

SPRING 2015

BANGORIAD

Bangor University's Alumni Magazine

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURES

ALUMNUS AND HONORARY FELLOW
PROFESSOR DONAL MANAHAN SHARES
STORIES OF HIS EXPEDITIONS TO THE
ANTARCTIC AND HIS LOVE FOR BANGOR



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Hello from Bangor University!

Welcome to the 2015 edition of Bangoriad. It has been a busy year in the Development & Alumni Relations Office and we are excited to share our stories with you. In this latest issue we look back at the many reunions which have taken place both in the UK and around the world. We are also pleased to share our 2020 Group's achievements with you and introduce our new Development Board who will be a great asset in helping the University with our fundraising.



You will find enclosed a copy of this year's Roll of Donors. This acknowledges the financial support that individuals and organisations provide for a wide-range of university activities including scholarships, capital developments and academic programmes. We are so grateful for your generosity. It makes possible many things that would not otherwise find room for in the budget. Please read the article on the Bangor Fund on page 12 and 13 which highlights some of the worthy recipients.

I hope that you enjoy this year's edition of Bangoriad. Please send any feedback and ideas of items that you'd like to see included in future editions to the Development & Alumni Relations Office via the contact details below. Please keep in touch.

Best wishes,

Sheila O'Neal

Director of Development

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Acknowledgements: This publication is for former students, staff and friends of Bangor University. The articles printed here, to the best of our knowledge, were correct at the time of going to press. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Bangor University or the Editor. For permission to reproduce any article please contact the Editor.

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Bangor University Alumni Prifysgol Bangor



Bangor University Alumni (Graduates) Group



Bangor University ALUMNI

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

We're here to help you stay connected to each other and the University.

See our website to find details of events, the services and benefits we offer, and to learn more about our fundraising activities. You can also read some alumni stories and find details on how you can get involved, and please feel free to contact us should you wish, through either the website or by emailing us.

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Find a Friend

Email details of your lost contacts to alumni@bangor.ac.uk and we'll search our database and try to reconnect you.



From the Vice-Chancellor

2014 has been a great year for Bangor University, and I am proud to share these moments with you. We are delighted to announce that Bangor was rated No.1 University in Wales and No.7 in the UK for Student Satisfaction in this year's National Student Survey. This is one of our most important achievements this year, as these surveys are based solely on the experience and views of our most important critics – our students. It is therefore my pleasure to share this news with you, and I'm sure you will agree it shows how our commitment to teaching and learning as well as the student experience, makes Bangor one of the best places in the UK to study.

This last year has also seen the opening of our new and improved sports centre *Canolfan Brailsford*, which was opened by British cycling hero, Sir Dave Brailsford (page 8). This state-of-the-art sports centre is yet another example of how we are putting the needs of our students at the very forefront of our plans for our ever-increasing University community. This is part of our much wider campus redevelopment, which includes the new Pontio site and the redevelopment of the St Mary's site which will open in September this year.

Bangor University's international status has also been strengthened through the establishment of the new Bangor College China in Changsha city (page 9). This is the first collaboration between Wales and China

to establish a new College in China, and will provide students with a UK-style higher education experience of a very high standard, as they would experience here in Bangor. We have already had a successful first intake of students, and we hope that Bangor College China will continue to support our international reputation.

I am also delighted to introduce you to Professor Donal Manahan; alumnus, Honorary Fellow and friend of the University. Professor Manahan talks about his time here at Bangor and how it shaped his life and career; including his expeditions to the Antarctic and his current work at the University of Southern California (page 6 & 7).



As always we thank you for your continued interest in Bangor, and we hope that you feel proud to be one of our 88,000 world-wide alumni and ambassadors of the University. We hope you continue to keep in touch.

Prof. John G. Hughes
Vice-Chancellor

Bangor University's Development Board

A new Development Board for Bangor University, chaired by Lord Mervyn Davies CBE, has been formed to oversee and guide the University's fundraising programme.

The Development Board will advise the University's fundraising strategy and assist in its implementation. At a time where government funding has been dramatically cut, fundraising has never been so important for Bangor to help maintain our academic excellence. The Development Board will help us do this by advising on proposed fundraising initiatives, help to identify fundraising volunteers and support the development of their skills and knowledge. They will also work to organise events and other fundraising opportunities.

Lord Davies of Abersoch CBE stepped down

from his role as Chair of the University Council to be involved in the Development Board. He is one of the world's leading bankers and is currently Partner and Vice-Chairman of Corsair Capital. Born in North Wales, and educated at Rydal School and Harvard Business School, he has a wide-ranging banking background in the UK, the USA and Asia.

Other members include the University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof John Hughes and Director of Development, Sheila O'Neal and:

- **Ann Beynon** – Wales Commissioner for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and Director for BT Wales. Ann is both an alumnus and Honorary Fellow of Bangor University.
- **Andrea Gwilliam** – Consulting Director for Internal Communications at News International.
- **Gwen M Jones** – Oil Company Executive and the General Manager for Commercial Shipping for Shell Tankers (UK) Ltd

- **Marian W Jones** – A director of the William Mathias Music Centre, Vice President of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and a member of the Institute of Welsh Affairs' North Wales Committee. Marian also sits on the University Council.
- **Malcolm Le May** – Chairman of Juno Capital and Non-Executive Director at Royal Sun Alliance plc and Pendragon plc. Malcolm is also an alumnus of Bangor University.
- **David M Roberts** – Former University Registrar and member of the Board of Careers Wales.
- **Edward Speed** – Chairman for the worldwide board of Spencer Stuart.
- **David W Williams** – Former Area Director for HSBC Bank in North Wales, and both Treasurer and Deputy Chairman of Bangor University Council.



“STUDENT SATISFACTION HIGHER THAN EVER”

You will be delighted to hear that Bangor University was ranked **top in Wales** in the most recent measure of student satisfaction, and is **in the top 10 of the UK's** best traditional universities who offer a broad range of subjects.

The results are drawn from the National Student Survey, a poll of around half a million graduating students at each university in the UK. The survey results are very important to the University, as they give us the most comprehensive feedback on the student experience at Bangor, and allow us the opportunity to improve in those areas of weaknesses.

Professor Oliver Turnbull, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning and who led the internal team working on the survey said:

“Bangor has a 130 year tradition of providing excellent teaching and student care, and this is borne out by these wonderful results. We're particularly delighted that the poll places us so clearly as top in Wales. We've recently introduced initiatives to give students a stronger voice in the University, and the success of our approach is reflected in these results”.

As well as topping the overall table in Wales, our newest alumni ranked Bangor top in almost all the vital sub-categories, such as the quality of teaching on their course, assessment and feedback, academic support, and for course

organisation and management. Professor Turnbull added: “The data should provide valuable information to prospective students, and inspires us to do even better this coming year”.

“These results are a wonderful endorsement of our activities, and of our values. When we compare our University with others teaching a broad range of higher education subjects, it's terrific that we are top 10 in the UK, and in overall satisfaction that we now lie level with other traditional universities such as Glasgow, Durham, and indeed both Oxford and Cambridge. It's a position which again reflects the excellent standard of teaching available at Bangor”.

The University now also lays joint 7th among the UK's traditional universities, and 3rd for satisfaction with academic support. Furthermore high scores were also given for students' ability to contact staff when they needed to (5th in UK), and for fairness of assessment arrangements and marking (7th). All in all, a fantastic result for the University, and even more reason to be a proud Bangor alumnus.



“We're particularly delighted that the poll places us so clearly as top in Wales. We've recently introduced initiatives to give students a stronger voice in the University, and the success of our approach is reflected in these results”

Professor Oliver Turnbull,
Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning

Professor Donal Manahan

(PhD Marine Biology, 1982)



Professor Donal Manahan at Bangor, July 2014

Professor Donal Manahan is one of Bangor's most notable and distinguished alumni and an internationally recognized scientist in the field of physiology and environmental adaptation of marine animals. He is currently Vice Dean for Students at Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Southern California, and Professor of Biological Sciences.

HONORARY FELLOWS 2014

Bangor University was pleased to award Honorary Fellowships to the following during our graduation ceremonies in July 2014:

- **Professor Anthony Edward Hill OBE**, for services to Marine science
- **Beti George**, for service to Welsh broadcasting
- **Professor Emeritus Robert Owen Jones OBE**, for service to the promotion of the Welsh Language in Patagonia
- **David & Alison Lea-Wilson**, for service to business in North Wales
- **Professor Andrew McNeillie**, for services to publishing
- **Dei Tomos**, for services to Welsh broadcasting
- **Professor Donal T Manahan**, for services to science
- **Rhys Meirion**, for services to music
- **Professor Jean White**, for services to nurse education
- **George North**, for services to sport
- **Huw Edwards**, for services to journalism and broadcasting

As a world-renowned Chief Scientist he has led over 20 expeditions to the Antarctic and Pacific Ocean, and established the first ever international training programme for young scientists on the polar region.

During graduation last summer, Bangor University welcomed Professor Manahan back to where it all began, and recognized his work and achievements by awarding an Honorary Fellowship.

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Professor Manahan studied for his undergraduate degree in zoology at Trinity College Dublin, before arriving at Bangor to earn his PhD at the School of Ocean Science. With many achievements and honours including serving as the Chair for both the U.S. National Academies Polar Research Board and the National Science Foundation Decadal Group-Planning Committee for Ocean Sciences; we were honoured to speak to the world-famous scientist about his memories of Bangor, and how it has shaped his career to date...

Professor Manahan how did it feel coming back to Bangor to receive this prestigious award?

Any time you receive an honour it is always very moving, but to receive an honour from the institution that formed you, is indescribably wonderful. I was so honoured, especially as it came from Bangor; it was my top choice and formed me as a scientist. I miss the Welsh rain and when I was over to receive my award it drizzled in the middle of July- perfect weather!

My mother in particular has such fond memories of me getting on the boat from my hometown of Dublin to cross over to Holyhead. That was very personal for me and my family because when I went back to my roots in Dublin to visit my mother, we reflected on the difference on between the first time I got on the boat to go to Bangor, and when I got on the boat this time to accept my Honorary Fellowship, and it was very moving. It was like stepping back in time!

Why did you choose to study at Bangor?

For me it was the number one choice in the whole world and was one of the most famous places to study my subject. Bangor was pioneering in the approach to studying the smallest animals and research into integrating fields like the study of the whole organism and their physiology and biochemistry. It had, and still has, a remarkable training across those disciplines.

It was absolutely a career-making start. The foundational training I was given was what really made my whole career.

What did you enjoy most?

Two things... firstly there was a real sense of confidence. I had the confidence driven by the faculty behind me, that the work I was doing was really important internationally. It's important for a young PhD student to believe in themselves and Bangor gave me this.

Second... Bangor was very international and still is, and this gave me an exposure to international students and gave me new ways of thinking. It gave me an 'international confidence' so to speak.

Did this help you develop your career in the United States?

Definitely! My work in Bangor caught the attention of some of the leading scientists here in California and they sponsored me to come over to the States. When I came to America people had a lot of respect for the work and training I had experienced at Bangor, that gave me another boost of confidence and that I could make a contribution on a larger scale and here I am 30 years later and I hope I've done so!

Bangor in particular has a set of expertise that are absolutely unique and still remain, without a shadow of a doubt, one of the tip-top programs of the study of the oceans in the UK.

What are your best memories of being at Bangor?

I think the best memories were that there was no intellectual barriers, and that is the most amazing environment to be a student in! There were no boundaries, no glass ceilings, and no limits- it was an incredibly positive place.

The tea room was the centre of the intellectual fermentation. We constantly talked about science (and sometimes about the weather!). I just love that sense of possibility. There was a group of students who I had the pleasure of being in the same year class with; several of us who have now gone on to different places all across the world, but we still come together often. Prof Chris Richardson (Head of the School of Ocean Science) and I were PhD students together. There are also several of us still here in America and we meet up at conferences regularly.

Do you remember your very first expedition to the Antarctic?

Oh crystal clear! I was scared to death! Not so much about the environment- I knew it was going to be cold and harsh. But it was the planning and remembering to bring everything we needed- that scared me as we couldn't afford to forget anything. I had read a lot about early explorers, and to be in the environment where they and their scientists had worked over a hundred years ago, was very profound to me. I remember feeling like I was walking in their footsteps, especially during my first trip in 1983.

What is your proudest achievement in your career so far?

I would say it was being the pioneer director of the international training programme in Antarctica. It brought in students from 30 different countries and 100 different universities from across the world, and it was a first- no one had done this before. It combined my passion for education with my passion for research, and opened up the doors for the next generation to understand how to study in these difficult environments.

And after leading over 20 expeditions to the Antarctic, we must ask what first drew you to Antarctica?

Most of planet earth is cold and I realised that most of what people are studying are the comfortable stuff in warm places where humans inhabit. I wanted to see if what I had learnt worked in the cold places too.

Do you have any plans to go back to Antarctica soon?

We always do yes, and we're working on new ideas but nothing confirmed yet. The planning for a trip is about one to two years so it's very complicated but I enjoy that part of the expedition. I enjoy the planning!

And we must ask you about Manahan Peak...

I received a letter in the mail 15 years ago saying that they were naming a 6000ft peak in my honour which meant an enormous amount to me. To this day my mother has a copy of the plaque in her home in Dublin. And here's a funny joke... A few years ago I was in Antarctica and a student came up to me and said "oh there's a Manahan Peak in Antarctica, is that anybody you know?"- and I answered "yes it's me!". They were blown away with this as there are many peaks named after scientists and explorers from a hundred years ago, and they thought it was named after someone who was with the first explorers like Scott or Shackelton.

Do you see the changes when you go back to the polar region?

Oh yes- the evidence for climate change is very obvious. For example when I flew a couple of years ago to Antarctica, Sir David Attenborough (who also received an Honorary Degree from Bangor in 2009) was on the same flight and was flying out to film his documentary, Frozen Planet. We looked back at a photo he took there 30 years earlier and we could see how much the glaciers had moved.

The environment is obviously very close to your heart; would you say it's a hobby outside of your work at USC?

Yes! I love public speaking and I'm very interested in that. I'm one to always speak about the environment and I've testified and spoken at many places from the United States Congress chairing the National Academy of Science Board and Polar Research Board, right down to speaking at tennis and rotary clubs. I'm very passionate that those of us who have a bit of an understanding of what is going on in the environment, that we have a duty and obligation to pass this information to explain beyond

traditional ways of reading an article or watching a documentary. I enjoy public outreach education! I also love to have the time to hang out, reflect and travel a bit, and enjoy swimming too.

Is life very different in Los Angeles compared to Bangor and your hometown of Dublin, Ireland?

Los Angeles was quite a surprise actually. The biggest surprise was the scale of science here- there are so many people working in science and California is one of the leaders. I came here because I wanted to engage in that but didn't realise how huge it was. Again I attribute an enormous amount to Bangor, as the preparation it gave me helped me enormously adjust to this new pace in science.

Bangor made my entire career in science – it's where it all started!



“Wearing a dry suit – and about to undergo a dive under the polar ice cap. This is one of my favourite pictures and was taken on one of my first expeditions to Antarctica 30 years ago.”

Professor Donal Manahan

Sir Dave Brailsford opens new sports centre



Sir Dave Brailsford visited Bangor University in November to officially open *Canolfan Brailsford*, the newly refurbished sports centre renamed to honour the cycling manager's distinguished career and contribution to sport.

Sir Brailsford grew up near Bangor in the small village of Deiniolen. A fluent Welsh speaker, at 18 he left North Wales for France to compete at cycling semi-professionally before later returning to the UK to study sports science. Sir Brailsford then went on to a prestigious career at British Cycling.

As current Manager of Team Sky (the professional cycling team of Great Britain), and former Performance Director of British Cycling, Sir Brailsford's leadership has led to Great Britain winning 8 gold medals in two Olympics, and the Bradley Wiggins' and UK victories in the 2012 and 2013 Tour de France.

Sir Brailsford is a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), and was knighted for services to cycling and the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics games.

A £2.5m investment in the sport centre has resulted in a new two-storey gym, a new aerobics studio, a new sports café and the complete replacement and upgrade of the public changing rooms and showers, as well as a new floor in the main sports hall.

This project is part of a wider investment in sports facilities at Bangor University which includes the new £500,000 indoor tennis and netball facility attached to *Canolfan Brailsford* and a third-generation artificial pitch at Bangor City FC's ground at Nantporth, now home to both University student teams and a host of community clubs.

A highlight of the opening event was a Q&A session for some of the University's student athletes who had an opportunity to question Sir Dave Brailsford and pick up some useful training tips for their members. Bangor University's Cycling Club Secretary, Ryan Doggart, had this to say:

"It was a fantastic opportunity for the club to be able to meet one of the most influential men in British and world cycling, as well as one of my personal cycling heroes. We were also lucky enough to pick up some very useful tips during the Q&A session where Sir Brailsford was very open and willing to share his wealth of knowledge of cycling. The new facilities are incredible and have allowed myself and the rest of the club to improve our riding."



Above: Sir Dave Brailsford with members of Bangor University's Athletic Union
Below: Sir Dave Brailsford and Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hughes



Bangor College China launched



Above: Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hughes, at the opening of Bangor College China

More than 260 students celebrated the opening of Bangor College China in their home country. A special ceremony, organised by Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Changsha, China, was held at the University's Conference Hall in Changsha on 27th September. Bangor University is proud to be part of the first collaboration between Wales and China to establish a new College in China.

Bangor College China (BCC) was launched by Professor John Hughes, Vice Chancellor of Bangor University and Professor Xianyan Zhou, President of Central South University of Forestry and Technology (CSUFT). Professor John Thornton, Head of Bangor Business School, and other Bangor representatives also attended the ceremony. Welsh Government and British Council representatives for South China were guests of honour who congratulated the BCC and its students by giving speeches, respectively.

"Bangor College China is strategically important to Bangor University", said Professor Hughes. "The University is responsible for the quality of BCC teaching and learning, and assessment and we are committed to providing high quality bespoke programmes to the students at BCC. This is a historic agreement for both institutions. It brings the excellent quality of higher education provided by Bangor University

closer to students in China and also provides exciting opportunities for Bangor's students and academics to experience an exchange of learning and ideas in China."

During the ceremony BCC students and CSUFT Music students entertained the guests with performances in traditional Chinese song and dance, and a lively exchange between BCC students and Bangor staff marked the evening's events.

Currently Bangor College China offers undergraduate degree courses in Banking and Finance, Accounting and Finance, and Electronic Engineering. There are also plans to expand the range of subjects to other areas of Bangor's expertise, including Forestry and Environmental Studies. BCC has had a great first recruitment cycle, and many CSUFT students are eager to transfer to the Bangor College due to our academic excellence and our international reputation.

St Mary's site to see new student residences

The University's St. Mary's site is seeing an investment of over £30 million to bring the largely disused site back to life.

The development will create a new 'student village' as well as breathe life back into the site with 600 new accommodation rooms with modern facilities and a range of different options. The exciting proposals will enable the University to respond to demand from second and third year students who want to live in halls. The original Victorian and Edwardian buildings on the site will be refurbished alongside construction of new buildings, and the mix of accommodation will include townhouses and studio apartments, as well as more traditional halls of residence. This new refurbished site will aim to open at the start of the 2015 academic year.

University Pro-Vice Chancellor (Students), Professor Carol Tully said: "The new rooms will include all the facilities that today's students would expect to see on a modern residential campus. It will offer students the

best in in comfort and design with a café bar, shop, laundrette and sports and fitness facilities all on site. At the heart of the design is a commitment to provide a real sense of community with an enhanced social and living space environment."

She explained that many second and third year students applied to stay in halls of residence each year, but that capacity levels meant that many of them had to eventually turn to the private sector. With the new rooms created in this development, many of these students will now be accommodated in our own student accommodation.



A reunion of St Mary's alumni will be held to celebrate the redevelopment of the site in September. Further details will be forthcoming.



77% of Bangor University's research is recognized as being world-leading

The results of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework confirm that three-quarters of Bangor University's research is either world-leading or internationally excellent. Based on the University submission of 14 Units of Assessment, 77% of our research was rated in the top two tiers of research quality, ahead of the average for all UK universities.

Research in the following schools have been ranked in the top 20 in the UK:

- Sports Science
- Modern Languages
- Welsh
- Education
- Linguistics
- Social Sciences
- Ocean Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Environment
- Natural Resources and Geography
- Psychology
- Healthcare Sciences and Medical Sciences

The following schools performed strongly; all contributing to the University's impressive figure of **77% of research rated as 4* and 3***:

- English Literature
- History
- Welsh History and Archaeology
- Music
- Law
- Bangor Business School
- Electronic Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computer Science

Bangor University's reputation as a world-leading research university is further emphasized **by two other highlights in our results:**

- We ranked 39th in the UK (excluding specialist institutions and single-submission universities).
- 8 of our 14 submissions achieved a GPA score (which is a measure of research quality) in excess of 3.0 out of a maximum score of 4.0.

We are also pleased that we have doubled the amount of 4* research that we carried out since the last analysis was conducted.

This is an excellent performance by Bangor University. From the contribution we make to improving healthcare and wellbeing, bilingualism, and protecting the environment; research carried out by Bangor academics is having a major economic impact internationally, as well as on the lives of people around the world.

New Moot Court opened by Lord Chief Justice



A state-of-the-art Moot Court facility was officially opened at the University by the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, in October. This further underpins Bangor's position as a leading example of a UK University Law School that places employability and student skills development at the core of its LLB Law Degree curriculum.

Lord Thomas praised the achievements of the Law School and stressed the importance of students gaining advocacy and mooting skills, as a way of preparing for a career in the legal profession. Furthermore the success achieved by Bangor Law students in recent national and international advocacy and mooting competitions, highlights both the quality of teaching and the real-life practise students experience here.

Bangor Law School have hosted eight internal competitions, and competed in five external competitions in 2014 alone and also took first prize in the LexisNexis Welsh National Mooting Competition earlier this year. They were the first Welsh Law School ever to compete at the Telders International Moot Court in 2013, where they were the best performing British team, and scored even higher in the 2014 competition. The team are now preparing for the 2015 competition and hope that the new facility will further develop their skills, and prove invaluable for their preparations.

"In recent years, Bangor Law School has more than demonstrated its competency in mooting", said Professor Dermot Cahill, Head of Bangor Law School. "This significant investment by the University will enhance law student employability, bring more external competitions to Bangor, and improve the quality of the teaching resources on the undergraduate Legal Skills and Mooting modules."



Bangor 2020 Group

Bangor 2020 is a business group which gives alumni and friends of Bangor the opportunity to meet each other for professional networking and to engage with the University. Members, mostly based in and around London, meet three times a year, to hear about and input into the latest research activities and projects at Bangor, and to catch up with each other. Each meeting also features a guest speaker who is invited to present to the group about their expertise and industry.

Members have also given back to the University by advising the Development & Alumni Relations Office, helping with events, giving guest lectures, sitting on University Boards, donating to the Bangor Fund and supporting scholarships within various Schools of the University.

The 2020 group's latest visit to Bangor was during October where they listened to several speakers and took part in a Technocamps workshop lead by Dr Dave Perkins, Technocamps Co-ordinator for Bangor. Other

speakers included Dr Einir Young, Head of Sustainable Development at the University and Phil Nelson and Eleanor Heather of Wales Centre for Behaviour Change. The group also thoroughly enjoyed presentations from some of our postgraduate scholarship recipients who presented on their research projects.

If you are interested in attending a future meeting, please contact: alumni@bangor.ac.uk

ALUMNUS HELPS SECURE JOB FOR RECENT GRADUATE



Dr George Buckley
(Economics, 1993)

Having graduated with a first class degree in Accounting and Finance last summer, Janine Schofield is on a graduate training scheme with PriceWaterhouseCooper to qualify as a chartered accountant. Janine thanks links with Bangor alumni for boosting her CV to help secure a place on this highly competitive scheme.

Janine explains, "I was invited to attend a Bangor 2020 Group meeting to give them an insight as to where today's students thought alumni could help current students. I suggested that it would be very helpful if alumni could offer work experience or provide an insight into their daily roles. This led me to spending two days shadowing George Buckley (Economics, 1993), Chief UK Economist at Deutsche Bank which gave me an insight on the working life of a professional. I was able to put it on my CV. This sparked questions at interviews and has allowed me to demonstrate my networking skills along with my willingness to learn. It was a fantastic experience and I'm certain that it helped me in getting my position

with PWC. I'm very grateful to George and I hope that one day I am able to return the favour to another Bangor student "

George Buckley says: "I was thrilled when Janine was able to make time to spend a couple of days at Deutsche Bank and it's great to see that all her hard work throughout her University career has paid off with a job offer at one of the Big Four accounting firms."



Janine Schofield
(Accounting and Finance, 2014)



Building on Success



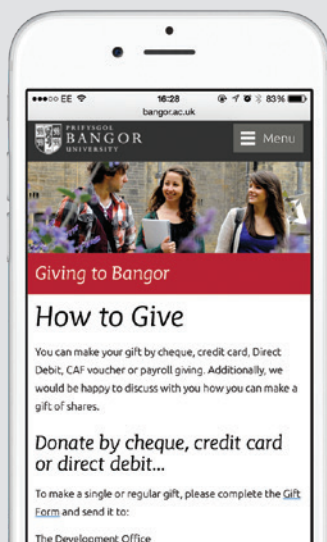
Thanks to the gifts made by our wonderfully generous alumni, The Bangor Fund was able to allocate £91,000 to 17 projects across the University during the last academic year (2013/14). The primary purpose of the Fund is to enable the University to deliver a margin of excellence or an element of "additionality" to the student experience and we are pleased with each project's potential in this regard.

Most of these donations are made during the student-led telethons and enable every alumnus- no matter the size of their gift – the opportunity to give back to their University. The student calling team loved speaking to those alumni they were able to catch up with and found the whole experience greatly rewarding! None of these wonderful and varied awards could have been made without your much valued contribution. Thank you to all who donated this year.

With warmest wishes,



Emma Marshall
Director of the
Bangor Fund



If you would like to make a gift, you don't have to wait to be telephoned by one of our students. You can donate at the click of a button on our website: www.bangor.ac.uk/giving/how_to_give.php.en or if you would like to discuss how to direct your donation you can reach me via these contact details: e.marshall@bangor.ac.uk +44(0)1248 382 594

Some of the awards granted last year included:



Digitizing of Bangor University's Herbarium

The Herbarium is a reference library of plants, built up over the years by many collectors. Bangor's collection contains plants from all over the world, including specimens dating back to the 1700s. The digitisation project is creating a database of the entire collection, offering high resolution images and any acquisition data available, and making it available online. Our herbarium is unique as it represents the complete flora of North Wales and also significant numbers of international specimens. Once digitized, it will be an important resource for students, ecologists, geographers and historians, in Bangor and internationally. The collection is also an invaluable resource for international strategies to halt the loss of plant biodiversity.



Student support and well-being

- A programme to support our students who register on the autism spectrum and may require more support. This programme gives participants the tools to learn social interaction skills and alternative social strategies. Esther Griffiths, Bangor's Disability Advisor, says, "The students who are attending the programme have given very positive feedback. We want the sessions to enhance the students' experience here at Bangor and often use university-related situations as examples and for modelling. Many of the skills learned also increase employability."

"Well Being Club"

- An exercise programme provided jointly by the Counselling Service and *Canolfan Brailsford* Sports Centre for students with anxiety or depression.

Virtual networking and social learning spaces

- For both School of Healthcare Sciences campuses in Bangor and Wrexham, providing greater opportunities for shared learning across the two sites, enriching the student experience and networking opportunities for Welsh speakers and learners.

Improvements to Treborth Playing Grounds and Pavilion

- Ball stop netting has been installed to prevent losing balls down the brambled, steeply sided banks and furniture purchased for the sports pavilion.

A collection of world music instruments

- The collection can be played by students and will assist with the teaching of ethnomusicology and world music at Bangor. The collection comprises; an Indian Tabla and Pillow set, two Indonesian Gamelan-standard Genders, a Brazilian Cuica, a Portuguese Guitar, a Jamaican Steel Drum, an Arabian Oud, a Hungarian Zither and three Indian Bamboo Flutes. The collection complements the University's Peter Crossley-Holland Collection of world instruments. Those instruments constitute a unique resource for research and study, but their value and fragility preclude their use for practical music making. Taken together, the two collections enable Bangor Music students to learn about music across the globe in a truly holistic manner combining academic study, practical activity and creative artistry.



Dr Tom Parry Jones Memorial Lecture

In March 2014, Dr Raj Parry Jones greeted friends, University staff and alumni during a memorial lecture on entrepreneurship in memory of her late husband, Dr Tom Parry Jones OBE. First Minister for Wales, Carwyn Jones, commemorated his life, along with Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hughes.

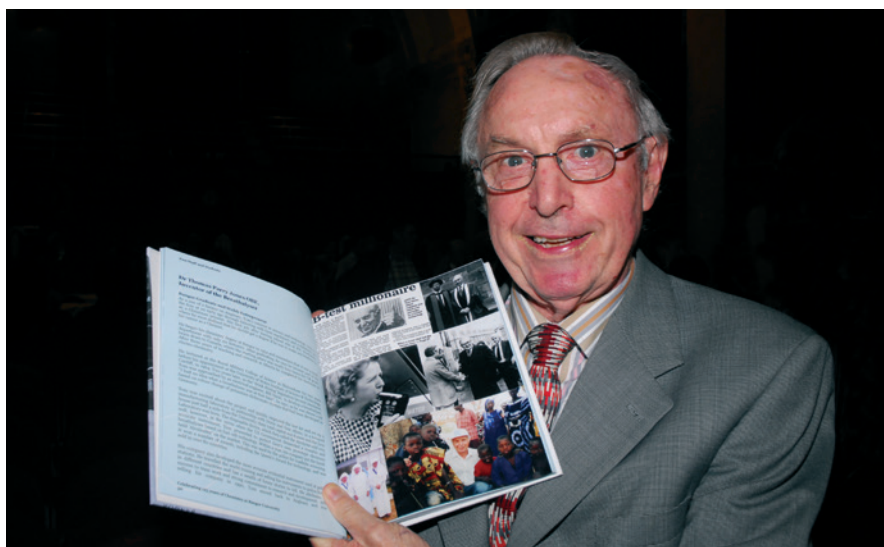
Dr Tom Parry Jones was one of Bangor's most distinguished and cherished alumni, and was a successful entrepreneur who developed the world's first Electronic Breathalyser in 1974.

The 1958 Chemistry alumnus was a native of Amlwch on nearby Anglesey, and went on to gain his PhD from the University of Alberta in Canada before returning to the UK to work in academia. In 1967 he set up Lion Laboratories, where he developed and marketed his world-changing invention.

Over 12 years ago, Tom and his survived wife Raj, very generously established the Dr Tom Parry Jones Endowment Fund at the University, with the aim of promoting science and engineering entrepreneurship in young people. Both Tom and Raj have been great supporters and champions for Bangor University, known to many staff members, alumni and other supporters. Dr Tom Parry Jones' worldwide reputation and genuine enthusiasm for developing Wales' future economy — through ensuring that young people are well supported in developing their scientific knowledge and entrepreneurial skills — made him a treasured alumnus of Bangor University. It is therefore not surprising that the memorial lecture was very well attended, with Bangor University alumni, staff and friends enjoying hearing about his work and achievements.



Above: Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hughes with Dr Raj Parry Jones and Rt.Hon Carwyn Jones AM at the memorial lecture. Below: The late Dr Tom Parry Jones



Prestigious Churchill Medallion Awarded

One of Bangor's most distinguished professors, **Professor Nigel John from the School of Computer Science**, has been awarded the Churchill Medallion. It was presented at a prestigious award ceremony in London recently, after he successfully completed his Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship.

These fellowships are designed to enable people from all walks of life to travel abroad and gain enhanced innovative ideas. As part of Professor John's fellowship he travelled to Singapore and Australia to investigate a computer simulated virtual patient for training clinicians with a view to establishing new research collaborations in this field.

As well as holding a Chair of Computing here at Bangor, Professor John is also a Director

for the Wales Research Institute of Visual Computing (RIVIC). In 2003 after arriving at Bangor, he established research in visualization and medical graphics, and continues to lead a dynamic group of researchers in this field. Professor John has also been responsible for a variety of projects funded by the Research Councils and European Commission involving visualization and virtual environments. He also has extensive industrial experience and has worked in both

the pharmaceutical and graphic industries.

Speaking about the Fellowship, Professor John said: "The Travelling Fellowships provide opportunities for British citizens to go abroad on a worthwhile enterprise of their own choosing, with the aim of enriching their lives through wider experience – and to bring back the benefit to others in their UK profession or community through sharing the results of their new knowledge".





650 Years of The Drapers' Company

The Drapers' Company is one of the country's oldest livery companies dating back to the 12th century. Whilst it ceased drapery trade during the 17th century, it gained new relevance by engaging in philanthropy which still takes place today. The Drapers' Company have supported Bangor University since the University was established in 1884, including a major contribution in 1911 towards the construction of the Library and Museum of the Main Arts building. Today, the Drapers' Company award approximately £40,000 annually to Bangor University to support various PhD studentships, projects and hardship funding.

Bangor University was invited to the 650th anniversary event in Drapers' Hall in July. The Development & Alumni Relations Office, Professor Carol Tully (Pro-Vice Chancellor for Students), and recipients of The Drapers' Company Scholarships attended this event to celebrate our links over the years. Professor Tully commented on the event:

"It was an honour for Bangor to be a part of this anniversary event. We are so grateful to The Drapers' Company for their commitment to support both the University and our students."



In Memorium

PROFESSOR GARETH PIERCE WILLIAMS (MATHS, 1964)

The University notes with sadness the passing of one of its most distinguished alumni, Professor Gareth Pierce Williams. Born in 1939 in Penrhynside near Llandudno, from childhood he excelled in mathematics and came to Bangor to study the subject in the 1950's. Gareth earned his undergraduate degree and then, in 1964, under his friend and mentor Professor Rowland Davies, his PhD. In 1978 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science based on his published work to that point.

In 1964 he married Janet Harding, whom he had met while she was holidaying near his home. Gareth was a keen cyclist and once rode 100 miles to visit Janet at her home in England. After marriage, they crossed the Atlantic for Gareth to take up a postdoctoral fellowship at the US Government's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Washington D.C. Gareth was then offered a permanent position and moved with the laboratory to Princeton in 1968.

Gareth worked at GFDL for 40 years and was a distinguished leading expert on the mathematical modeling of atmospheric systems, and achieved groundbreaking work on Jupiter and Earth's jet stream. He was also elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and served as a consultant to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on its Pioneer and Voyager missions.

His family was his greatest love including his wife, his two sons, Kieran and Kirk, their wives Laura and Kristine, and grandsons David, Philip and Hagan. After becoming a US citizen, Gareth still remained close to his native Welsh language and roots, and his passion for walking the hills has been passed down to his sons.

Professor Gareth Pierce Williams died at the University Medical Centre of Princeton on November 5th 2014.



PROFESSOR FERGUS LOWE (PHD PSYCHOLOGY, 1975)

It is with great sadness we note the passing of Professor Fergus Lowe; alumnus, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and former Head of the School of Psychology.

Having joined the University in 1973, he was Head of the School of Psychology for several decades, developing Psychology from one of the smallest to one of the largest schools in the University.

He held key research interests in the topic of behaviour change, and led the Food Dudes project – successfully promoting healthy eating in children – which was adopted in several countries around the world.

He was Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2004 until his retirement in 2012, playing an important role in several aspects of University life. Professor Lowe passed away on the 10th December 2014.



DR MEREDYDD EVANS (PHILOSOPHY, 1945)

Dr Meredydd Evans- or Merêd as he was affectionately known; grew up in Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog. He was the youngest of 11 children born to Charlotte and Richard Evans, a quarryman. Merêd left school at 14 to work at the Co-op, but soon after attended Harlech College before coming to Bangor, where he studied Philosophy and graduated with first class honours. Merêd was one of the founders of S4C (Welsh language television channel) and was the former Head of Light Entertainment for BBC Wales. He was also a singer and a poet and a great campaigner for the Welsh language. He was made an Honorary Fellow in 1997, and was a donor to the Bangor Fund. Merêd died on 21st February this year and is survived by his wife, Phyllis, and daughter, Eluned.

PROFESSOR JOHN ROWLANDS (WELSH, 1959)

Professor John Rowlands was one of Wales' foremost novelists and literary critics. He graduated from the School of Welsh in 1959 having studied both his undergraduate and masters degrees here. He then went on to study further at Jesus College Oxford before lecturing at Swansea, Trinity College Carmarthen, Lampeter, and Aberystwyth. Following his retirement in 2003, he returned to his academic roots at Bangor, and was a lecturer in Creative Writing at the School of Welsh. John was also a distinguished adjudicator at the National Eisteddfod and a food and wine critic. He died at his home Y Goeden Eirin, Dolydd, Gwynedd and leaves behind his wife, Eluned, and three children; Huw, Dyfed and Sioned.

The University wishes to acknowledge all those alumni who have passed since our last publication of the Bangorriad.

Reunions & Events

OLD BOYS WEEKEND 2014

2014 Old Boys Weekend was a smashing success. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, alumni of Bangor's student sports teams returned to the campus to socialize and play matches against Bangor's current students. Organizers Soracha Cashman, Gaz Edwards and Tryfan Prosser filed this report:

“If you've ever been in Bangor during the May Day bank holiday weekend, you will have struggled to have missed the Old Stars (aka Old Boys or Old Girls) Weekend. It is a Bangor institution. Every year many alumni return to catch up with old friends, share a drink and play friendly matches against the current student teams.

2014 saw the 50th anniversary of this annual event. Our Golden Jubilee. With a turnout of more than 300 alumni, the festivities were a huge success, crowned by a formal gathering in Hugh Owen Hall.

True to form, guests arrived in a mix of attire, from Women's Rugby who turned heads in their traditional Women's Institute fancy dress, the partly clad Vikings of the Hockey Old Guard, the slashed and ripped smart-casual style of Men's Rugby, the suited-and-booted Football Old Boys, through to the 007-debonair elegance of Men's Football Old Stars.

We were honoured to have a wonderful opening address from the University Chancellor, The Rt.Hon. Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, who himself is a Bangor alumnus and studied here in the early '60s. We then enjoyed an outstanding and very humorous speech from a 'founding' Old Star. Lynn James was a football-playing, fun-loving student back in '64, when the first official Old Stars reunion weekend took place. His enthusiasm for Old Stars, his "what goes on tour..." stories of team antics back when he was at university and the bonds he still has with his former team mates reminded us all of what we are part of today; of just how special Old Stars Weekend is.

Lynn and Lord Elis-Thomas signed a formal declaration between the Alumni group and the

University as an ongoing commitment from both to continue supporting the reunion as an entity and to continue to develop the alumni support network that this group provides.

As the night progressed, the playful spirit of the group was brought out with a series of 'fun' awards, including an award for most appearances (the winner had been to 34 old stars' reunions), longest "commute" to Old Stars (from Sydney – every year!), through to the more bizarre, amusing and novelty awards.

The Old Stars would like to thank the local landlords, *Canolfan Brailsford*, the Development and Alumni Relations Office, and donors who helped support the event; and an even bigger thanks to everyone for attending and making it such a huge success!

Old Stars is one of the most active and oldest alumni groups in the University, and it's an opportunity where a varied group of generations and sports come together, in one place, at one time, and for the same purpose – to celebrate their time at Bangor! ”



ATHENS, GREECE NOV 2013

Bangor's Greece-based alumni gathered at a reception in Athens in November 2013. Over 60 alumni of all ages and degrees were greeted by Sheila O'Neal, Bangor's Director of Development, where they shared drinks, good food and warm memories of their years at the University.



KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, SEPT 2014

Last September the Development & Alumni Relations Office was excited to welcome over 120 alumni to its first reunion in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Alumni from across the Gulf attended this successful event and met with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Hughes, as well as Sheila O'Neal, Director of Development, and some of our top academics from our Business School including Professor Phil Molyneux and Professor John Thornton. The event was in partnership with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF).

Bangor Business School is proud to have a partnership with BIBF, which sees Bangor University offering a validated diploma programme taught at BIBF. Students also have the opportunity to complete their final year studies at Bangor. Since the partnership began in 2004, 420 alumni have graduated with this programme and over 300 of whom came to Bangor to obtain their full degree.

The alumni reunion followed on from the graduation ceremony co-hosted by BIBF and Bangor University. This graduation saw 40 graduates who had completed their degrees at Bangor Business School in partnership with BIBF, celebrate their graduation in their home country.

"Bangor Business School and BIBF have been partners for nearly a decade, and over 400 Bahraini students, who perform to a high level, have graduated from the University in that time", said Professor Phil Molyneux, Dean of the College of Business, Law, Education and Social Science at Bangor University. "It was a pleasure to attend the Alumni event in Bahrain and it was really great to see Bangor friends who had studied everything from Accounting & Finance, to Marine Biology and Oceanography. Everyone I spoke to commented on what a fantastic time they had in Bangor and how they all wished that they could turn back the clock and visit again."

Alumni who attended hoped this event would help launch an alumni association in Bahrain.



Please remember to update your contact details so we can invite you to reunions and other events.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Kevin Deeming

(Physical Oceanography, 1969)



“I have a confession to make: *Yr wyf mewn cariad â Chymru* – I am in love with Wales. It all started when I read for a degree in Physics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. I then compounded the problem by falling head over heels for a girl from North Wales, Jennifer Vaughan from Abergele, who was studying Agriculture at Aber. After three years lecturing in maths and physics in Zambia, Wales again seduced me back to do a Masters in Physical Oceanography in 1968 at the then Marine Science Laboratories, Bangor (now the School of Ocean Sciences). And, over the years, the love affair has continued with our many visits to North and Central Wales.

My Professor was Jack Darbyshire – a great oceanographer and Welshman. A young John Simpson, later Professor of Oceanography and Head of School, had been there for just over a year. Those were heady days. The department was just establishing itself in the wake of an expanding marine biology department

under the direction of the famous Professor Denis Crisp FRS. All staff and post-graduate students had their coffee breaks together and socialised together. Biologists, oceanographers, and geoscientists rubbed shoulders with each other and, it is my belief, the science benefited enormously from the cross-fertilisation of ideas and interdisciplinary interactions.

My MSc dissertation was a study of the sand distributions in the bed forms across Traeth Gwyllt, a sand bank in the western end of the Menai Strait. Working with a colleague from the Navy, Dave Newing, we hired a small boat to do the work. After each day's fieldwork we disembarked to the Mermaid pub (sadly, no longer there) to discuss the results! Happy times.

Following my Masters, I undertook two year's research in Jamaica. But the siren of Wales eventually pulled me back to Bangor to form Marine Investigations and Services Ltd with a colleague, Tony Heathershaw. Based in Bangor High Street, many students

from the Laboratories did full or part-time work for the company. The nascent offshore industries needed information on 'the impacts by the environment' – waves, winds, tides, currents, sea-bed conditions – to explore for and exploit successfully the hydrocarbons, minerals and food lying within our seas and oceans. Physical oceanography and geoscience were to the fore.

Eventually, I found myself on a much broader stage, leaving Wales and settling in southern England; firstly, as a Senior Manager for a large international marine survey company and, then, in 1983, forming my own company again, Metoc plc. Providing project management and advice in the ocean science and engineering worldwide, we operated in areas such as oil & gas, offshore renewable energy, the coastal water industry, and submarine power cables. When I retired in 2010, Metoc had grown to nearly 100 full and part-time staff, based in Hampshire, Cardiff and Dundee.

Our seas and oceans form the major part of the Earth's

surface and much remains to be understood about them. Never have they had so much potential to satisfy our food, energy, and emotional needs. Never have they been under so much stress and pressure. For young women and men today, the marine sciences can provide a hugely rewarding career in life.

To support young people in achieving this, I have helped to create four annual MSc scholarships for the School of Ocean Sciences over the next five years. Each year there will be one for physical oceanography, one for marine geoscience, and two for marine biology. They will be called the Nautilus Scholarships and be open to any graduate in the UK or overseas.

Bangor University provided me with an excellent grounding in oceanography and some of the best years of my life. This experience led me into a world, which was stimulating, exciting and intellectually demanding. I feel that now is the time for me to invest some of my good luck back to the future. ”



SOSA Reunion June 27-28

The School of Ocean Sciences Alumni Association (SOSA) is planning a grand reunion to celebrate the opening of Marine Centre Wales (MCW) – a state-of-the-art 21st century addition to the School of Ocean Sciences on the old Westbury Mount site in Menai Bridge. The reunion is planned for the weekend of **27th & 28th June 2015**. Come along and catch up with old friends and staff and meet some new marine scientists.

Events include a drinks reception, dinner and ceilidh at Reichel Hall; tours of and talks in the new MCW facility and (availability permitting) tours of the Prince Madog research vessel, plus much more. For those interested, we have secured accommodation at the university. If you would like more details of the event or order tickets online, visit <https://shop.bangor.ac.uk> or please e-mail SOSA Chairman Mick Cook at mick@mickcook.com or call +44 7593 233 633.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Dr. Ross Piper

(Zoology with Animal Ecology, 1998)

Bangor alumnus Dr Ross Piper is a zoologist, author and presenter who graduated in Zoology with Animal Ecology in 1998. At the start of 2013 he was part of a BBC expedition to document the wildlife of Burma. The team of wildlife film-makers were permitted to venture deep into Burma's jungles to document the wildlife of this long-isolated country and shed some light on the state of its forests. This resulted in the three-part series *Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom* broadcast on BBC2 last year.

After Bangor, Ross gained a PhD in Leeds, moved to London and started writing books, the first of which was published in 2007. His latest book, *Animal Earth: The Amazing Diversity of Living Creatures* is an exploration of animal diversity.

Of Bangor, Ross says: "I didn't know what to expect of Bangor before I started my Zoology degree. I hadn't been on any open days; in fact I hadn't even been to that part of Wales before. A couple of people had told me it was a good university. I was young, I was naive and I took

their word for it – a decision that could have backfired. I'm glad to say it didn't! I enjoyed the course more and more as the three years sped by thanks to greater emphasis on the subjects I was really interested in, increasing autonomy, friendly postgraduates and some excellent lecturers, particularly Simon Webster, Mike Lehane and Nigel Brown. There were lots of field-trips, hands-on stuff with animals and opportunities to explore the area. One part of the course that really crystallised my interests and sort of steered me on my current path was a taxonomy project in the third year, which I absolutely loved.

With that said, I'm a bit ashamed to say that I never took full advantage of Bangor's location. It's only more recently that I've come to appreciate the variety of interesting habitats within easy reach of Bangor and all of the outdoor activities you can do nearby. If I was going to university for the first time now, the location – between the mountains and sea – would be a massive selling point."

Last year, Ross returned to the University on a number of occasions to support current students. In March 2014 he gave a public lecture as part of the Bangor University Zoological Society's lecture series which was attended by students, alumni and the local community.

He also took part in a Science Careers Café session where alumni from the School of Biological Science subjects returned to Bangor to talk about their careers since Bangor, to provide advice and share their experience and knowledge with current students.

Ross says: "In the best part of 20 years since I left Bangor I've had some brilliant experiences and I've recently been back to the University to talk about these and my career in general. I think this is an important part of the university experience, since you can give other people who share your interests, some useful insights on what they can do and where they can go with their degree."

“In the best part of 20 years since I left Bangor I've had some brilliant experiences and I've recently been back to the University to talk about these and my career in general.

”

Dr. Ross Piper





Stories of connections...

Here at Bangor we often hear from couples who met whilst they were students in Bangor, and we love telling you about them! We also receive other stories of connections made at Bangor and here are a couple for you; we hope you enjoy them as much as we do. If you have any stories that you'd like to share, please email: alumni@bangor.ac.uk

John Wilkinson (English & History, 1962)

"Glenys and I first met in November 1959 at a dance in PJ Hall. Glenys was a student at St. Mary's College (Teacher Training) and I was at the University. I graduated with a BA in English and History and went on to gain an M.Ed in Liverpool to become a Primary School Head Teacher and school inspector before retirement. Following a career in teaching, Glenys was ordained to be a minister in the United Reformed Church in 1998.

We married in August 1964 and have two children and four grandchildren. Our daughter Helen is a doctor and our son, Mark, who also attended Bangor University, graduating in 1992 with a History BA, is a manager in the Lincolnshire Careers service.

Since retirement Glenys and I have led active lives. Glenys is a Welsh speaker and next year will be president of the *Cymdeithas Cymry Birkenhead*. Her father was originally from Bangor and her mother from Amlwch, Anglesey. I am a member of the Liverpool Open Water Club and swim for different charities.

To mark our Golden wedding anniversary this year, Glenys and I returned to North Wales and I took part in an open water swimming session between the two bridges on the Menai Straits with local company Surf-Lines. Run by another Bangor alumnus, Phil Nelson (1994, Sport, Health and Physical Education), Surf-Lines now has an official partnership with the University and I was delighted that the company offered us the opportunity to celebrate our anniversary by coming back and to swim in a place that holds such fond memories for us. Phil was an excellent guide directing us expertly through changing currents. It was a fabulous experience and a very special location for us."



Beverley Howe neé Aston (Teacher Training, 1975)

"In 1972 Helen Thomas and I began a three year teacher training course at St Mary's college. We both studied History and Art. Living within 25 miles of each other in South Wales we sometimes shared lifts home. We didn't keep in touch after qualifying but our lives seemed to run in parallel. We both have had long successful teaching careers, both had two children, Helen had two girls and I had a son and daughter. We both married the boyfriends we were dating whilst at Bangor and we both spent many years living abroad before returning to the UK; Helen in Botswana and me in Canada.

Fast forward 30+ years since we'd last met. My son is now one of 40,000 metropolitan police officers, on a random driving course he met another officer, they started dating and a year later decided to buy a house together. On our first visit to their new home we were invited to dinner at his girlfriend's parents' home, we hadn't met before. I walked in through the door and there was Helen!

At our children's wedding eighteen months ago Helen's husband included this story in his father of the bride speech."

