

# NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS FOR ALL UNIVERSITY STAFF



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

## PONTIO FOUNDATION STONE LAID

The foundation stone for Bangor's new arts and innovation centre was laid recently by Leighton Andrews AM in a creative and musical ceremony.

The Minister for Education and Skills was joined by pupils from Ysgol Tryfan's jazz and brass band and soloists Rhys Meirion and Huw Ynyr for a unique performance in hard hats on the building site.

The £44m Centre being delivered by Miller Construction will offer state-of-the-art facilities to meet the needs of local communities and businesses. It will host a range of innovative cultural, artistic and community activities designed to promote collaboration, discovery and learning, making a unique contribution to the regeneration of Bangor and to improving skills.

It will provide a theatre, studio theatre, cinema, design and innovation studio, teaching and learning facilities and



L-R: Prof John G Hughes (Vice-Chancellor); Lord Elis-Thomas (Chancellor of Bangor University) and Leighton Andrews AM (Minister for Education and Skills).

a new Students' Union as well as associated bar, café and public spaces.

Bangor University Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes said: "This is going to be a focal point for the local community and the University alike – a place to meet, learn and be entertained as well as a home for innovative research, design and learning. It will be a unique place with the potential to transform Bangor."

Leighton Andrews said: "I am delighted to play a role in the inauguration of this major new development, and to lay the Foundation Stone of what

will undoubtedly become an iconic building.

"I am always pleased to highlight and celebrate Welsh success, and I am confident that this significant development – which the Welsh Government has supported – will provide a major boost to the arts and to innovation not just within the University, or in Bangor, but in the region more generally.

"As a former student of this university, it is exciting to see the developments that have taken place over the last three decades." ■

## MAES GLAS UPGRADE

Early in 2013 staff, students and the community will have a chance to have their say on some proposed changes to the Maes Glas Sport Centre. Either on-line or in person at the centre, staff will be able to view proposals for a brand new revamped two-storey fitness area,

completely refurbished and updated changing rooms as well as an Airdome to cover the existing tennis courts.

In the future, visitors to Maes Glas will also benefit from a new reception area, turnstiles and automated swipe access for members. Following on from the consultation, the building will be reconfigured to better suit the wide range of customers while also

upgrading the tired décor and public changing areas within the existing building. Changing areas will include private change and shower cubicles.

The additional dome to the north-west side of Maes Glas is being developed in partnership with Netball Wales and will provide two indoor netball courts as well as retaining the existing tennis courts for use all year round ■

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# UNIQUE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE OPENS

**The first Confucius Institute anywhere in the world to have a focus on Law, was opened officially at the University recently.**

First Minister Carwyn Jones launched the Institute, in the presence of Mr Shen Yang, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy. Also present was a delegation from the University's partner institution, the China University of Political Science & Law, including its President, Professor Huang Jin.

Those attending were treated to performances of Chinese folk song and dance by Yuannan University of Nationalities, a calligraphy performance by Professor SUN He of the China University of Political Science & Law, and special



L-R: Mr Shen Yang, Minister-Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Huang Jin, President of the China University of Political Science & Law and the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones, First Minister, unveiling the Confucius Institute Plaque.

performances by the renowned Male Voice Choir, Hogia'r Ddwylan and pupils from Ysgol Cae Top, Bangor.

Bangor University Vice-Chancellor Professor John G Hughes said: "This is a major development for us. Confucius Institutes have become a platform for cultural exchanges between China and the world. This Institute will play a key role sharing Chinese culture and

learning with schools and cultural organisations in north Wales and north west England, as it develops a program of cultural activities. It will also provide our students and the local community with unprecedented access to many remarkable aspects of Chinese culture and enhance the links between our two countries." ■

# NATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP COMES TO BANGOR

**Congratulations to Dr Charles Buckley of the Academic Development Unit at the School of Education who has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship, the most prestigious award for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning. This is the first time this award has come to Bangor University.**

Dr Buckley was among 55 lecturers and learning support staff to be



L-R Heather Fry (HEFCE), Prof Caroline Gipps (Chair of the NTFS Advisory Panel), Dr Charles Buckley, Prof Sir Robert Burgess, Chair of the HEA Board.

presented with awards by the Higher Education Academy (HEA) from over 180 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. He received £10,000, to use towards his professional development.

He gained recognition for his inclusive approach to teaching, research and

scholarship into higher education, work with the Staff and Educational Development Association and collaborating with Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to support staff at Bangor and other higher education institutions across Wales to study in their preferred language ■

# NICE TO MEET...

STEPHEN ROE CO-ORDINATING CHAPLAIN



Here Stephen tells us more about himself: Stephen joined the Chaplaincy Team as the Methodist representative after moving to Menai Bridge two years ago. He took on the role of Co-ordinating Chaplain this summer. Stephen and his wife, Angela moved to Anglesey in 2004. They have two children; a son who is just beginning a degree course in History at York, and a daughter who is in Year 10 at Ysgol David Hughes, Menai Bridge.

## What does your role entail?

My current appointment has two aspects to it, as minister of the Welsh-language Methodist (Wesleyan) Churches on Anglesey, and as Methodist Chaplain to the University. I co-ordinate a team of eight volunteer Chaplains drawn at present from a variety of Christian traditions, but we are seeking to encourage representation from other faith traditions too. Our main role is to be available to University staff and students who wish to see us to talk about faith or any other issues. Apart from our regular contact with staff and students, we are also involved in events such as the Christmas Carol Service and annual Chaplaincy Lecture, and are represented on a number of University Committees and Task Groups.

## What do you do in your spare time?

One of my main interests is sport, and my football team is Burnley, near to where I was born in Lancashire.

Many winter Saturday afternoons find me doing the ironing listening to the totally impartial and unbiased commentary on the 'Clarets Player' website as Burnley go down to yet another unlucky and undeserved defeat. I played a bit of cricket in my younger days, but have now graduated to Crown Green bowls, which leaves me with fewer aching muscles the next morning.

## What do you listen to on the radio and watch on the TV?

I generally have Radio Cymru on when I'm out in the car, in order to practise my Welsh, and Radio Five Live at home with its mixture of news, current affairs and sport. Favourites on television are sport, historical documentaries and quiz shows. I also enjoy reading, particularly good novels which explore the nature of being human, and a favourite among modern authors is Sebastian Faulks.

## What did you do before you joined the Chaplaincy?

I was a French and German teacher in a secondary school in Cambridgeshire for fourteen years (where I met and married Angela).

## Have you enjoyed learning Welsh?

One of the great delights about moving to Anglesey was the opportunity it gave me to learn Welsh. I especially like the aspects of Welsh which I hadn't encountered in other languages and so find initial consonant mutation particularly fascinating.

## Do you have any advice for Welsh learners?

Keep going and don't worry about making mistakes, and to Welsh speakers to use the language with learners whenever possible, and not to revert immediately to English if the learner doesn't understand perfectly first time ■

# STAFF PROMOTIONS



**Dr Stephen Colclough** has been employed by the School of English since 2005. His promotion is primarily based of his quality

research. His work on eighteenth and nineteenth century reading practices is influential and has been widely referred to in periodical articles, chapters and monographs by leading scholars.



Since his appointment to the Bangor Business School in 2011, **Dr Tony Dobbins'** research profile has developed rapidly with publications

spanning a range of the highest-ranking-peer-reviewed journals in management studies. His research interests include comparative European and international employment relations/HRM; and the impact of the recession on employment relations.



**Dr Martina Feilzer** of the School of Social Sciences' promotion is based on her research, including work on the relationship between the public

and criminal justice at local, national, and European level; the relationship between the media and public opinion of criminal justice; penal policy; and comparative and historical criminological research.



**Dr Simon Creer** of the School of Biological Sciences has recently been developing DNA sequencing methodologies to quantify the

biodiversity of a range of communities on scales that have not been possible to date, enabling the investigation of links between biodiversity and ecosystem processes in a changing environment.



During **Dr Wolfgang Wuster's** 18 years at the School of Biological Sciences, he has published over 100 research publications, many in high impact

journals. He is one of the world's leading authorities in his field and one of the first to focus his research interest on medically important snake taxa.



Since joining the School of Ocean Sciences in 2007, **Dr Jaco Baas** has attracted £2.472m in research grants. He has developed an

international reputation in process sedimentology and he is establishing himself as a key researcher in fine sediment dynamics. He has published 40 peer-reviewed research papers in international journals.



**Dr Emily Cross** joined the School of Psychology in 2011. She has published 21 peer-reviewed articles in some of the most

prestigious journals in the field of cognitive neuroscience. Her research is rapidly developing a very high reputation, and she has attracted several notable honours and awards as well as capturing several research grants.



**Dr James Hardy**, Deputy Head of the School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences, is considered a world leader in self-talk (i.e., statements

athletes employ in both practice and

competition settings) and an emergent leader in the interplay between transformational leadership, psychological skills and group dynamics.

## Impact and Wider Contribution Led



**Dr Sue Niebrzydowski** of the School of English has served as Director of the Graduate School in Arts and Humanities, as well

as on the Management Board & Research Committee of the College. She has been promoted for her outstanding teaching and pastoral care.



**Dr Zoë Skoulding** has been awarded a Fellowship in the Creative and Performance Arts from the Arts and Humanities Research Council

for her excellence in research. Her poetry is recognised world-wide and her international profile is both a distinctive feature of her work and an asset to the University.



**Dr David Huws** from the School of Ocean Sciences has a high reputation within the offshore geoscience industry that has

been built-up over the last three decades. He is largely responsible for the development and success of the MSc Applied Marine Geoscience course whose graduates now run much of the UK offshore industry.

## Teaching and Learning Led



**Dr Charles Buckley** from the School of Education was recently awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy which is the most prestigious

award in the UK recognising excellence in teaching. See article on page 2.



**Dr David Sullivan**, Head of the School of Lifelong Learning, is a key and influential figure in part-time education in Wales. He has an international reputation for his philosophical writings

on global citizenship and education both as a top scholar, a major contributor at conferences and an impactful writer.



**Dr Frances Garrad-Cole** from the School of Psychology has been instrumental in developing the undergraduate Oral Presentation Skills Programme. Since 2007, as Disabilities Officer, she

has implemented a range of resources for students which have been crucial in enhancing the student experience in the School.



**Dr Fay Short's** outstanding contribution to the School of Psychology's teaching activity led to a Teaching Fellowship in 2011 and she won the student-led Teacher of the Year Award in 2012. Her commitment

to the student experience is also demonstrated in a variety of other ways including the introduction of a Learning Advisor Scheme for international students.



**Dr Carl Hughes** of the School of Psychology developed the Applied Behaviour Analysis MSc Programme in 2003, which now recruits over 100 full and part-time MSc students; the largest

of its kind in Europe. He has published 28 peer reviewed articles and has been successful in external grant capture totalling in excess of £1.5 million ■

# NEW FELLOWS FOR LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES

Congratulations to current staff who have been elected fellows of the Learned Society of Wales in the Society's 2012 elections. Election to a Fellowship is by nomination by existing Fellows. Those nominated need to have a demonstrable record of excellence and achievement in any of the academic disciplines or, if not from academia, to have made a distinguished contribution to the world of learning. It goes without saying that a strong Welsh connection is also essential. The Society now has 250 Fellows, who are prominent figures within their respective academic disciplines.

**Those with Bangor connections are:**

**Professor Nancy (Margaret) Edwards FSA FLSW** Professor of Medieval Archaeology, School of History, Welsh History & Archaeology

**Professor John (Martin) Harper DMus FRCO(CHM) FRSCM FLSW RSCM** Research Professor in Music and Liturgy, Director of the International Centre for Sacred Music Studies; Emeritus Director, the Royal School of Church Music

**Professor (David) Barrie Johnson DSc** School of Biological Sciences,

**Professor Ian Rees Jones FLSW** Professor of Sociology and Head of the School of Social Sciences,

**Professor Timothy Porter FLSW** Emeritus Professor of Mathematics

**Professor Robert D Rafal FLSW** Professor of Clinical Neuroscience and Neuropsychology ■

## TOP TWEETS

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

**@NatalieCharli** Really misses Bangor =[ I had such a brilliant time the three years I was there :) Good luck to all new students and enjoy @BangorUni xxx

**@mrkt\_d** Liking the angle of the @BangorUni ads on The Student Room today. Great focus on the wider benefits of going to uni

**@AlisonGolby** LOVE being back @BangorUni missed it so much!

**@jenniferwaymont** So impressed with @BangorUni's performance on University Challenge! Good way to kick off welcome week!

**@Sam\_jesson\_ss** @BangorUni was amazing, such an amazing place to study!

**@lowrimaxwell** Hope I get in to @BangorUni loved it today, close to home and lovely staff #bangoropenday ■

# NEW RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE OFFICE FOR BANGOR

The Research and Innovation Office and the Office of Programme Management have now been merged into a single office designed to meet the research and enterprise needs of the University. The newly formed Support Service will be called the Research and Enterprise Office (REO).

REO will be made up of three specific services, each with a named leader responsible for the team's roles.

The Research Support Service, led by Dr Antony Halsall, will be responsible for coordinating and supporting research across the University as well as advising on University policies and procedures, funding guidelines and the preparing of applications for research funding. They will also coordinate research funding bids and provide project management for large projects as well as manage REF and impact agendas and provide training for researchers.

The Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Service, led by Dr Lindsay Jones, will be responsible for, among other things, the commercialization of research outcomes, creating and supporting



Antony Halsall (left) and Bryn Jones.

new businesses as well as providing enterprise awareness training and support. They will also concentrate on creating a route to market for inventions and discoveries and establishing spinout companies.

The Knowledge Exchange Service, led by Mr Bryn Jones, will provide an entry point to the University for external businesses and enterprises.

Professor David Shepherd, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, said: "This is an important step for the University as it brings our Research and Enterprise activities into a single department. It will make it much easier for University staff as well as external organisations to discuss and develop various projects and opportunities." ■

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## ZOOLOGICAL AWARD FOR MARK

**Mark de Bruyn, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Molecular Ecology and Fisheries Genetics Laboratory, School of Biological Sciences, has been awarded the 14th RJH Hintelmann Scientific Award for Zoological Systematics. Mark received this €5,000 award for his outstanding achievements in the zoogeography of Southeast Asia.**

This prize is awarded not only in appreciation of the previous scientific performance of the applicant, but the prize-winner will also be given the opportunity to

continue his/her research work in coordination with the *Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM)*. This may be carried out either by visiting the ZSM or by being provided with ZSM materials for work elsewhere.

The award was presented to Mark on January 18th, 2013 during a ceremony at the ZSM in Munich, where he delivered a short lecture on his research. For some time, Mark has been working on the evolutionary biology of freshwater biodiversity in South East Asia, as

well as broader outputs including papers in *PLOS Genetics*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* and *Annual Reviews in Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* ■



Mark de Bruyn

# BEST IN THE COMMONWEALTH

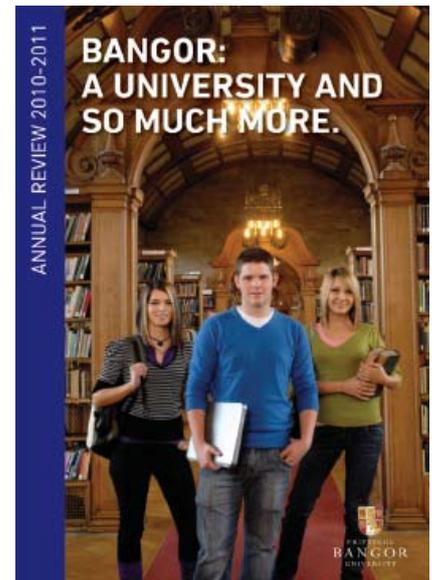
**Bangor University's Annual Review, produced by the Corporate Communications & Marketing Department, has won first prize in an international competition.**

The Association of Commonwealth Universities decided that Bangor's Annual report for 2010-11 was the best in their PR, Marketing and Communications Awards 2012. The Awards were established to recognise, encourage and celebrate the achievements of higher education institutions and their staff as well as drawing attention to models of good

practice for the sector internationally.

Alan Parry, Director of Corporate Communications & Marketing said:

"I am delighted that Bangor won this award. To be selected as the best in the Commonwealth is a great feat for such a small team. I am particularly pleased because it follows other notable achievements, including winning the runner-up prize for the best Undergraduate Prospectus last year and also being shortlisted as the best Marketing Department in the UK ■



## SVB RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

**The Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd today recently hosted a special ceremony to present SVB (Student Volunteering Bangor) at Bangor University, with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2012.**

The prestigious national honour is the MBE for groups of volunteers who work in their local community for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded judged to be of the highest standard.

The Bangor University Students' Union group was given an exclusive commemorative crystal and a

With Helen Munro, Trefor Alun (Chair SVB Committee), and the Lord Lieutenant are Mayor of Bangor Cllr Bryn Hughes, Prof Carol Tully PVC (Students) Dr Dewi Roberts of The University Council and some of the 250 SVB volunteers.

certificate signed by Her Majesty, in recognition of their outstanding contribution.

Over a thousand Bangor University students take part in SVB activities, with 250 volunteering on one or more of 17 community based projects. The volunteers currently contribute a total of 450 hours to the local community each week.

Helen Munro, Student Volunteering Manager at Bangor University's SVB said:

"The volunteers are incredibly proud to have received this accolade which endorses the time they give and the sacrifices they sometime must make in order to enrich the lives of other, more vulnerable, people. Over 40 members of the current volunteering team attended the ceremony and thoroughly enjoyed being part of such a unique occasion"

The SVB group were among 130 across the country and 3 groups in Wales to receive the honour in 2012 ■



## INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE REGION

**The International Education Centre was formed in September 2011 with the aim of integrating the services available to international students to allow a seamless system of information, advice and support to be available.**

The Centre is now housed in a newly converted part of Rathbone which was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor recently. The IEC consists of defined functions which provide support to students

and partners from initial enquiry through to graduation and beyond. The offices within the International Education Centre include:

- International Recruitment & Admissions Office
- International Marketing Office
- Partnership Development & Management Office
- International Student Welfare Office
- English Language Centre for Overseas Students (ELCOS)

Some of the staff at the IEC.

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Office
- International Student Exchange & Study Abroad Office
- Beijing Office

By providing an improved Bangor experience, our students will become powerful alumni who in turn will promote the University by example and advocacy ■

## NEW LAW CENTRE ESTABLISHED

**The Bangor Centre for International Law (BCIL) has been established to encourage and support the expansion of research and teaching of International Law at the Law School.**

The Centre's Director, Professor Suzannah Linton, is the Chair in International Law and founding Director of the School's four new and innovative International Law Masters programmes. According to Professor Linton, 'we see International Law as central to inspiring Bangor students with a global and broad-minded outlook. BCIL will be a focal point for the teaching and research of International Law in north Wales. Our vision is to build a world-class research centre, providing a world-class education and research in International Law and to build a community of scholarly excellence here at Bangor.' ■



Professor Suzannah Linton with Professor Malcolm Evans OBE, Honorary Fellow and BCIL Advisory Board Member.

# HOUSE HUNTING WAS NEVER EASIER!

**A new bilingual online application system brings landlords and students together on Bangor University's Student Services web pages, making house hunting easier for students - and house leasing easier for landlords.**



Amy Jones (left) and Mair Owen.

Studentpad, which is now also available in Welsh for the first time, provides searchable accommodation pages on the University's Student Services pages, making it easier for students to find the accommodation they're looking for, whether a flat, shared house or living with a host family. It also provides a new way for landlords to supply a range of information and images about vacant properties that they want to lease to students.

The site can be found via the Bangor University website at: [www.bangor.ac.uk/student-services/studenthousing/](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/student-services/studenthousing/)

The up to date searchable database is ideal for students with families, students at the end of their tenancy agreement or moving out of student halls.

Amy Jones at the Student Housing Office explains: "We've been working with the company Studentpad, to develop the bilingual version of this application, in order to suit our needs here at Bangor University. The site will make house hunting easier for students and enables landlords to promote their vacancies in a far clearer way. Students can share details of individual houses with potential house mates, to make house hunting all the easier. Students can also register on the site and be alerted when houses suiting their criteria become available."

Mair Owen at the University's Student Housing Office added: "This gives us more opportunity to focus on helping and advising students about house hunting or any difficulties or problems they may encounter. House hunting

students won't have to call in at our offices just to find out what houses are available to rent."

The site also provides a wealth of other useful information such as average rents in different areas. Students based at Wrexham can also access housing information through the site.

Steph Barbaresi, Head of Student Support said: "We are constantly looking at ways to improve and develop the support that we provide to our students. In this instance, software company Studentpad, our own IT Services and Canolfan Bedwyr helped us to make the project a reality. We are so pleased to have it up and running from before the beginning of this academic year." ■



## SIAN GETS HER OBE

**Congratulations to Professor Sian Hope, Executive Director of Innovation, who collected her OBE recently.**

Sian's current roles at the University are those of Executive Director of Innovation and Professor of Computer Science at Bangor University and she is also a member of the Science Advisory Council. Sian is one of the UK's few female Professors of Computer Science ■

Professor Sian Hope outside Buckingham Palace with her husband, Pete.



## STAFF CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITY

Over the past year a total of over £11,000 has been raised by Bangor University staff for Tŷ Gobaith at Conwy. Recently, Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, presented a cheque for £11,760 to Ty Gobaith's Fundraising manager, Sarah Kearsley-Woller MBE.

The money was raised by staff and students through various events including a staff lottery, which raised £2,500, and a sponsored walk up Snowdon which raised £615. The Students Union Dance Club also raised £1,000 through sponsored mountain climbing and dancing. Every Christmas staff also make charitable donations in lieu of gifts and cards to work colleagues. Nearly £1,000 was also raised through various sponsored cycling events.

Earlier this year members of staff were invited to complete a questionnaire about working life at the University. For each of the 1,213 completed

questionnaires, the University donated £5 to the children's hospice, raising £6,065.

Joe Patton from Bangor University Health & Safety Services, said: "For nearly a decade Tŷ Gobaith has been the adopted charity for Bangor University. Since January 2010 we have now supported Tŷ Gobaith with donations amounting to £23,760.

"Whilst this is a significant amount of money, we are mindful that the annual running costs are in the region of £4 million.

Hope House Children's Hospices provide care and support to life limited children, young people and their families. They are currently supporting over 320 children and families at Hope House in Oswestry and Tŷ Gobaith in Conwy ■

## OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY MERCHANDISE

**Fancy decking yourself out in the University colours or cuddling up to a cute teddy? Then look no further than Bangor University's very own range of specially designed merchandise.**

Whether you opt for one of our fine silk ties to show your allegiance or plump for a more relaxed look in a colourful hoody from our extensive range, we have something for every taste and pocket. Our range has also been extended to include ladies' silk neckerchiefs, polo shirts and casual t-shirts, lap top covers, lug a mugs and bags for life. We also sell the more traditional cuddly teddies in a variety of sizes, fleecy scarves and cufflinks, pens and notepads.



The University branded goods can be viewed across campus in display cabinets located at Teras Café in Main Arts, Reichel Hall foyer, Bar Uno, Maes Glas and the International office. Purchases can be made from the International office in Rathbone, the Conference Office in Reichel and in the convenience store on the Ffriddoedd site which stocks the complete range of sizes and colours. So why not try before you buy?

A full list of items and prices can be viewed at <http://baruno.bangor.ac.uk/venues> under Ffriddoedd Shop ■



## STAFF CELEBRATE THEIR WELSH LANGUAGE SKILLS

**Bangor University staff that have been learning Welsh or improving their grasp of the language celebrated their success recently.**

At a special ceremony, Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor and Wyn Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Welsh Medium and Civic Engagement, praised the staff who have applied themselves to nurturing their Welsh language skills by attending classes through the School of Lifelong Learning. A Welsh learner himself, Professor

John G Hughes, said: "Developing the language skills of our staff is a key part of our commitment to operate as a fully bilingual University and is central to our desire to maintain our position as the leading higher education Welsh language institution." ■

Some of the University staff who have been learning Welsh with their tutors Jenny Pye and Nia Llwyd (left) Ruben Chapela-Orrri, Karen Padmore, Gillian Pritchard, Claire Hawkes, Mike Beverley, Renata Kendall, Caroline Barton and tutor, Elwyn Hughes.

## NEW SCHOOL

**The new School of Philosophy and Religion was launched in the Council Chamber on Friday October 12th. Members of the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes were in attendance.**

Dr Eryl W Davies, Head of the new School, said "Although this was a new initiative, the School was built on sturdy foundations, since religion, under various guises, has been taught at Bangor for well over a century, and philosophy had been taught here until the late 1980s. Therefore there has been a long and distinguished tradition of teaching both subjects here at Bangor."



L-R The Rt Hon Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM and University President, Prof John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eryl W Davies and Lord Davies of Abersoch, Chair of Council.

Dr Davies thanked the members of the Council and the Vice-Chancellor for their support as well as the administrative staff who had worked behind the scenes

to ensure that the launch of the new School was a success ■

# BANGOR WINS CYCLE CHALLENGE

**Well done to all staff who took part in the Gwynedd & Môn Cycle Challenge 2012.**

With 40 organisations participating, the University came in first place in the 350+ staff category with 4.3% of staff joining in, cycling a massive 6,740 miles over the 4 week challenge. The School of Ocean Sciences took first place in the 20-49 size category, with a 40% take-up rate and cycling 2,358 miles.

The Challenge was a chance for colleagues to get on their bikes and have some fun competing against other workplaces within Gwynedd and Anglesey ■



Some of the School of Ocean Sciences' cycling team who won the 20-49 size category.

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## SPECIAL DELIVERY

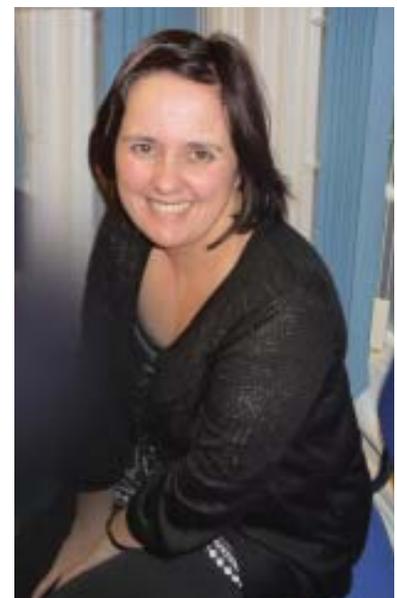
**A routine commute to work turned out to be an extraordinary one for Mari Ellis Roberts one sunny morning. Whilst travelling towards Bangor from Y Felinheli, Mari, Staff Development Officer at the Human Resources Department, passed a car that had parked outside the Vaynol Estate gates. Driving along, she sensed that something wasn't quite right, so she turned back to investigate.**

The car's occupants were a young couple heading for Ysbyty Gwynedd, however, they had pulled over as the female occupant was just about to give birth.

Mari recalls: "I arrived just as the baby was being born. The couple were distressed that they hadn't made it to the hospital, so I contacted the emergency services and calmed them down. I wrapped the new-born baby girl in a towel from my swimming kit to keep her warm, and stayed with them until the ambulance arrived."

"How did I know to stop and offer help? I'm not really sure; perhaps it had something to do with my maternal instinct as I was pregnant myself at the time!" ■

Mari Elis Roberts



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## SPORTS ROUND-UP

To receive all the sports results for Bangor University Teams by weekly email, contact Glyn Parry (glyn.parry@bangor.ac.uk), Clubs and Societies Administrator at Maes Glas. All league tables can be found on the British Universities and Colleges website: [www.bucs.org.uk](http://www.bucs.org.uk) ■

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