eg Prichard-Jones Hall, Powis Hall, the Council Chamber, Library & Archives etc) with a view to making them more accessible and attractive to the public by accentuating the history and heritage of the University. The potential for developing a 'Visitor Centre', and a link to the School of Music, are among ideas being considered. An 'Interpretation Plan' has been commissioned, and the University plans to apply for external funding to assist in the restoration process.

In the meantime, the University is planning to begin the process by naming some rooms in the Main Building after prominent individuals associated with the history of the University. The list of rooms to be renamed bilingually for 2013/14 is:

- Main Arts Lecture Theatre: *Eric Sunderland Lecture Theatre*
- Lecture Room 1: *J F Danby Room*
- Lecture Room 2: *Brenda Chamberlain Room*
- Lecture Room 3: *R T Jenkins Room*
- Lecture Room 4: *Sir Ifor Williams Room*
- Lecture Room 5: *A H Dodd Room*
- OSCR 1: *R Williams Parry Room*
- OSCR 2: *Kate Roberts Room*
- Terrace Conference Rooms: *Cledwyn Rooms*

Each room will have a notice explaining the name chosen, and improved signage and navigational information is planned.

The Registrar, Dr David Roberts, said: "The Main University Building is one of the jewels in our crown – impressively designed, and full of history and cultural riches. The aim of the current restoration programme is that we bring to the fore our history and heritage, and present it to a much wider audience" ■

2013 HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The University is pleased to announce the names of individuals on whom it will confer Honorary Fellowships in 2013. These honours will be conferred during the University's Graduations Ceremonies which take place between 13 and 19 July 2013. The recipients will be (in alphabetical order):

Geraint Talfan Davies

Chair, Institute of Welsh Affairs – *for services to public life in Wales.*

Dr Lyn Evans FRS

Physicist, Head of the Large Hadron Collider Project, CERN - *for services to Science.*

Dr Peter Florence

Founder and Director of the Hay Festival – *for services to the arts.*

Ann Griffiths

Harpist, teacher and composer - *for services to Music.*

Eric Hepburn

Bangor Business School graduate; Chief Operating Officer in 10 Downing Street for 6 years; now British Consul General, Washington – *for services to public life.*

Patrick Holdich

Bangor History graduate; British Consul General in Montreal – *for services to public life.*

Bryan Hope

Former Principal Engineer, Gwynedd

County Council; founder of the Amlwch Heritage Trust, and the author of books on the copper mines of Parys Mountain – *for services to industrial heritage conservation.*

Tom James

Rower, and double Olympic Gold Medallist – *for services to sport.*

Huw Jones

Chair of S4C (formerly Chief Exec, TV presenter and singer) – *for services to broadcasting.*

Paul Mealor

Composer, who was born in North Wales, and who wrote 'Wherever you are' based on the letters of soldiers serving in Afghanistan (Christmas No 1 in 2011 for The Military Wives) - *for services to Music.*

Professor Mark Williams FBA

Professor of Clinical Psychology at Oxford who pioneered the development mindfulness-based cognitive therapy - *for services to clinical psychology.*

The following individuals were selected for Honorary Fellowships in previous years, but were unable to attend the ceremony; they have indicated that they will attend in July 2013:

Terry Hands - Director of Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold - *for services to the theatre.*

Terry Jones - actor (of Monty Python fame) writer and film director; hails from Colwyn Bay and has been prominent in reviving Theatr Colwyn - *for services to film, theatre and television.*

In addition, the following individual will receive her Fellowship at a date to be determined:

Dr Meave Leakey – Bangor graduate and world-renowned palaeontologist who has made a major contribution to our understanding of the origins of human life. – *for services to science.*

Photos in the next issue ■

DO YOU HAVE A SPARE ROOM?

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A PLACE TO STAY FOR STUDENTS?

The Homestay scheme hopes to provide a 'home away from home' for students living away for the first time or international students looking to stay with a local family to improve their language skills and learn more about British culture. It is hoped that the Homestay Programme will have a positive impact on students whilst giving the host a rewarding and satisfying experience and is also a way to increase income at home. We aim to visit all Homestay homes to check suitability, general condition and facilities, and to enquire further as regards local amenities and travel links. We will not be undertaking any statutory compliance checks, but can refer owners to the relevant body for further advice on such matters.

If you would like more information on being a Homestay provider, contact the University Student Housing Office: aos014@bangor.ac.uk ■

STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS



Professor Oliver Turnbull presenting the Student Service Department Award to Wendy Williams and Gwenda Blackmore from the Money Support Unit.

Bangor Students' Union held its second Student Led Teaching Awards (SLTA), together with the Course Representative Awards recently.

Students were given the opportunity to nominate any member of staff in a range of categories from "Support Staff Member of the Year" to "Teacher of the Year" and nearly 300 nominations were received, spanning the full range of staff positions and departments.

Shôn Prebble, Bangor Students' Union Vice President for Education & Welfare, said: "This is a great chance for students to really acknowledge the dedication and hard work of staff at Bangor to improving their student experience. It is a chance to say thank you. We had nominations from every single School as well as most service departments, and the student panel had a really tough time picking some of the winners from the shortlist."

Professor Carol Tully, Pro Vice-Chancellor said: "The SLTAs have been a great success again this year and really emphasise the great work done by staff across the University. The nominations were both inspiring and moving and it was wonderful to see so many people recognised for their sterling work.'

Congratulations to our highly deserving winners:

Course Representative of the Year
Nerys MacDonald (School of Linguistics and English Language)

Innovation Award
Dr Pedro Telles (School of Law)

Award for the Promotion of Welsh-Medium Education
Ms Sian Beidas (School of Modern Languages)

International Award
Ms Manuela Vittori (International Education Centre)

Fantastic Feedback Award
Ms Lyle Skains (School of Creative Studies & Media)

Bringing Teaching to Life Award
Mr Nigel Brown (School of Biological Sciences)

Award for Outstanding Pastoral Support
Mrs Gillian Griffith (School of Music)

Supervisor of the Year
Prof Judy Hutchings (School of Psychology)

Student Engagement Award
Dr Chris Collins (School of Music)

Student Service Department Award
Money Support Unit (Student Services)

Support Staff Member of the Year
Mrs Liz du Pre (Miles Dyslexia Centre)

Postgraduate Teacher of the Year
Mr Stephen Clear (School of Law)

Outstanding Achievement
Dr David Evans (School of Music) - *received posthumously by his son*

New Teacher of the Year
Ms Thandiwe Gilder (School of Psychology)

Teacher of the Year
Dr Lucy Huskinson (School of Philosophy & Religion)

Photos from the evening can be viewed at: bangor.ac.uk/news ■

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Applications for Senior Lecturer again proved to be of an exceptional standard. We are pleased to announce that the panel agreed to award Senior Lecturer status on the following individuals:

TEACHING AND LEARNING LED



Dr Lorrie Murphy from the School of Chemistry was nominated for "Teacher of the Year" in the 2011/12 Bangor University Student Led Teaching

Awards and was made a member of the University's Academy of Teaching Fellows in 2009.



Mrs Gillian Roberts joined the School of Healthcare Sciences in 2000. As well as her role as Director of the BSc and MSc programmes, she

is also the Pathway Organiser for the MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice.

RESEARCH LED



The promotion of **Dr Thora Tenbrink**, of the School of Linguistics and English Language, is primarily research based. Her current

research focuses on a specification of the CODA (Cognitive Discourse Analysis) methodology. In over 14 publications so far, CODA supports insights about complex cognitive processes by analysing what people say during problem solving and perception tasks.



Dr Enrico Onali of the Bangor Business School has published in journals of international standings. His research interests lie in the

statistical modelling of financial data, banking, and corporate finance. He recently won an award for the "Best Young Economist" at the 20th International Tor Vergata Conference, and has been a visiting scholar at the Deutsche Bundesbank.



Dr Keith Hughes joined the School of Chemistry in 2003. He played a fundamental role in taking the School from a department with no Welsh medium

teaching to one that is now at the forefront of developing a national bilingual HE teaching strategy in Chemistry. His research is concerned with mixed quantum-classical dynamics and non-Markovian dynamics in chemical systems.



Dr Susan Johns is the Director of Teaching and Learning at the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology. Her second major monograph with

Manchester University Press, *Gender, Nation and Conquest in the High Middle Ages: Nest of Deheubarth* is forthcoming November 2013. She is currently completing a further monograph based on the findings of the AHRC-funded £480k *Seals in Medieval Wales* project.



Dr Erin Heerey was appointed at the School of Psychology in 2006. She has significant research output in high quality journals that have

impact in her field. Her research interests lie at the intersection of psychopathy, emotion, motivation and social cognition.



Dr Sion Williams has been a Lecturer at the School of Healthcare Sciences for 20 years. As a result of his research using qualitative

approaches, he has developed innovative models and theories that provide a unique representation of social adjustment to transitions faced by people living with long term conditions, including Parkinson's disease and respiratory conditions.



Dr Myfanwy Davies in the School of Social Sciences has won over £1.3 million in research funding with half a million as a lead researcher. She

has a national profile as an expert in social policy which is reflected in her contributions as chair of the all-Wales Board for Social Sciences for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

Dr Mark Hagger joined the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology in September 2007. His research currently focuses on the dukes and duchy of Normandy between 911 and 1144. He is also the author of *William: King and Conqueror*, an accessible biography which was published in October 2012 ■

BANGOR'S FORGOTTEN LINK TO THE

By Dr David Roberts

As we reach the 60th anniversary of the conquest of Everest by a British-led team, it is interesting to recall Bangor University's link with this dramatic event.

Charles Evans was 35 when he became Deputy Leader of John Hunt's famous 1953 Everest expedition. Born just two months after his father was killed in action in the First World War, Charles grew up with his mother, Edith, at Derwen near Corwen, north Wales. He spoke only Welsh until he was 6 years old, but was educated mainly in England – first at Shrewsbury School, and then at Oxford where he read Medicine. His interest in climbing having been encouraged by a Master at Shrewsbury School, he joined the Oxford University Mountaineering Club, and had climbed the Alps by 1939, as well as mountains in Wales, Scotland and Ireland. After qualifying, and serving in Burma in the army medical corps, he moved to Liverpool to be Surgical Registrar.

His first love was the mountains, however, and he joined the Wayfarers Club in Liverpool, and was elected to the Alpine Club in 1949. He quickly developed



Charles Evans

a considerable reputation as a mountaineer, taking part in expeditions to the Himalayas – to Annapurna (1950), Deo Tibba (1951) and Cho Oyu (1952). A quietly-spoken, private man, he seemed to exude strength and courage. His selection as Deputy Leader of the Everest expedition was not a surprise. "His leadership was unassuming but masterly", wrote Michael Westmacott, one of

the Everest team, many years later. There had been several Everest expeditions in the 1920s and 1930s – on one of which, in 1924, George Mallory had disappeared into the snows and mists of the mountains, never to return. However, the 1953 expedition made history. In late May 1953, nearly a month after setting up Base Camp, the team reached the South Col – at 26,000 feet, and having traversed dangerous ice and snow, this was a highly significant achievement. It was then that Hunt chose two teams to make the assault on the summit.

The first attempt, on 26 May 1953, was made by Charles Evans and Tom Bourdillon. When they were within 300 feet of the summit, Evans took the fateful decision to turn back because of faulty oxygen equipment. Two days later, Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay made a second attempt – and at 11.30am on 29 May became the first people to reach the highest point on earth.

LAW LECTURER WINS AWARD

Dr Yvonne McDermott, a lecturer at the School of Law, has been awarded one of the 20 British Academy Quantitative Skills Awards in their first pilot call. She has been awarded £9,983 for her project, 'A Taxonomy of Evidence before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia', which will commence on 1 September 2013.

The Quantitative Skills Acquisition Awards are available to support the career development of early career scholars who are in established academic posts. These awards

aim to develop and enhance their quantitative skills by providing an award to enable early career researchers to spend some time with a mentor at a specialist centre in the field.

The area of evidence in international criminal law is relatively under-researched, and no quantitative study has been undertaken to date which analyses the types of evidence used in recent international criminal trials. Using a sample of five cases spanning the lifetime of the Tribunal, this project will classify the types of

evidence, such as oral testimony, written witness statements, documentary evidence, transcripts from previous trials and judicial notice of established facts, deemed admissible before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and analyse the weight given to each type of evidence.

This funding will enable Yvonne to acquire the quantitative skills to formulate a database, which will quantify the types of evidence admitted in the five selected cases, and the weight given thereto, based on a number of set

CONQUEST OF EVEREST

Photos: Royal Geographic Society

This was the golden age of mountaineering exploration, and when the news broke four days later it had an enormous public impact across the world – not markedly dissimilar to that of the moon landing in 1969. The Everest team returned to London to a hero's welcome. Hillary and Hunt were knighted; Tensing received the George Medal. There were receptions at Buckingham Palace, at Lancaster House and elsewhere. The mountaineers were feted wherever they went – except for Charles Evans, who characteristically did not return immediately to London, but left quietly for Nepal to do more climbing. "I wouldn't mind a party myself", he wrote to a friend at the time, "but I'd rather be in the mountains."

The following year, Evans led a team to the summit of Kangjenchunga, the third highest peak in the Himalayas, which was "perhaps the finest British



Charles Evans and Edmund Hillary.

mountaineering achievement of the decade", according to Jim Perrin. But a two-man trip to Annapurna IV in 1957 was to be Charles Evans's last expedition. In 1958, he forsook medicine to become Principal of the University in Bangor (the 'University College of North Wales' as it then was) – a surprise appointment in many respects. At around the same time, his physical abilities began to decline: he was

diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and within just a few years of taking up the post he was regularly using a wheelchair.

Charles Evans was to become President of the Alpine Club from 1967 to 1970, and was knighted in 1969, but, at the age of 40, his high-altitude mountaineering days were over ■

variables. Professor John Jackson of Nottingham University, an expert in evidence law and co-author of the leading study on the Diplock courts in Northern Ireland, has been appointed mentor for this project. Professor Jackson will advise on the database design and the methods used, and provide guidance and feedback throughout the project's lifetime.

Yvonne said: "Receiving this award was an enormous honour. It was the first major grant I received since submitting my PhD and I am delighted to have the opportunity to work on an interesting and important topic, under the guidance of such an experienced mentor" ■



Dr Yvonne McDermott

BANGOR ACADEMICS APPOINTED FELLOWS OF LEARNED SOCIETY

Four Bangor University academics have been elected Fellows of The Learned Society of Wales as a result of the Society's 2013 Election of new Fellows. They are:

Professor Dyfrig Hughes FLSW, Professor of Pharmacoeconomics, Centre for Health Economics & Medicines Evaluation;

Professor John G Hughes FBCS FLSW, Vice-Chancellor, Bangor University;

Professor Jerry Hunter FLSW, Professor of Welsh at the School of Welsh and Director of Research (Culture), Pontio;

The Reverend Professor Thomas Watkin FLSW, Honorary Professor of Law, School of Law.

Election to Fellowship of the Learned Society of Wales is via nomination by existing Fellows. It is open to men and women of all ages and from all ethnic groups:

- who have a demonstrable record of excellence and achievement in any of the academic disciplines or
- who, being members of the professions, the arts, industry, commerce or public service, have made a distinguished contribution to the world of learning; and

· who are resident in Wales, or

· who are persons of Welsh birth but are resident elsewhere, or who otherwise have a particular connection with Wales.

The 2013 Election is the third in a rolling process towards the building of a strong, representative Fellowship. The Society's continuing focus on excellence and achievement will ensure that its Fellowship will represent the very best of which Wales is capable in the major academic disciplines ■

CHARLES KEEPS ON GIVING

A member of the Estates staff reached a significant milestone recently by giving blood for the 50th time.

Charles Brimecombe said: "I began to giving blood in the mid-80s; I went with couple of the other lads from work. Give Blood visit the University a few times a year, so it's very convenient.

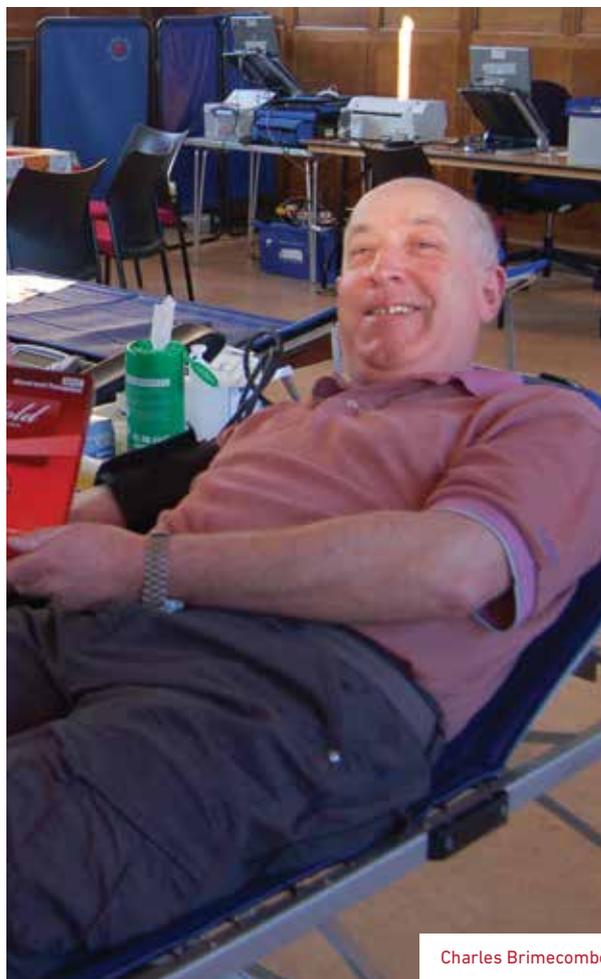
"I'm really looking forward to donating today; this will be the 50th time I've donated. It's good to know that I'm helping someone, who knows, I could have helped 50 people!"

Charles, from Beaumaris, began working at the University after he left school in 1972. He began his career with the Estates Department, tending to the University grounds. In 1989 he worked as a security guard, and since 2010, Charles has worked part-time in the postal section, delivering and collecting post around the University.

Charles, also serves as a part-time fire-fighter with the Beaumaris Fire Service.

Blood donors do an amazing thing when they give blood. Without blood donors, many patients simply would not be alive today. The NHS Give Blood Team visit Bangor University frequently to hold sessions for staff, students and the general public.

If you would like to become a blood donor, find out when they're here next: blood.co.uk/SessionSearcher/ShowAjaxResults.aspx ■



Charles Brimecombe

PONTIO HOSTS A UNIQUE SPECTACLE

Pontio's performance arts project, BLAS led by Mared Huws, Manon Wyn Williams, and two Welsh Bangor University students is now in its second successful season.

The weekly sessions, held at Hirael and Glancegin primary schools, feed into the drive to build an audience for Pontio among young people. Led by inspirational facilitators, 40 year 4 and 5 children from culturally diverse backgrounds are having an amazing time learning how to characterize, project their voice and devise scripts.

Several taster events will be taking



No Fit State Circus

place at the Pontio shop on the High Street over the coming months, in the form of poetry and drumming workshops, Story and Rhyme sessions and interactive digital dance experiences. The shop is open every day from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm Monday – Wednesday and Saturday and 9.00am to 3.00am Thurs and Friday. Call in!

This season's major highlight is BIANCO, the latest contemporary circus production from the international circus company, No Fit State Circus. They will be performing in their big top on

Beach Road from 12 - 20 July. The show was commissioned by the Eden Project, a centre designed by Pontio's architects, Grimshaw.

The nine performances will help to increase data capture and build on Pontio's growing audience, but above all this high profile event will offer a golden opportunity to bring Bangor communities, students, University staff and visitors to the area together to be enthralled by this unique aerial spectacle, brought to you by Pontio. Book your tickets now 01248 382828 or www.pontio.co.uk ■

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE NEWS

The University is continuing to develop its Alliance with Aberystwyth and looking to the potential for ongoing alignment of aspects of our activities. There are lots of areas being developed across Research and Enterprise, Shared Services and Learning and Teaching and below are some examples of the work in progress.

Energy Management: Bangor's Estates team is sharing Bangor's expertise in energy management with Aberystwyth whilst they recruit new talent to their Estates team.

Harmonising Policy Development Processes: A new working group has been formed to harness the best practices from each institution in a common approach to the development of policies and processes across the Universities, starting in the Academic Registries.

Research Excellence Framework 2014: Building on the strengths of our research collaborations, the Universities are developing joint REF submissions in specific areas to maximise the strategic impact of our research.

Natural Resources Network for Wales: The Universities are developing a strategic research network, the Natural Resources network for Wales, which will leverage £6m into the natural and environmental sciences in Wales.

Joint Consultancy Company: The Universities have launched a joint company as a vehicle to deliver consultancy services and is developing policies and strategies to enhance our capabilities in this area.

Common IP Policy: The Universities have both agreed a new policy for the handling of Intellectual property which will be available from the Research and Enterprise Office.

Employability Enhancement: Bangor hosted an employability enhancement conference for members of the academic community with a specialist interest in supporting employability amongst our students seeking to share best practice with Aberystwyth.

Varsity: The Students' Unions have once again held their annual inter-University competition. This was won overall by the hosts this year, Aberystwyth, but with some outstanding performances from Bangor's students.

Travel the World: The Universities both adopted the travel the world initiative to promote health and wellbeing and introduced a competitive angle with the Universities pitting their steps and miles against each other with Bangor leading by 11,000 miles over the 60 day period ■

DECHE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ WORKS OF SCHOLARSHIP IN WELSH

A new project located in the Language Technologies Unit (Canolfan Bedwyr) will be providing fresh access to key scholarly works in Welsh that are out of print. The aim of the DECHE project (the Welsh acronym stands for Digitization, E-publishing and Language Corpus and is a play on the Welsh word DECHE, which means 'skilful' or 'clever') is to create e-books of Welsh language texts that are not easily accessible, such as the works of our major playwrights, and philosophical and literary works.

Mared Roberts was appointed as officer for the project which will run for a year in the first instance. "There are so many valuable academic books in Welsh that have been out of print. With the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol giving new impetus to Welsh-medium scholarship, their re-publication will be a great help to staff and students. We intend to republish 40 books this year. These will be available free of charge to students of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol via the Porth.

See: www.porth.ac.uk/cy/

"The publication of these texts in



Mared Roberts and Delyth Prys.

the form of e-books also facilitates text searches. We hope to include a terminology dictionary with definitions of unfamiliar terms in these e-books with a facility for researchers to include their own notes as well. The project has a second, important purpose which is the creation of a searchable research corpus based on the digital texts."

The Language Technologies Unit (Canolfan Bedwyr), is doing innovative work towards an electronic corpus for the Welsh language. Delyth Prys, the Head of the unit said: "The corpus derived from the project books could lead to an independent research

programme for terminology standardisation, the enhancement of Welsh dictionaries, a better understanding of the language's unique structure, different language registers, Welsh grammar, and the development of a standard for academic discourse in Welsh."

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is in the process of asking academics to nominate texts for digitization in order to gather a publication list for the project ■



NIGEL GOES DOWN UNDER

Professor Nigel John of the School of Computer Science has been awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

Each fellow receives a grant to enable travel overseas to study areas of topical and personal interest, to gain knowledge and bring back best practice for the benefit of others, their profession and community, in the UK. Nigel will use the grant for a four week visit to Singapore and Australia where he will meet with other research groups involved in medical

visualization and simulation. The trip is scheduled for June and will begin at the Laboratory of Immersive Mathematics at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Their work includes virtual arthroscopy and interactive MRI brain data segmentation.

The itinerary then moves on to the Biomedical Imaging Group at the Australian e-Health Research Centre in Brisbane. The Surgical Simulation team there are building simulators for training colonoscopy and bronchoscopy, as well as preoperative planning applications.

Nigel will learn best practices from these groups that he can bring back to the Visualization & Medical Graphics Group at the School of Computer Science. Joint projects and papers will be discussed and planned during the visit. In 2013 the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust received 1,161 applications and awarded 125 fellowships.

"I am delighted and honoured to receive this award", said Nigel, "and I would encourage others to apply for a fellowship in the future for the fantastic opportunity that it offers" ■

VICKY HEADS FOR VICTORY



Vicky (left) playing with the Welsh National Team last year.

The fact that Vicky Gottwald, Lecturer in the School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences, is passionate about basketball is somewhat of an understatement.

Vicky has been involved in Basketball since she was 16. Previously a swimmer, she didn't take up the sport seriously until

she came to Bangor University in 2003. During the last ten years she has played for various teams and represented the Welsh University team four times at the British University Games.

Vicky also represents the Welsh National Team and is currently training for the 2014 European

Championships after coming away with wins against Gibraltar, Moldova and Azerbaijan last Summer.

She has also played with the Caernarfon Celts who won the north Wales Basketball League with a record of 13 wins to 2 losses. They have also made it through to the Cup Final where they will be looking to defeat Mold Magic in June. Caernarfon will then represent North Wales to face the top teams in Wales in the Terry Price Cup.

Vicky, who will be doing some coaching with the University Women's team next season, said: "I'm very grateful to Richard Bennett, Director of Sport, and all the staff at Maes Glas and would like to thank them for their continued support, without which, playing at this standard would not have been possible" ■

Exhibition to mark the centenary of the birth of R S Thomas

There are places in Wales I don't go:
Reservoirs that are the subconscious
Of a people, troubled far down
With gravestones, chapels, villages even;



**Council Chamber Corridor
11 April – 20 December 2013**

**R S Thomas Research Centre
Archives and Special Collections**



Team Chemistry before the challenge

TEAM CHEMISTRY ZIP CHALLENGE

A team of thrill-seekers from the School of Chemistry took to the wires recently to raise money for Hope House Children's hospice. The team, consisting of undergraduate, post-graduate, post doctoral, academic and administrative staff from the School braved the north Wales elements to raise money for the worthy local charity.

Zip World is a recently opened zip wire which spans Pentlyn Quarry in Bethesda in the foothills of Snowdonia. The two zip wires are the longest and second longest in Europe. Due to 45mph gusts of wind and driving rain the team were initially only able to complete the first part of their challenge – the "little Zipper". However, they returned free of charge to undertake the final and largest part of the charity challenge; the "Big Zipper", a mile long zip wire which can reach speeds of over 90mph.

Dr Mike Beckett, Head of the School of Chemistry, said:

"I am not sure how I managed to let the office team convince me that this was a good idea! I am not great with heights and with high winds and torrential rain the little zipper was a feat in itself. Huge thanks to the team at Zip World who looked after us all extremely well, the safety checks each person undergoes were extremely thorough which really helped those of us who were nervous about the challenge.

"We are extremely grateful to Zip World for not only allowing us to complete the challenge on another day free of charge but also for their professionalism and help during the organisation and challenge itself. The Zip World team have been fantastic."

The team have already raised in excess of £2,000. For those who wish to give to this extremely worthy charity please visit the Team Chemistry Just Giving page: justgiving.com/ChemistryZipWireChallenge ■

GARY BRAVED THE BUNGEE



Congratulations to Gary Edwards, from Security, who did a bungee jump to raise money for Ysbyty Gwynedd's Haematology Department. Gary's wife, Sally, is currently under the professional help of staff from the unit after she was diagnosed with leukaemia three years ago. Sally has to attend regular sessions at the unit to assess how her medication is controlling the illness. With some close family and friends also in the same situation, Gary felt that the caring and professional expertise of the staff needed rewarding. The only way he could find a way of helping the unit was to complete a bungee jump at Bangor Pier. He raised £650, and would like to thank friends and work colleagues for donating towards the fund. Gary has since presented a cheque to the nurses at Alaw Ward ■



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