

ANNUAL REVIEW

2016-2017



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS



3 AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

4-9 HIGHLIGHTS OF 16/17

10-11 RESEARCH

Giving babies in Wales the best start in life
Model 'electric' sheep helping researchers keep flocks in fine fettle
European tourists to Wales to have new window on the past

12-13 TEACHING & LEARNING

Bangor University rated Gold
Fantastic teaching facilities
Using 'gamification' techniques to study behaviour analysis

14-15 INTERNATIONALISATION

One World Gala
Celebrating Confucius Classrooms
First Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Partnership students welcomed

16-17 WELSH MEDIUM

Services to bilingual healthcare awarded
Celebrating success on St David's Day
Deaf - and proud!

18-20 COMMUNITY

Pontio puts the community at its heart
Catrin shines on the world stage
Generous nursing students spreading festive cheer

GOVERNANCE

The Council, which is the governing body of the University, met on five occasions in 2016/17 and was chaired by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM until April 2017. A new chair is currently being sought for the Council. The University Secretary is Dr Kevin Mundy. The Council is assisted by a number of sub-committees, including the Finance & Resources Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, Mr David Williams, and the Audit & Risk Committee, chaired by Dr Griff Jones, which both met on five occasions. Other Council committees which met during the year include the Nominations & Governance Committee, Ethics Committee, Bilingualism Committee, Remuneration Committee, and the Health & Safety Committee.

Further information regarding the University's governance is available on www.bangor.ac.uk/about/management.php.en

Corporate Communications & Marketing Department, Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG

01248 383298 press@bangor.ac.uk www.bangor.ac.uk

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

This Annual Report for 2016-17 looks back on what has been both a successful and challenging year for Bangor University.

Amongst the main highlights were receiving the results of the Teaching Excellence Framework and the National Student Survey.

Bangor received the Gold standard in the UK Government's new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), becoming the only university in Wales to receive this award.

The framework assesses universities against a range of criteria and is part of the UK Government's plans for raising standards in higher education. It also gives students more information so that they can make the most informed decisions when deciding which university to attend.

The TEF Panel judged that Bangor University delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. This is a terrific outcome for us as an institution, and offers a public endorsement for the many wonderful things going on at the university.

At the same time, our own students have again given the University a resounding testimonial in the annual National Student Survey (NSS), placing the University eighth among the UK's non-specialist universities in the UK and second among Welsh Universities.

The NSS results provide the most comprehensive feedback on the student experience at each institution, drilling down to school, course and programme level and also drawing on broader information about areas such as teaching and assessment and feedback.

Thirteen degree courses achieved 100% satisfaction rates from the students, and nine general subject areas have also achieved 100% satisfaction, placing them at the top of their subject table in the UK.

This year has seen significant successes in developing the University's research programmes and infrastructure. We have opened the first nuclear research institute in Wales (the Nuclear Futures Institute) established with £6.5 million funding from Welsh Government's

Sêr Cymru programme and European Regional Development Funding, successfully attracting world leading researchers to the university.

We have been chosen by UK Government to lead a Science and Innovation Audit (the North West Nuclear Arc Consortium) and to participate in two other audits which will help Government assess how investment in science and innovation enhances regional productivity.

There has been continued EU Structural Funds investment (£6.8M) in SEACAMS, a project providing research expertise to the marine commercial sector.

Researchers from the Bangor Institute of Health and Medical Research have been awarded significant funding from Health and Care Research Wales: supporting research in innovations to support people living with dementia; trials of important interventions; and fundamental research into the cost-effectiveness of healthcare services, medicines and public health interventions, supporting our key research role in improving the health of the people of Wales and beyond.

Economic and societal impact continues to be at the heart of our research and has been recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council with a £250K extension to our £677K Impact Acceleration Account Project.

Elsewhere, we have seen great progress with the University's Science Park, M-SParc, which is located nearby on Anglesey and is due to open in 2018. Supported with funding from both the Welsh Government and the European Union, M-SParc will provide space for businesses of all sizes, from start-ups to large corporate companies. Everything a business requires, from outstanding facilities and bespoke business support services, to flexible office space and laboratories, will be provided on site.

In Bangor itself, Pontio, our new Arts and Innovation centre is establishing itself as a popular location for students and the local community who make use of the building's excellent facilities ranging from lecture rooms, innovation spaces, social learning areas, cafes and restaurants, as well as the cinema, theatre and studio theatre.

There have also been a number of significant challenges during the year and, as we look to 2018 and beyond, it is inevitable that more difficult decisions will need to be made as we face increasing uncertainty over the funding of the HE sector, as well as the numerous uncertainties created by wider political decisions, not least those involving Brexit.

To address these issues, I established a Financial Sustainability Board to deal with the particular financial challenges facing us here at Bangor, and this has already resulted in substantial savings being identified. However, this has not been easy and I am grateful to everyone for their understanding during this period of reorganisation.

Once again this year, I would like to express my gratitude to members of the Council and to colleagues throughout the University for their support and contribution during the year. We take great pride in the excellent results of the Teaching Excellence Framework and National Student Survey, and will continue to provide the very best education for our students in the year ahead.

Professor John G Hughes
President and Vice-Chancellor



HIGHLIGHTS

1

1 Matthew Barzun, US Ambassador to the UK (2013-17) at the Pontio centre.

Matthew Barzun, **US Ambassador to the UK** between 2013-17, discussed the relationship between the UK and the US, and answered questions from the audience which included students and local secondary school pupils at a special event at the University's Pontio Centre.

Bangor University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy, Ltd** and **Imperial College London**, enhancing its commitment to support Welsh and British expertise. Hitachi-GE will provide industry advice to Imperial and Bangor's newly formed "Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Research Hub and Network", drawing on its extensive BWR experience to provide technical expertise and support. This will include part-time deployment of a researcher to Bangor, and building on the existing programme of Japanese internships for UK students.

Julie James AM, Welsh Government **Minister for Skills and Science**, officially opened Suprex, a joint venture between Bangor University and Phytovation Ltd, based in Caernarfon. Suprex, a cutting edge technology company, is a contract research organisation and the only commercial organisation in the UK able to develop process applications for carbon dioxide.

The **School of Chemistry** announced that it will be contributing to CALIN, a newly-launched life sciences network. The Celtic Advanced Life Science Innovation Network (CALIN) collaborative programme aims to connect Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with world-leading Higher Educational Institutions in Wales and Ireland. Focusing on Precision Medicine (diagnostics, devices & therapeutics), Regenerative Medicine, and Bio-Compatibility & Safety Evaluation, CALIN will engage with businesses to support advanced life science product development through collaborative R&D.

Dr Kami Koldewyn, a neuroscientist from the **School of Psychology**, was awarded a prestigious €1.5M ERC grant to examine the cognitive neuroscience behind the development of a "Social Brain", in a project entitled "Becoming Social: Social Interaction Perception and the Social Brain Across Typical and Atypical Development". The grant will allow Dr Koldewyn to increase the pace of her research investigating the development and brain basis of complex social perception and social learning.



2 L-R: Lizzie Basterfield, Rebecca Colley-Jones, Deirdre McIntyre and Dr Einir Young Receiving the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management Sustainability and Resource Award.

3 Dr Frances Garrad-Cole



The University received an award by the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management at their Sustainability and Resource Awards for its #LoveHalls sustainability campaign. The #LoveHalls campaign, run by the Halls' **Residential Life team** with expert guidance from the Sustainability Lab team, created major savings of over £100,000 in a year for the University and its students.

Dr Frances Garrad-Cole, **School of Psychology** is the latest member of University staff to be awarded a Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship. A National Teaching Fellowship is the most prestigious individual award for excellence in teaching in Higher Education.

Bangor University's **Property and Campus Services** team won the title of Principal Contractor of the Year at the National Construction Design and Management Awards. It was awarded for the University's work on the fitting out of the Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre. The University's team was also shortlisted for the Client of the Year award. The Awards celebrate, reward and share outstanding good practice in the Design & Construction Health and Safety Risk Management sector.

Bangor University was crowned **University of the Year** for its work with the business sector and won two other awards at the Business Insider Awards

ceremony in Cardiff. Bangor also won awards for Best New Process, for its collaboration with Sain (Records) Ltd and also the Partnership Award, for its lead role in the KESS II programme.

Bangor University's excellent employment policies have been recognised for another four years following the successful review of the University's European Commission **HR Excellence in Research Award**. This policy enables the University to attract some of the best national and international researchers and demonstrates the University's commitment to excellent employment policies for research staff.

The **School of English Literature** launched the Centre for Arthurian Studies which will build on the record of long-standing excellence in research, teaching and engagement in the field of Arthurian Studies since the inception of the University in 1884.

Bangor University's commitment to sustainability has once again earned it a commanding position in an international league table of environmentally friendly institutions. In the current **UI Green Metric** league table, a league table of the world's greenest universities, Bangor University has moved up twelve places to 16th position, placing the University in the top 4% of the participating universities.



3

3 Jess Mead Silvester (left) with Master Draper William Charnley and Philip Hollyman (right).



4

4 Elen Hughes, winner of the Urdd Eisteddfod crown.

Two students at the **School of Ocean Sciences** were presented with Drapers' Medals. The Drapers' Company is one of the historic Livery Companies of the City of London, and is now a philanthropic organisation. The Drapers' Company kindly donates two medals each year to be awarded to outstanding postgraduate students. Philip Hollyman was awarded the silver Draper's Company medal and is approaching the end of his PhD in Marine Biology and Jess Mead Silvester was awarded a bronze medal and is in the final year of her PhD study.

The **University Archives and Special Collections** was among 11 new applicants to achieve The National Archives' Archive Accreditation, to become one of the 62 accredited archives in the UK.

Dr Alexander Sedlmaier of the **School of History and Archaeology** was awarded a prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship. These highly competitive fellowships are aimed at fostering interdisciplinary research, innovative academic training and international collaborations.

Bangor University has become the first organisation in the UK to achieve Level 5 of the new, 2016 version of the **Green Dragon Standard for Environmental Management**.

The Urdd Aelwyd at Neuadd John Morris-Jones had many notable successes on the main stage at the Urdd National Eisteddfod, including the 'mixed choir of over 40 singers' competition. Elen Hughes, who completed a PGCE at the **School of Education** and graduated from the School of Welsh in 2016, won the Eisteddfod crown; while Lora Lewis came second, and Osian Wyn Owen came third, both of whom are students at the **School of Welsh**.

Dr Prysor Williams of the **School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography**, received the Gwobr Goffa Eilir Hedd Morgan (Eilir Hedd Morgan Memorial Prize) at the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's Annual Congregation. This Award is presented every year to recognise outstanding contribution to teaching and research in the field of science through the medium of Welsh.

Welsh universities announced a new £15M supercomputing programme of investment which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government. The facilities will support tidal energy and oceanographic projects at the **School of Ocean Sciences**, with opportunities for interaction with the ERDF funded SEACAMS 2 project.



5 Prof. Dermot Cahill, Head of Bangor Law School (left) and Dr Oana Andreea-Macovei of Université Toulouse-Capitole receive the Robertson-Horsington Prize from Guy Canivet, Honorary First President Cour de Cassation (right).

Bangor University and Université Toulouse-Capitole have been awarded the 2017 **Robertson-Horsington Prize** by the Franco-British Lawyers Society (FBLs) for their double degree programme: the Licence/Master 1 in International Law / LLB English Law and French Law. This innovative, transnational, double degree law programme, offers law students the opportunity to spend two years studying law in each country, leading to the award of the British LLB and the French Masters I after four years.

Bangor University was voted the **best University in the UK for its Students' Union Clubs and Societies** and is the third best University in the UK according to the 2017 Whatuni Student Choice Awards, with the nominations based on the excellent reviews and opinions of the University's own students. In addition to winning 'Bronze' in the University of the Year category, the University was also placed third in the UK in both the Courses and Lecturers category and in the Giving Back category.

Emily Roberts, Project Administrator for **M-SParc**, the Bangor University owned Menai Science Park, won a Chwarae Teg Womenspire Award in the Women in Rural Economy category, which celebrates the success of women living and working in rural areas.

Bangor University's students have again given the University a resounding testimonial in the annual **National Student Satisfaction** survey, placing the University eighth among the UK's non-specialist universities and second among the Welsh Universities.

Professor Angharad Price from the **School of Welsh** was named Best Playwright in the Welsh Language at the Wales Theatre Awards 2017. She received the accolade for her stage play *Nansi* which was staged in 2015 and 2016 by Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru.

BREAD4PLA, a green science and technology project in which Bangor University's research played a significant role, was awarded a "Green Award" for being one of the best LIFE Environment Projects of the last 25 years. Researchers from AIMPLAS, Technological Institute of Plastics, Spain; the **Biocomposites Centre** and **School of Chemistry** from Bangor University; ATB, the Agricultural Engineering Institute, Germany and CETECE, the Cereals Technology Centre, Spain successfully developed a new biodegradable packaging for bakery products from the wastes generated by the industry's own process.



Dr Raj Jones

Several individuals attended the University degree ceremonies to receive honorary fellowships. They were:

Lord Mervyn Davies CBE, Chair of Bangor University Council from 2008-2015;

Professor Julian Evans OBE, a Bangor graduate and the first to receive the University's DSc in Forestry;

Ifor ap Glyn, the current Welsh National Poet and former Welsh Children's Laureate;

Professor Constantin Grammenos CBE, a leading expert in international shipping and finance and gained his MSc in Financial Economics at Bangor;

Nicholas Jackson OBE, Chief Executive of the National Zoological Society of Wales and Director of the Welsh Mountain Zoo at Colwyn Bay, with over 40 years' zoology experience;

Dr Raj Jones, a renowned Particle Physicist who has lectured and published widely on the history and philosophy of science;

Kailesh Karavadra graduated with BSc and MSc degrees in Electronic Engineering, and he is now Office Managing Partner for Ernst & Young in Silicon Valley;

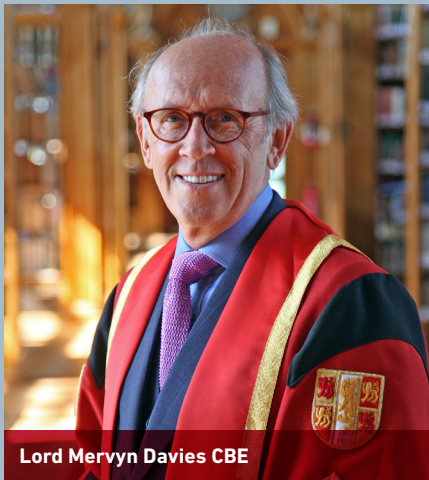
Gwion Lewis, one of the brightest barristers of his generation and is the editor of the 'Wales' section of the Planning Encyclopaedia;

Professor Gareth Ffowc Roberts, former head of the Coleg Normal and former Pro Vice-Chancellor as well as Emeritus Professor of Bangor University;

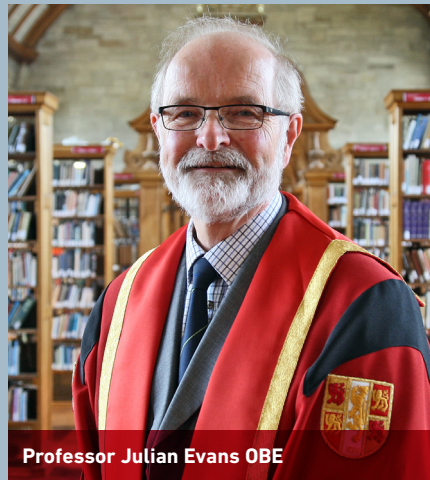
Dr Cen Williams led the University's Welsh Language Centre, Canolfan Bedwyr, from its inception in 1996, developed 'Cymraeg Clir', the Welsh language equivalent to the 'Crystal Mark' awarded by the Plain English Campaign, and, through his secondment in 2000-02, established the body which become the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol;

Llion Williams, a prominent Welsh actor with extensive theatre and television experience;

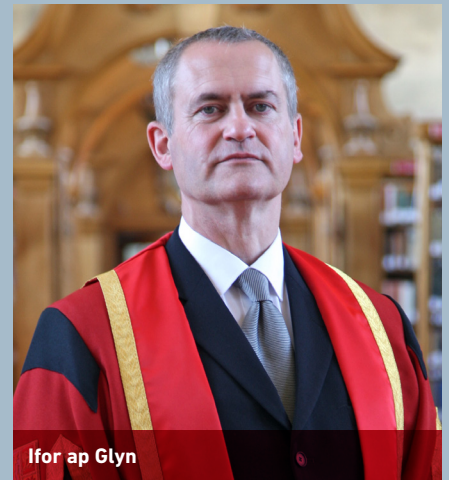
Chris Coleman, Manager of the Welsh national football team and **Osian Roberts**, assistant manager, who guided Wales to the semi-finals of Euro 2016.



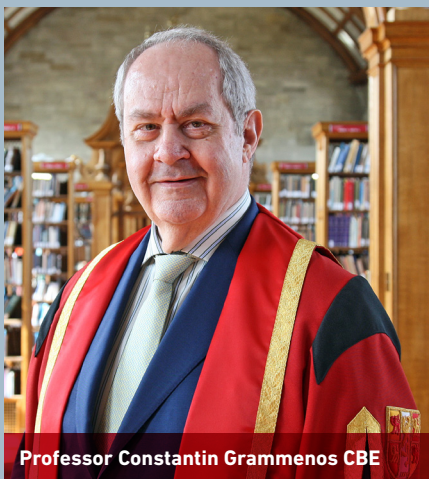
Lord Mervyn Davies CBE



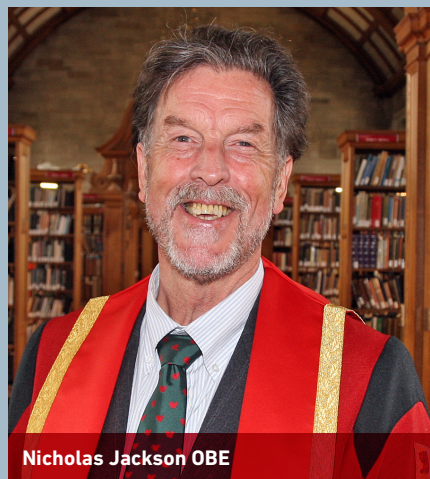
Professor Julian Evans OBE



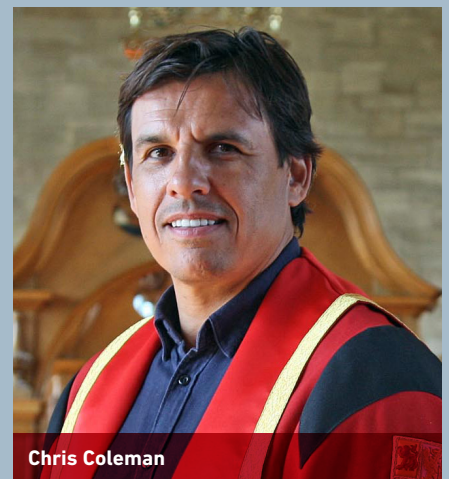
Ifor ap Glyn



Professor Constantin Grammenos CBE



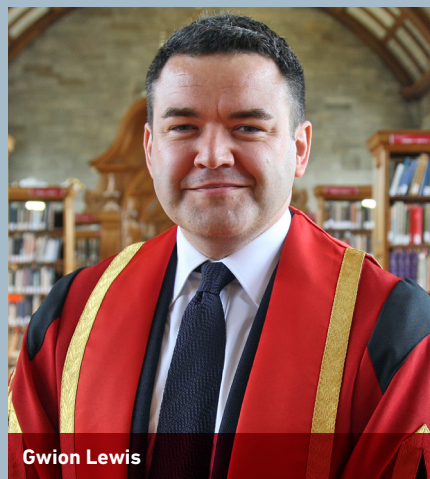
Nicholas Jackson OBE



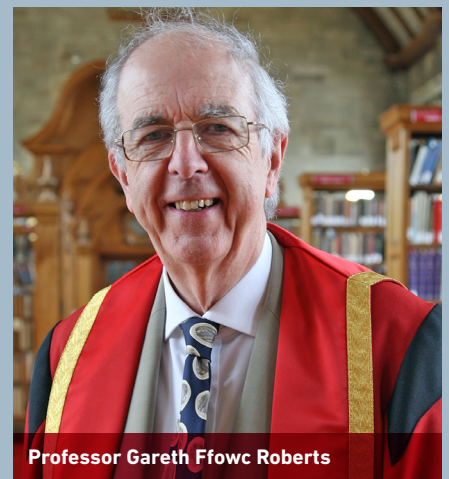
Chris Coleman



Kailesh Karavadra



Gwion Lewis



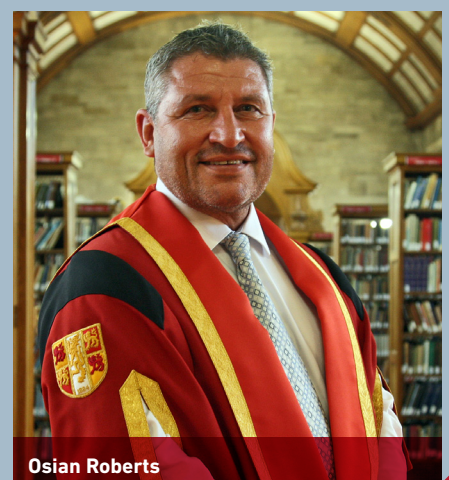
Professor Gareth Ffowc Roberts



Dr Cen Williams



Llïon Williams



Osian Roberts



L-R: Pip Jones, Dr Andy Smith, Head of the MULTILAND project and MULTILAND student Bid Webb with one of the electric sheep.

RESEARCH

GIVING BABIES IN WALES THE BEST START IN LIFE

One in three children live in poverty in Wales. Those born in the most deprived areas could expect to live 19 fewer years in good health than those born in the least deprived areas of Wales. Wales is already spending millions of pounds each year on the consequences of a poor start in life for many babies born today.

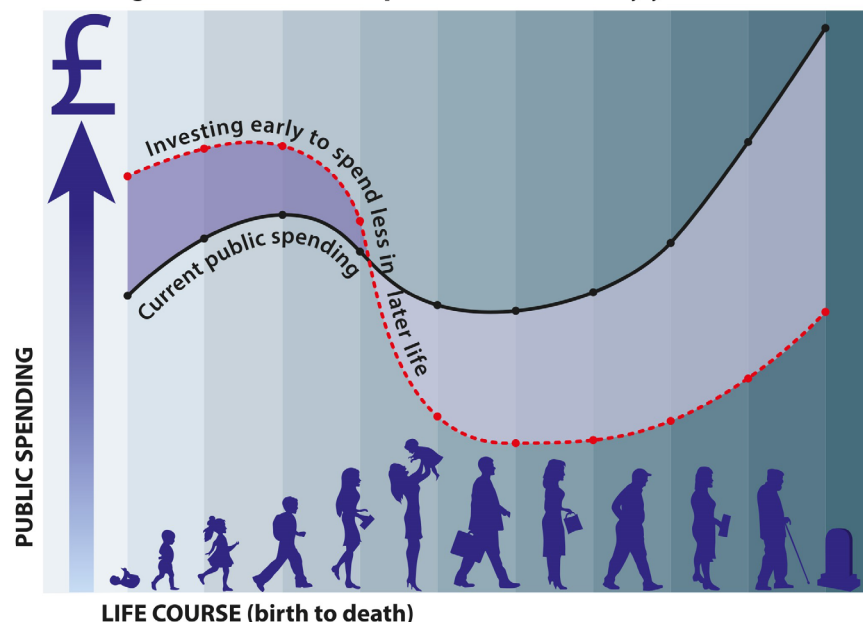
Professor Rhiannon Tudor Edwards with colleagues Lucy Bryning and Huw Lloyd-Williams at the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (CHEME) published a [report](#) supported by Public Health Wales on potential savings to the economy of Wales by investing in the first few years of life. For example, every £1 spent on contraceptive services could return between £11 and £14 in savings to the NHS in Wales. Universal provision of essential vitamins during early pregnancy is highly likely to be cost-effective. The additional cost to Welsh NHS maternity services of delivering low birth weight babies, attributed to smoking and other modifiable risk factors, is estimated to be £2.15M annually.

The report calculates that increasing the proportion of women who exclusively breastfeed at 4 months (currently at 9% in Wales) to that seen at birth (57% in Wales) could save the NHS in Wales £1.5

million annually in treating common early childhood illnesses. On the strength of this report, Professor Edwards was invited to the Senedd to act as expert advisor to the National Assembly for Wales', Health, Social Care and Sport Committee as part of their scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget for all health and social care spending 2017-2018.

CHEME is part of the University's School of Healthcare Sciences and contributes to the Bangor Institute for Health & Medical Research which brings together health research across the University.

Shifting the curve towards prevention and early years investment



Source: Current spending based on figures by the Office for Budget Responsibility (2015)

MODEL 'ELECTRIC' SHEEP HELPING RESEARCHERS KEEP FLOCKS IN FINE FETTL

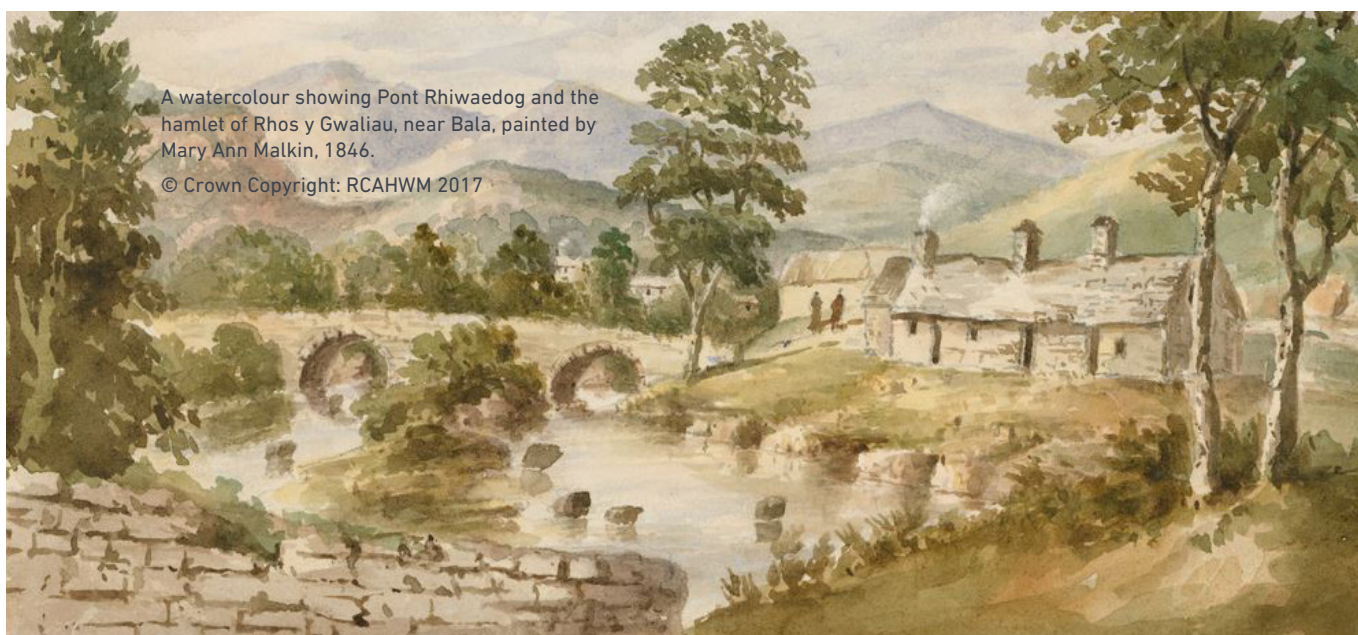
Researchers at the School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography, have been using 'electric' sheep to find out how real sheep respond to weather. The lifelike models were fitted with a special battery-operated heating system which simulates the natural heat produced by a live animal.

The e-sheep were moved around to experience different adverse weather conditions as part of a study to see how to improve welfare and productivity of flocks.

PhD student Pip Jones explains: "Sheep use a substantial amount of energy just staying warm; and lose a lot of heat when it's cool, especially when there's a wind chill.

"By measuring the difference between internal and environmental temperature, we could work out how much energy the sheep loses just by trying to deal with the weather. Over the three months of winter, if it averaged a chilly 6C outside, 100 sheep would need an extra 189kg (dry matter) of silage, just to produce the energy they needed to keep warm, energy that is therefore not available for growth."

The eventual aim of the research is to produce a practical toolkit for farmers to show them the best places to plant for effective shelter and shade. The study is part of MULTILAND, a research partnership finding ways to increase farm profitability and efficiency through sustainable agriculture, whilst improving resilience of the farmland landscape. Pip's research, into the potential for tree shelter systems to save the energy and lives of livestock in adverse weather, is funded through the KESS scholarship in partnership with the Woodland Trust.



EUROPEAN TOURISTS TO WALES TO HAVE NEW WINDOW ON THE PAST

European tourists visiting Wales will be able to read historical accounts of visits to the country through the ages via a new digital resource to be completed next year. The 'European Travellers to Wales' project will share some of the historical travel writing with modern tourists to Wales.

Following completion of the work led by Bangor University with Swansea University and the University of Wales, Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, and in collaboration with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Visit Wales, visitors will be able to follow in the footsteps of historical travellers by following suggested modern 'itineraries',

and reading their writings, enhanced with historical images from the Royal Commission and other historical collections.

Project Leader Professor Carol Tully, School of Modern Languages & Cultures, explained:

"We found over 400 previously unstudied accounts written between 1750 and 2010, which provided insights into how others have viewed Wales. The breadth of the topics discussed shows a long-standing interest in Wales. Not all the visitors were tourists in the modern sense, some were refugees or on business, but they all provide insights into Wales by visitors

from other European nations."

Tourism from Britain and Europe contributes £5.1B annually to the Welsh economy, and this will be a valuable resource for Visit Wales in promoting Wales' landscape, history and culture.

As most people now research their intended travel destination online, this new interactive website will include a number of digital resources which will enhance the unearthed stories and will be accessible through the Visit Wales website and will provide themed itineraries based on the historic texts.

TEACHING & LEARNING



BANGOR UNIVERSITY RATED GOLD

Bangor University was awarded the Gold standard in the UK Government's new Teaching Excellence Framework, becoming the only University in Wales to be rated 'Gold'.

The framework assesses universities against a range of criteria and is part of the UK government's plans for raising standards in higher education. It also gives students more information so that they can make the most informed decisions when deciding which university to attend.

The TEF Panel judged that Bangor University "delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students" and is "of the highest quality found in the UK".

Areas which were particularly praised were the University's approach to Welsh/English bilingual learning; student engagement; teaching and assessment practices; physical and virtual learning resources; personalised support; and the enhancement of students' employability.

Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, said: "Bangor has maintained a strong commitment to the delivery of high quality student experience for many decades. Not only do we link research and teaching, but we also provide personalised pastoral care, and provide variety and experimentation in our teaching and learning.

"We strongly believe that students deserve to be exposed to, and to be stretched by, the rigour and intellectual challenges of problem solving within their disciplines."

The review highlighted that students from all backgrounds achieve consistently outstanding outcomes, and that retention, progression to highly skilled employment or further study, and Welsh medium provision are all above benchmark. The University also has consistently outstanding levels of student satisfaction with teaching, assessment and feedback, and academic support, notably exceeding the provider's benchmark.



Above Dr Sharp (left) with her research team and some of the actors who brought the module to life.

FANTASTIC TEACHING FACILITIES

Bangor University invested £3M to improve teaching facilities in two of its academic schools, creating environments that will allow students to flourish and fulfil their potential.

The £2M project to renovate the School of Music delivered unrivalled facilities for teaching, research, performance, and for the many Students' Union societies who rehearse weekly in the Mathias Hall.

The renovations comprised of a complete refit of all the teaching, performance and research rooms, new staff offices, a bright and airy new foyer area, a lift, and step-free access throughout, making the building fully accessible. There are social study spaces for all students, as well as accommodation for the School's Archives of Welsh Traditional Music and Welsh Pop, and climate-controlled storage for the University's unique Crossley-Holland Collection of ancient Mesoamerican instruments. The project has reinstated



some of the best features of the 1897 building, including a pristine oak floor in the Mathias Hall, and several Victorian fireplaces.

The internationally recognised School of Sport Health & Exercise Sciences saw a £1M investment in a new state-of-the-art facility, the Canolfan PAWB Centre.

Two new exercise physiology laboratories and a large new teaching laboratory extend and complement the School's existing teaching and research resources.

These new facilities address the range of health benefits that stem from exercise and physical activity and also investigate performance, sport and extreme environments.

The new, highly flexible space is a significant additional resource for the School's students and researchers and will ensure that the School continues to offer an excellent environment for both physiological research and student development.



Right Classroom doors guarded by the 'militia' and 'medical personnel' during the gamification module.

USING 'GAMIFICATION' TECHNIQUES TO STUDY BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS

A lecturer at the School of Psychology devised an innovative approach to learning to help their students gain a deeper understanding of their Behaviour Analysis module.

'Gamification' is a method in which non-game activities are designed to have the characteristics of a game, and has been used to either make boring tasks fun, or more specifically, as a means of promoting optimal performance.

Students of Dr Rebecca Sharp's extensively 'gamified' version of the module were immersed into a dystopian narrative where North Wales had been hit by a viral infection, and 'missions' were set for learning tasks which lead to a range of 'rewards'.

Students had their interest piqued by an introductory email with all the trappings of a military communiqué, and their lectures were transformed into scenarios where personnel were 'dragged out' by the militia because they have become 'infected'.

Dr Sharp explains: "The rewards, though small in themselves, help students feel that they have a control over their

learning. Students learned exactly the same material as last year's students, but taking part in the 'game' and exerting some choices, such as being able to select the topic of the last lecture, select an assignment topic and have sight of one exam subject, helped them to feel more engaged. Lecture attendance was very high and the students were 'replaying' online tasks over and again until they won the maximum points for answering all the questions correctly. Students who completed these online 'missions' to help stop the viral infection, performed better on the exam; students were mastering the complex topics throughout the term."



INTERNATIONALISATION

ONE WORLD GALA

Flavours of world cultural traditions were on display to over 400 students, staff and members of the community who came to Bangor University's annual celebration of diversity and talent.

The University's International Student Support Office has been organising this event for a decade, and it has become one of Bangor's main student integration events. The programme has grown substantially in recent years and now includes acts from the local community, as well as from University students and staff.

The One World Gala saw twenty acts representing many world regions, performed by individual students and student Clubs and Societies and local community groups, with acts ranging from Tongan songs to Ghanaian drumming, Welsh folk singing to Japanese martial arts.

Prof John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor: "The One World Gala has become an established highlight within the University social calendar and this year's event again demonstrated the talent amongst our international students, and the pride they have in their various national cultures. It highlighted the diversity we have here at Bangor University and how important it is for

us to share and promote our various cultures, both within the University and with the local community."

The event raised over £400 which will be donated to the Wamumbi Orphan Care Foundation, a small charity set up by Genevieve Lamond, a member of staff at the University. The foundation operates in Kenya and provides outreach services for orphaned children and their guardians.



Photo: WIRC/
Ibrahim Kawasmi

CELEBRATING CONFUCIUS CLASSROOMS

Bangor University's Confucius Institute launched new Confucius Classrooms in five primary and secondary schools based in north Wales.

An initiative of China's cultural agency Hanban, Confucius Classrooms are based within schools and colleges around the world and are intended as local hubs to stimulate and support the innovative teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture across communities.

Dr David Joyner, Confucius Institute Director, said: "We are delighted to have secured funding for five of only 60 Confucius Classrooms worldwide.

This is a very prestigious award for us, particularly as these are also our first Confucius Classrooms, and we look forward to working with the schools involved as they set out to develop their own Chinese learning centres."

Ken Skates AM, Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, who attended the Classroom launch ceremony, said:

"Confucius Institutes provide an important opportunity for the people, communities, businesses and organisations of north Wales to learn more about modern and classical China. The new Classrooms provide a valuable

opportunity for us to keep building on our long standing cultural and economic links with China and will form an important part of our work to increase our trade links."

Since its opening, Bangor's Confucius Institute has grown from strength to strength, quadrupling the number of schools in which it teaches Mandarin and developing a strong audience base across the community. In 2016 alone, over 8,000 people attended Confucius Institute events and workshops across the region, including at least 600 students regularly learning Mandarin in schools, colleges and at the University.

FIRST COMMONWEALTH SHARED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME STUDENTS WELCOMED

The first cohort of the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship scheme receiving their certificates from the Vice Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes.



Bangor welcomed its first cohort of 5 Master's students from Uganda in September 2016 through the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship scheme. Bangor University have partnered with the Windle Trust, an NGO working in East and Central Africa and the Commonwealth Commission and the scholarships target students living in Uganda or Kenya that are refugees or who have been affected by conflict.

The scheme provides these disadvantaged students with the opportunity to study a Master's degree in a subject related to the developments needs of their region.

"Our partnership with Bangor gives an amazing opportunity to young people who will provide leadership and professional skills in African societies that are recovering from the devastating effect of protracted wars and conflicts." says Anbara Khalidi, Programme Officer at The Windle Trust.

This first cohort are studying Public Health & Health Promotion, Agroforestry and International Criminal Law and Human Rights Law.

Dr Jaci Huws from the School of Healthcare Sciences said: "The students demonstrated exceptionally high

motivation to learn, and proactively engaged in academic activities within the School and across the University. They also contributed to the knowledge and understanding their classmates have of issues of international importance. This has enabled the development of a community of individuals who have a shared vision for developing approaches that maintain and improve the health of the public."

The scheme will continue in 2017 with students from Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda studying courses in Public Health and Environmental Sciences.



Confucius Classroom launch event in the company of Ken Skates AM, Chinese Embassy representatives and pupils from Ysgol Friars in Bangor and Holyhead High School, Our Lady's School in Bangor, Ysgol Esgob Morgan in St Asaph and Ysgol Hiraddug in Dyserth.

SERVICES TO BILINGUAL HEALTHCARE AWARDED

Patients are always being advised that medicines should be taken as prescribed by doctors and pharmacists and that instructions provided on the medicine bottle or packet should be followed to the letter.

One way of ensuring that this advice is heeded is to provide the instructions in 'clear language' that is well understood. For many people in Wales whose first language is Welsh, having these cautionary instructions available in 'clear language' means having them available in Welsh. Many people, including the elderly, can better understand instructions in their familiar language. A collaborative project between the Language Technologies Unit at Canolfan Bedwyr (Delyth Prys) and the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (Professor Dyfrig Hughes), together with pharmacists at Ysbyty Gwynedd, was developed to provide cautionary instructions on prescribed medicines in Welsh for the first time.

This innovative provision, endorsed by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Wales and the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group, ensures that bilingual



Ysbyty Gwynedd Pharmacy staff referring to the British National Formulary for advice on bilingual warning labels.

warning labels on prescription medicines are available to patients. The team made the first step by translating and standardising 30 cautionary instructions given to patients on prescription medicines.

These are now available to all pharmacies and doctors, increasing the amount of health support provided in Welsh within the NHS in Wales. The cautionary and advisory labels are available in the British

National Formulary, the standard pharmaceutical reference text used by prescribers, nurses and pharmacists within the NHS.

This work has demonstrated an impressive collaboration between academia and the health service, and the project won the prize for Services to Bilingual Healthcare at the seventh Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Achievement Awards.

WELSH MEDIUM

CELEBRATING SUCCESS ON ST DAVID'S DAY

This year's St David's Day was marked by celebrating the success of three teams who scored the highest possible marks in an independent survey of Welsh language services.

The Central Switchboard team and the Reception team in Pontio scored 100% in a survey of phone and reception services by the Welsh Language Commissioner. As part of a 'mystery shopper' exercise, the Commissioner's office contacted these teams three times. On each occasion they found that a comprehensive and courteous Welsh language service was offered. The Welsh Language Commissioner's Assurance Report was a national survey and only a relatively small number of workplaces scored 100%.

A desktop survey of the University's webpages and on-line services was also undertaken. The survey's results showed that 97% of the webpages and 100% of the online services reviewed offer a Welsh language option and are of the same standard as the English language provision. Once again, these percentages are much higher than the national average.

Professor Jerry Hunter, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Medium and Civic Engagement) noted that: "These results demonstrate Bangor University's commitment to offering excellent Welsh language services to students, staff and the public. We take pride in the Welsh language skills of our staff. One year on from launching our Strategic

Plan for Developing the Use of Welsh in the Workplace, we continue to ensure that staff are given the opportunity to develop and use their Welsh language skills. The results of the Welsh Language Commissioner's review demonstrate our success in creating a truly bilingual workplace."

Consistent with the culture of our region, Bangor University teaches the greatest breadth and volume of Welsh medium higher education: 42% of all full-time equivalent teaching through the medium of Welsh is delivered by Bangor University. In addition, 70% of all Bangor University staff have Welsh language skills.

DEAF - AND PROUD!

When Melen Haf Lloyd was a child she suffered an illness and as a result lost her hearing. Then, in her teens, she received pioneering cochlear implant surgery to restore some of her hearing. Melen obtained an undergraduate degree in Sociology and Social Policy at Bangor University through the medium of Welsh, her mother tongue.

When it was time to write a dissertation, Melen was keen to investigate the topic of deafness, as this was close to her heart.

By sheer coincidence a new lecturer was appointed to the School of Social Sciences, Dr Sara Louise Wheeler, a lecturer with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. Sara, originally from Wrexham, has a hearing impairment as a result of her family's genetic condition: Syndrom Waardenburg type 1, and she uses hearing aids.

Under Sara's supervision, Melen wrote the school's first dissertation using 'autoethnographic' methodology, whereby an individual conducts research into his or her's own culture. Melen is now studying a Master's degree in the same subject, and interviews other people as well. Melen is currently preparing a scholarly article through the medium of Welsh based on her undergraduate dissertation, and hopes to have it published in a scholarly journal.

Before embarking on her Master's course, Melen worked with Sara for three months, under the experienced leadership of Dr Myfanwy Davies, preparing a substantial grant application to carry out further research into Welsh deafness identity and intersectionality issues. If the grant application is successful, Melen will be studying for a doctorate as part of the research.

Melen Haf Lloyd (left) with Dr Sara Louise Wheeler.



Bangor University's Web Team with Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor and Professor Jerry Hunter, Pro Vice-Chancellor.



Local children enjoying the spectacular performances by the Circolombia circus company.

PONTIO PUTS THE COMMUNITY AT ITS HEART

With over 111,000 people buying tickets for events at Pontio during the 18 months since its opening in December 2015 from gigs to drama, circus shows to cinema, Pontio has become a place where both students and local people can enjoy leisure time.

Community participation is also an important part of the centre's vision and this was reflected in several events which took place over the last year.

The centre's youth participation programme BLAS ran weekly workshop for young people 6-18 years old, culminating in a performance on the Theatr Bryn Terfel stage. BLAS also coordinated an intergenerational project with the residents of Plas Hedd Care Home and students from Ysgol Friars. BLAS also organised an opportunity for children to join the cast of Ballet Lorent's memorable *Snow White* in November.

Pontio collaborated with Welsh National Opera on a participative 'Come and sing' event in the foyer, with University choirs, local singers and the public taking part. The Welsh National Opera also returned in the summer, and enabled over 200 local schoolchildren to learn about the process of putting an opera together and singing with an orchestra.

Pontio's Gwledd Syrcas Feast 2017, supported by Lottery funding through the Arts Council of Wales, included the whole of the community in the celebrations. Children from five local schools took part in a procession through the city, Storiell staged a circus-inspired exhibition, and all kinds of masterclasses, workshops and free events took place in the run-up to six performances of *Acelere* by Colombian circus company Circolombia.

COMMUNITY

CATRIN SHINES ON THE WORLD STAGE

For a number of years, the University has awarded bursaries to local athletes of excellence to enable them to use the facilities at its sports centre, Canolfan Brailsford, as part of their training programmes.

This year's recipient, weightlifter Catrin Jones, had a remarkable year on the competitive circuit, culminating with a silver medal for Wales at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Australia.

Over the last 12 months, Catrin, 18, from Bangor has had some great results, which include being placed 8th in the 48kg class in the World Youth Championships, breaking British Records in the 48kg class and Welsh Records in the 53kg class. She was also named Young British Weightlifter of the Year 2017, a title that is awarded to an Olympic weightlifter for exceptional performances and achievements.

Catrin said: "I'm extremely grateful to Bangor University for awarding me the bursary. Travelling to national and

international competitions is costly, but the sports bursary is an enormous help by providing me with access to excellent training facilities throughout the year."

Now a full-time student at the School of Psychology, Catrin juggles her studies with training for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast, Australia where she will represent Wales.

Richard Bennett, Director of Sport said:

"Bangor University is pleased to assist local athletes in accessing high quality training facilities in order to help them achieve their sporting goals, without having to travel long distance to access other facilities when they are available locally within the University. It is particularly pleasing when a local bursary recipient chooses to continue their partnership with us by joining us as an undergraduate student."



Catrin Jones at the 2017 British Senior Weightlifting Championships in Coventry.



GENEROUS NURSING STUDENTS SPREADING FESTIVE CHEER

Student nurses from the School of Healthcare Sciences brought festive cheer to patients at Wrexham Maelor Hospital last Christmas.

Second year Adult Nursing students Ceri Davies, Kate Toppie and Fern Williams, along with their lecturer Angela Williams, filled shoeboxes with festive treats for patients on Bedwen, Onnen and ENT wards at the hospital.

They were presented to patients after one of the student nurses, Ceri Davies, was moved by the plight of the patients who had no family to visit them on the ward last Christmas.

Ceri said: "I was on placement at the Maelor last Christmas, and saw patients who didn't have any family who were missing out on company. It was awful seeing some people who didn't even get a Christmas card – so we set out to hand out cards to everyone on the ward. We decided to take it one step further this year and make them some small

Christmas hampers, just with simple presents, just so they know we are thinking of them."

Donations were collected from students at the School, with further gifts donated by management at the new Aldi store in Wrexham.

Gill Harris, Executive Director of Nursing for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, said: "The effort the student nurses have made to spread some cheer to our patients this Christmas is absolutely fantastic, and I commend them for the outstanding care and compassion they've demonstrated.

"Going the extra mile in this way is what nursing is all about. I'm sure if they continue to care for patients like this, they'll have a long and successful career in nursing."

Student nurses at Wrexham Maelor hospital delivering Christmas gifts to patients on the Bedwen and Onnen long stay rehab wards.