

**AT BANGOR,
WE DON'T
DO RUN OF
THE MILL.**



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

01	A WORD FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
02-05	HIGHLIGHTS FROM 07/08
06-07	TABLES REFLECT UNIVERSITY'S VALUES USING TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT TEACHING AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
08-09	'GRAD SCHOOL' COMES TO BANGOR TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION (tHE) ENSURING THAT EVERYONE THRIVES!
10-11	TRANSFORMING COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN OUR HOMES BUILDING UP THE CLIMATE-CHANGE JIGSAW PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT: BANGOR UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH SUCCESSES
12-13	DO WE IDENTIFY WITH EUROPE? REMINISCING TO AID DEMENTIA SUFFERERS AND CARERS? BILINGUALISM RESEARCH FORGES AHEAD
14-15	PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK BANGOR ASSISTS IN FIRST 'VIRTUAL' CONCERT PRINCE MADOG AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
16-17	UNIVERSITY'S FIRST FINE ART DEGREE SHOW
18-19	STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO WALES' CULTURAL FABRIC! BANGOR'S ALUMNI COMMUNITY



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

EDITOR

Elinor Elis-Williams, Corporate Communications and Marketing Department, Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG
Tel: 01248 383298. Email: press@bangor.ac.uk. Website: www.bangor.ac.uk

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present to you the first annual review of 'Bangor University'.

As I write this, we have just received the results of the Research Assessment Exercise. We have recorded an extremely strong performance – the only University in Wales to have 'world leading' research in every academic area considered, and I should like to thank all staff whose research has contributed to our performance and all those who worked so hard on the University's submission. Together, we have embarked on a journey to position Bangor as a world leading research University.

During the last two years I have referred to the major challenges involved in our estate, and we are making significant progress which is revitalising the built environment and providing much improved facilities for both our students and staff.



in science, technology and enterprise which are crucial for economic regeneration. In addition the building will include greatly improved arts facilities for the whole community including a theatre, lecture theatres, exhibition spaces, bar and café. There is also provision for an external amphitheatre that could be used for some performances.

There will also be a new and vibrant centre for the Students' Union as well as a variety of new teaching and learning spaces.

During the next year we will also be developing accommodation for our new £5m Bilingual Research Centre on College Road, and we are in discussions about increasing our involvement in medical education with a view to developing a Medical School at Bangor University for the first time in its history.

A WORD FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

We now have brand new student residences as a result of the £35m redevelopment of the Ffriddoedd site; a refurbished JP Hall which houses our School of Creative Industries and Media; a new Management Centre which is serving local businesses as well our traditional students, and a new cutting edge building housing Environment Centre Wales. We've also made substantial steps to improve access to students and staff with disabilities and made improvements to College Park which has made it a much more pleasant place to visit.

One of our major announcements during the year was the unveiling of plans for an exciting and ambitious new Arts and Innovation Centre to replace the Theatr Gwynedd and the Students' Union. This inspirational centre will bring businesses, scientists, the community and those involved in the arts together in a world-class facility that will become a focus for success in north Wales.

The University's strengths in both the Sciences and the Arts will provide a unique focus for innovation, which is a key cross-cutting theme for the new development. In particular we will seek to encourage young people to be involved

I am delighted to once again report that our financial position has strengthened further. Although we face a very difficult economic climate and increasing competition within the UK and internationally, our focus on financial health as well as academic performance will continue. Success in these areas enables us to compete with the very best in the world. Indeed, our international links continue to develop, and we are closely involved in establishing the new British University in Kuwait and are developing collaborations with numerous other Universities around the world.

Looking forward to next year, 2009 will be our 125th anniversary and we have a number of events planned to celebrate this special occasion. I very much hope that you will be able to join me and my colleagues at some of these events during the year.

Professor Merfyn Jones
December 2008



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 07/08

1. (l-r): Dr Paul Mullins, Senior MR Physicist, Professor Oliver Turnbull and Professor David Linden of the **School of Psychology** explain the scanner's capabilities to Assembly Health & Social Services Minister, Edwina Hart AM.

2. Mervyn Davies CBE was appointed Chair of Bangor University's Council with effect from 1 December 2007.

3. (l-r): Professor Oliver Turnbull, Professor Adrian Burgess (Swansea) Jane Hutt AM, Assembly Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills and Professor Dylan Jones (Cardiff) at the launch of WICN.

4. (The Editors, l-r): Professor Peredur Lynch, Dr John Davies, Menna Baines and Nigel Jenkins celebrate the Launch of the Encyclopaedia.

A new generation MRI scanner, the first of its kind to be delivered and installed in the UK, was officially 'opened' at the **School of Psychology**. The £1.5m scanner is central to the Brain Imaging Unit, which will have a significant impact on cognitive neuroscience in Bangor and across Wales through the Welsh Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience. [1]

Mervyn Davies CBE was appointed Chair of Bangor University's Council with effect from 1 December 2007. He replaced His Honour Eifion Roberts QC, who retired after more than ten years as Chair of the University's governing body.

A north Walian, Mervyn Davies is one of the world's leading bankers, and has been Chair of Standard Chartered PLC since November 2006, having previously been Group Chief Executive. [2]

The new multi-centre Wales Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience (WICN) was officially launched at the Welsh Assembly. The collaborative network brings together existing world-renowned expertise in psychology at Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea universities, with an investment of over £5 million from the Welsh Assembly Government. [3]

January saw the publication of *The Welsh Academy Encyclopaedia of Wales*, and its Welsh-language counterpart *Gwyddoniadur Cymru yr Academi Gymreig*, following a decade's gestation. Edited by Menna Baines, Dr John Davies, Nigel Jenkins, and Professor Peredur Lynch of the **School of Welsh**. These volumes represent an important national and international resource.

Other Bangor University academics contributed substantially to both volumes, among them Professor Merfyn Jones (Vice-Chancellor); Professor Nancy Edwards, Dr W.P. Griffith, Nia Watkin Powell and Huw Pryce (**History, Welsh History and Archaeology**); Professor Densil Morgan and Dr Robert Pope (**Theology & Religious Studies**); Dr David Evans, Dr Sally Harper, Dr Pwyll ap Siôn, Stephen Rees and Wyn Thomas (**Music**); and Dr Pam Michael (**Social Sciences**). [4]

Bangor Law School was one of four universities worldwide to host a Regional Final of the prestigious European Law Moot Court Competition. Law students from 13 of the best universities in the USA and Europe competed in Bangor, with the Regional Final being contested by Columbia Law School, USA and University of Zagreb (the eventual winners).

£7m

'THE NEW ENVIRONMENT CENTRE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY GORDON BROWN'



The new £7m Environment Centre Wales (ECW) was officially opened by Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. ECW brings together the scientific expertise of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)'s Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) and Bangor University. The purpose-built laboratory will allow CEH and University staff to work together more closely to provide a focal point for environmental research and training in Wales. (5,6,7)

5. The Right Honourable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister, officially opening Environment Centre Wales. Pictured with him are Betty Williams MP, Professor Alan Thorpe, Chief Executive of NERC and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones.

6. The Prime Minister met with staff at the University's labs in the Environment Centre Wales building. Here he is speaking with PhD student Serinde van Wijk, from The Netherlands.

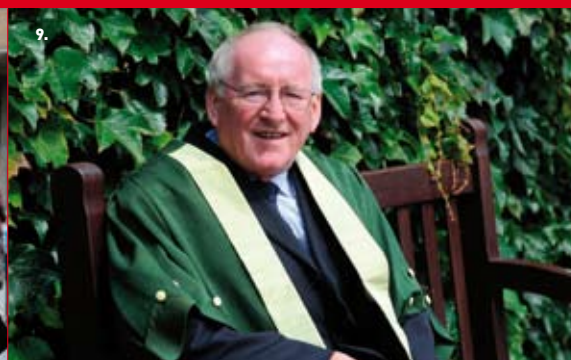
7. The new Environment Centre Wales building (Background Image).



1. Peter Bennett-Jones
2. Guto Harri
3. Griff Rhys Jones
4. Professor Juan Carlos Castilla
5. Gwilym Owen
6. Meic Povey
7. Jim Perrin

Individuals made Honorary Fellows at Bangor's Degree congregations this year included: Chair of Tiger Aspect Television, **Peter Bennett-Jones**; **Guto Harri**, Communications Director for the Mayor of London; **Griff Rhys Jones**, television presenter; **Professor Juan Carlos Castilla**, Professor of Marine Ecology, Chile; journalist and broadcaster, **Gwilym Owen**; actor and playwright, **Meic Povey**; **Jim Perrin**, rock climber and travel writer; **Siân Lloyd** television weather presenter; **Rev Elfed ap Nefydd Roberts**, retired Presbyterian Minister and author; **The Rt Hon Lord Justice John Thomas** Judge of the Court of Appeal; Welsh Assembly Member, **Rhodri Glyn Thomas A.M.** and renowned pianist, **Llŷr Williams**. (1-12)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 07/08



'BANGOR IS THE BENCHMARK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN WALES'

Meirion Prys Jones,
Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board.



13.



14.

13. Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, with The Rt. Hon. Dafydd Wigley, Chair of The Management Centre Board of Directors, and Dr Colyn Gardner, the Chief Executive at the Centre's launch recently.

14. At the Management Centre's Launch are (l-r): The Rt. Hon Dafydd Wigley, Chair of the Management Centre Board; Professor Merfyn Jones, University Vice-Chancellor; Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport and Dr Colyn Gardner, the Centre's Chief Executive.

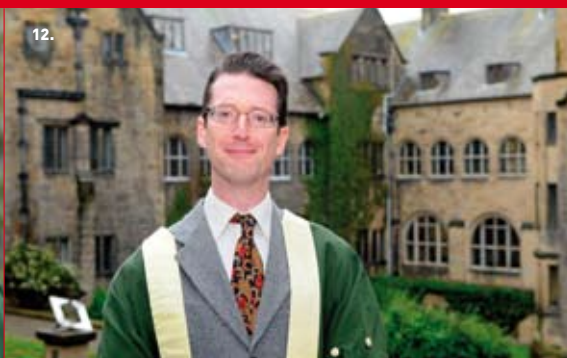
A £14 million centre intended to boost the region's economy has been officially launched by Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM. **The Management Centre at Bangor Business School** is set within the heart of the University. The training and development centre will provide a range of services to the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. (13,14)

The **School of Chemistry** hosted the UK Final of the National Schools' Analyst Competition in June. Sixteen regional finalists took part in the competition for students studying AS level Chemistry or equivalent, run by the Royal Society of Chemistry's Analytical Division. The School is very actively involved in encouraging school students' interest in science and particularly chemistry at all levels. Hosting the UK Final of this prestigious competition was therefore a great honour.

'Bangor is the benchmark for higher education institutions in Wales', according to Meirion Prys Jones, Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board. At the launch of the University's revised Welsh Language Scheme he said that Bangor's Welsh medium academic provision, as well as its bilingual administrative services, placed the University far ahead of the other higher education institutions in Wales.



11.



12.

- 8. Siân Lloyd with Vice Chancellor Professor Merfyn Jones
- 9. Rev Elfed ap Nefydd Roberts
- 10. The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice John Thomas
- 11. Rhodri Glyn Thomas A.M.
- 12. Llŷr Williams

TABLES REFLECT UNIVERSITY'S VALUES

University applicants are advised to choose a subject they enjoy, research the universities they're interested in, taking note of various league tables and to visit their potential university – this advice could be why Bangor is currently recruiting well!

Results of the third National Student Survey revealed in September, placed Bangor among the 'Top Ten' of UK universities for teaching. 85% of Bangor's respondents were satisfied with the teaching on their course. Seven subject areas at Bangor recorded satisfaction ratings between 93-100%: well above average satisfaction ratings across the survey.

In particular: **Music** 100% satisfaction – the highest score for this subject group in the UK, **Sports Science** 98% 'satisfied', **European Language** 95%, **History** 93%, **Theology & Religious Studies** 93%, **Law** 91%.

Bangor was placed 10th in the UK in a Student Experience survey published in the *Times Higher Education* magazine. This added to the volume of evidence supporting the emphasis that Bangor places on excellent teaching and student experience.

The large-scale survey asked students to rate different aspects of life at their university in order of importance. Students prioritised high quality lectures and staff, well structured courses and a university that focuses on the needs of the individual as well as social life, activities and societies, and a good atmosphere and environment in and around the University.

Bangor's students also rated good support and welfare, as well as good relationships with teaching staff highly, again underlining the University's focus on excellent teaching and student support.

Potential applicants must also have noted the news published in *The Independent* that Bangor University is the fourth least expensive place to study in the UK.



USING TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT TEACHING

'We will fight them on the beaches...' – not what you might expect today's youth to be listening to on their computer – but being downloaded by Bangor's students nevertheless, as one of the online learning resources of historic speeches, at the **School of History, Welsh History & Archaeology**.

Just one of the examples of how Learning Technology within **IT Services** at the University are working with lecturers to enrich the learning experience for the University's own students and others.

Learning Technology have also worked with **Canolfan Bedwyr** on the development of an online distance learning course. The National Sabbatical Scheme is a language improvement course for teachers, lecturers and instructors who wish to develop

their Welsh language skills. Learning Technology assisted in making video clips available to enhance the teaching of this distance learning course.

Learning Technology work on a range of such applications, supplementing and supporting learning, rather than replacing traditional lectures.

Technology allows the placing of restrictions on access to the materials to registered course participants – or even individuals within those courses. For example, individuals with disabilities may find listening to podcasts of lectures at their own speed easier. Podcasts are also used when students are unable to attend lectures for agreed reasons.



10%

'10% OF ALL OUR STUDENTS NOW COME FROM OUTSIDE THE UK; OVER 900 IN ALL.'



AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Record numbers of international students from 70 different countries were attracted to the University in 2007/08, with over 10% of all our students now coming from outside the UK; over 900 in all. This enriches the cultural mix in Bangor and makes us a truly international University.

Half of all our postgraduate students are from overseas and their contribution to research and learning is significant. Thanks to the growing number of international students Bangor can offer and support a broader range of subjects and specialisms at this level.

Business, Banking and Finance are the most popular subjects for international students. These are followed by physical sciences and natural sciences. As Bangor becomes better known internationally students come to study a greater variety of subjects here. A growing number of undergraduate students come through partnership schemes with other universities overseas. They will usually study for two years at the university in their home country and progress to Bangor to complete the last two years of the degree programme here.

The largest contingent of students come from China, followed by India and the USA but there are significant numbers arriving from Japan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Nigeria which gives us an exciting cultural mix. Many are supported by their governments, highlighting Bangor's reputation for quality teaching and research.

Students are invariably positive about their experiences in Bangor, people here are genuinely welcoming and helpful. The close student community, the safe and natural surroundings and the clubs and societies offer international students a supportive and enjoyable environment to study in. In turn our alumni return to their home countries as ambassadors for the next generation of Bangor graduates.



'GRAD SCHOOL' COMES TO BANGOR

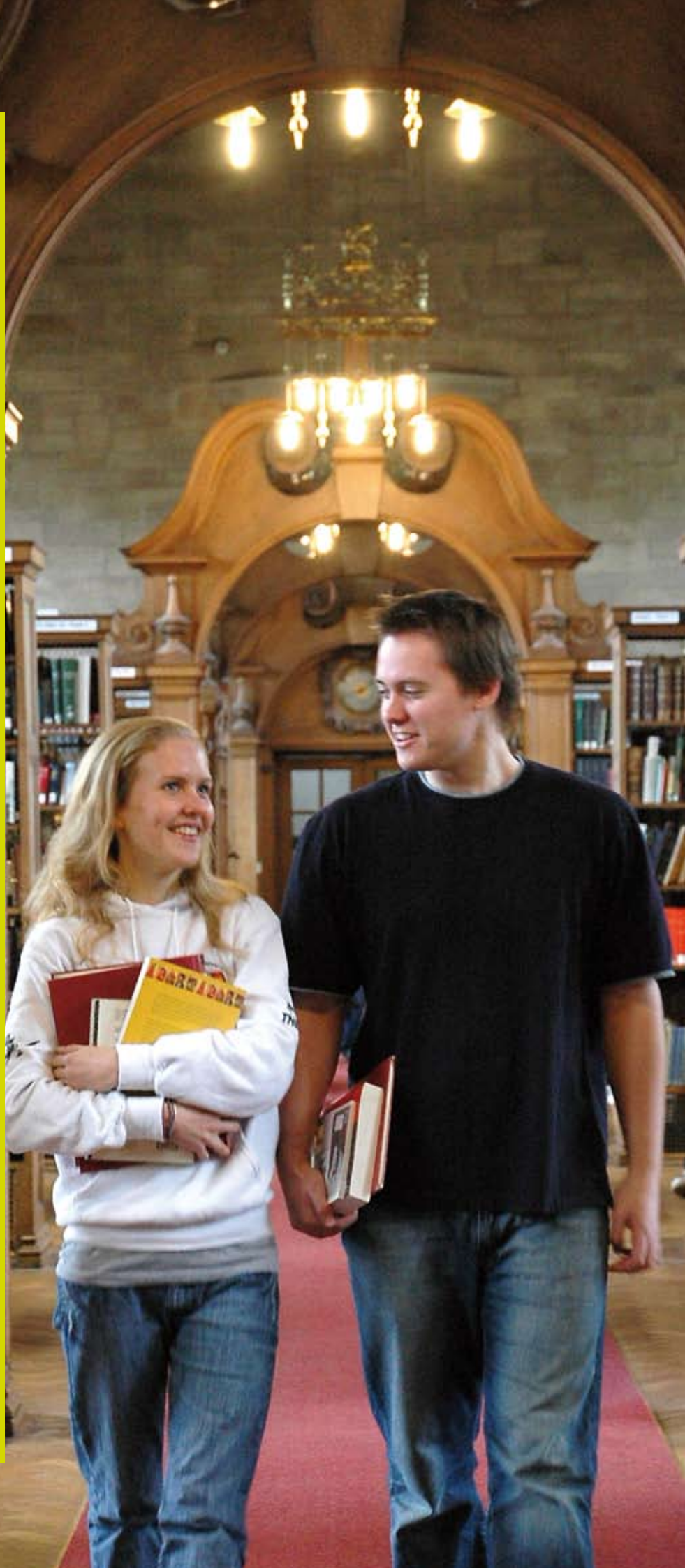
Postgraduate students at the University's College of Arts & Humanities have just completed the first year within a dedicated Graduate School at the College.

As such, they have taken part in postgraduate forums organised by Dr Nathan Abrams (**School of Creative Studies & Media**) and the inaugural postgraduate interdisciplinary conference in June 08 dedicated to the subjects of 'Faith, Spirituality and Religion'. Organised by a committee of postgraduates within the College, this event proved to be an enormous success, attracting delegates from across the UK, North America and Europe. Indeed, following the experience, the Conference is set to become an annual feature on the College calendar.

'The "Graduate School" success in the **College of Arts & Humanities**' illustrates why this is a model that will be replicated through the University's six Colleges,' explains Professor Colin Baker, Pro Vice Chancellor with responsibility for Teaching and Learning.

'A strong graduate community has much to contribute to the academic life of the University. Providing an interdisciplinary forum for graduates to meet and share ideas can be an enriching experience for their own academic development.'

'A STRONG GRADUATE COMMUNITY HAS MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACADEMIC LIFE OF THE UNIVERSITY.'



TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION (tHE)

Bangor University prides itself in developing excellence in learning and teaching which embraces innovation and change. The Teaching in Higher Education Scheme (tHE) is organised for staff at the University. It is designed to strengthen the links between research and teaching and is deliberately planned to be flexible to maximize opportunities for sharing good practice in teaching and research across Bangor and beyond. The tHE Programme is run in partnership with Swansea, Aberystwyth, Lampeter, and the University of Wales Institute Cardiff. This provides staff with the opportunity to further their knowledge of teaching through contact with colleagues throughout Wales. Successful completion of the programme leads to a Master's level qualification in the form of a Postgraduate Certificate, as well as registration with the Higher Education Academy as a Fellow (FHEA).

The tHE is committed to Bangor University's strategy to promote learning and teaching through the medium of Welsh. There is the opportunity to take the induction programme and a number of workshops in Welsh.

The Scheme is co-ordinated by the **Academic Development Unit** at the **College of Education & Lifelong Learning** who coordinate a series of continuing professional development workshops throughout the year. These can be accessed via the ADU Website at www.bangor.ac.uk/adu/



ENSURING THAT EVERYONE THRIVES!

The most difficult step on any journey is always the first. Applying to and entering University presents potential applicants and new students with numerous questions – will I be able to cope, will I have sufficient money, is it right for me?

Bangor University takes pride in its care of students and the quality of their learning experience. To improve the student experience further, the University has developed a new academic and social framework as part of a Student Retention Strategy. The aim is to ensure a smooth transition to University life and that as many students as possible are enabled to complete their study.



Building on the successful and well-established Peer Guiding Scheme, Welcome Week and initial teaching activities are being extended- to ensure that students get to know each other and their teaching staff early on. Other aspects of University living are also being updated: ensuring that groups such as international students, students from care and those living at home integrate successfully into the student community. The University is also making increased use of channels favoured by students such as email, Facebook and YouTube to communicate information to them.

A well-established example of extending academic support at the **School of Sport, Health & Exercise Sciences**, and duplicated elsewhere, is the provision of 'shadow classes' in some of the more challenging first and second year modules. Having attended a lecture, students who've not quite got to grips with the subject can attend 'catch-up' sessions, directed by participants' needs and led by postgraduate students at the School.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN OUR HOMES

A device developed at the **School of Electronic Engineering** is set to revolutionise communications technology within five years. The new device drastically increases the amount of data that can be transmitted using current network cabling – comparable to downloading 15 films a minute. It has the capacity to link currently separate networks, and will lead to the networking of more domestic appliances.

The device, which could cost the consumer no more than current broadband prices, could begin to transform the way we access visual media.

Dr Jianming Tang and his team are at the heart of a major European research project to bring high-speed networks for all types of home and office environments, and have been awarded nearly €1 million for this work. Dr Tang was also awarded the Royal Society Brian Mercer Feasibility Prize.

'The new larger and faster capacity networks would revolutionise the way we use communications in our homes. It will make remote working far easier and could have many other applications such as supporting older people in their homes, enabling applications such as tele-medicine to flourish,' explains Dr Tang.

'We may wonder how we will use a far greater capacity of connectivity, much as we wonder how we might use any new technology, but applications develop through use; as we have seen with the internet and telecoms technology.'

'The Alpha project will further consolidate Bangor's world leading position in optical telecommunication research,' added Dr Janming Tang.



Dr Jianming Tang

BUILDING UP THE CLIMATE-CHANGE JIGSAW

Bangor University actively supports and recruits the best early career researchers to continue and expand its core strengths.

A young researcher at the **School of Ocean Sciences** was awarded one of only eight prestigious National Environment Research Centre Advanced Fellowships (and the only one awarded in Wales).

The five year Fellowship will enable Dr Mattias Green to continue his research on the processes that drive the vertical mixing of different water masses in the water column in shallow shelf seas. For his new research, he is taking this understanding into the deeper oceans.

Dr Green explains: 'The world's oceans play an important role in regulating the global climate. The processes driving mixing in the deep ocean are basically the same as those for shallower seas- wind near the surface and tides closer to the bottom. This vertical mixing leads to a vertical transport of water, heat, nutrients and pollutants, and will in the end be

an important driving mechanism behind the large-scale ocean currents. What is not clear is how the mixing, and thereby the world's ocean currents, have been influenced by changing sea levels over millennia.'

'Climate modelling is incredibly complex. We have to learn piecemeal how different factors affect the whole climate system. Discovering how ocean currents may have changed historically over millennia will contribute to predictions of future climate changes – it adds to the complex jigsaw of climate prediction.'

This research project draws on several spheres of expertise at Bangor University: in oceanography, computer modelling, tides and tidal mixing as well as rare knowledge of and detailed information about sea levels and temperatures over millennia.



Dr Mattias Green

PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT: BANGOR UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH SUCCESSES



For the second year in succession, Bangor University leapt up the league tables compiled to measure UK Universities' research performance. Bangor progressed from 44th to 38th out of around 120 universities. However, when the relative size of universities is taken into account, Bangor rises above larger universities – whose success depends on their size – and is in the top 25 Universities in the UK.

The tables, compiled by the *Times Higher Education* magazine, measure the number of successful applications made by Universities to specialist funding bodies. These bodies fund only the very best projects – around three quarters of all applications are rejected.

Bangor's Vice Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones, attributed this success to the quality of Bangor's staff and to hard work by the academic staff and administrators responsible for gaining the funding. 'We are punching well above our weight', he said. 'The average staff member at Bangor simply puts in more high quality applications than our rivals, and more of them are successful.'

The University has performed well in every area of its activity, with particular success in environmental sciences – where the University is in the top 15 in the UK. Bangor gained more than a million pounds in large grants from the National Environmental Research Council in 2007-08, demonstrating real and recognised excellence.

Bangor also did well in health and health psychology and in the humanities, and has also been remarkably successful at gaining funding from charities and from European sources.

TOP 25

'WHEN THE RELATIVE SIZE OF UNIVERSITIES IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, BANGOR RISES ABOVE LARGER UNIVERSITIES – WHOSE SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THEIR SIZE – AND IS IN THE TOP 25 UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK.'

DO WE IDENTIFY WITH EUROPE?

Individuals who have experienced another European nation through a student exchange will be asked about their attachment to the idea of Europe by researchers from the **School of Social Sciences** as part of a seven country, three-year, EU Framework 7 research programme.

Farmers, transnational workers and other identified groups, as well as former students, will be asked for their experiences as European citizens. The Bangor team, led by Professor Howard Davis, is responsible for coordinating the research by all the partners on the biographical significance of educational experience in another European country. The results will help to explain how far educational mobility is realizing the goal of bringing lasting integration across European national borders.

The unique aspect of the research is the application of advanced methods of autobiographical narrative interviewing and analysis to gain insights from the 'bottom up' perspective of the individual. Individual narratives are ideal sources for understanding how people actively construct their identities and how they have evolved over their lifetime. The interviewees are deliberately selected from those who have had international experiences either through their education, careers and personal relationships or through the impact of European policies on their everyday life. The other Euroidentities partner institutions are Queen's University, Belfast (coordinator), the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn University of Technology, University of Magdeburg, Federico II' University, Naples and the University of Łódź.

For further information, see the project website at: www.euroidentities.org/

REMINISCING TO AID DEMENTIA SUFFERERS AND CARERS?

At a time of unprecedented growth in the number of people affected by dementia, the condition is now a major research focus at Bangor. Significant studies are taking place, aiming ultimately to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and those who care for them.

December 2007 saw the launch of a major new research project investigating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of 'reminiscence groups' for helping people with dementia and their carers. The groups, run by professionals and volunteers, use photographs, recordings and other objects to trigger personal memories, helping to maintain the autobiographical memory of people with dementia and improve their relationships with their carers. This £1.2 million project is commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research's Health Technology Assessment (NIHR HTA) programme, and is led by Professor Bob

Woods of the Institute of **Medical & Social Care Research (IMSCAR)** and the **School of Psychology**. Eight centres across England and Wales are participating, and nearly 200 people with dementia and their care-givers are already involved.

Professor Linda Clare, also of the School of Psychology, has ESRC and MRC funding to explore the awareness people with dementia have of what is happening to them and around them at different stages of the condition, and is completing the first ever UK trial of cognitive rehabilitation for people with dementia, funded by the Alzheimer's Society. Professor Woods and colleagues from IMSCAR are also evaluating a number of innovative psychosocial interventions for people with dementia and family care-givers, jointly with UCL and Hull University.





'PRAWF GEIRFA, THE FIRST EVER STANDARDISED RECEPTIVE VOCABULARY TEST FOR BILINGUAL CHILDREN WAS LAUNCHED IN JUNE 2008.'

BILINGUALISM RESEARCH FORGES AHEAD

Bangor's £5 million Economic and Social Research Council funded **Centre for Research on Bilingualism in Theory and Practice** has had considerable impact on the scientific and applied sphere during its first full academic year of operation. Research by staff at the Centre has appeared in prominent and respected journals, with one neuroscience paper among the top 20 most downloaded papers on the free access on-line science journal *PNAS* in July 2007. Researchers have also contributed to books and presented numerous papers, many at international conferences.

Prawf Geirfa, the first ever standardised receptive vocabulary test for bilingual children was launched in June 2008, providing the first standardised test for English-Welsh bilinguals of varying degrees and ages. Already proving an invaluable tool for educationalists, psychologists and others, an article due to be published, outlining the test's rationale and procedures is expected to provide a model for researchers worldwide.

During the year, new and exciting research grants have been awarded including one to Ineke Mennen, Chair in Bilingualism, for £95,747 to study the intonation system of adult immigrant workers living in western Europe and learning a new language, and a European Research Council grant of £750,000 spanning both the Centre and the **School of Psychology** to Professor Guillaume Thierry to study neurosemantics. Research has proceeded in neuroscience, experimental psycholinguistics, corpus-based, survey and ethnography and speech research projects.

Other objectives met during the year included developing training in bilingualism research in order to build the UK's strength in the field, developing strong links with practitioners and policy makers and extending collaboration between specialists in bilingualism.

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

The University's inaugural Innovation Market Place was held at **Technium CAST** in May 2008. Opened by the Vice Chancellor Professor Merfyn Jones, it launched this year's Gwynedd Business Week.

Attended by over 70 business people, the Innovation Market Place profiled the University's contribution to the development of the knowledge economy and its services to business. This showcase event took place appropriately, in one of the University's state of the art buildings for business – Technium CAST (Centre for Advanced Software Technology) on Parc Menai.

The theme 'Working globally, impacting locally' was highlighted as a key element to Bangor's approach to collaboration.

Presentations highlighted how flagship programmes such as the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP), GO Wales Graduate Placements and the groundbreaking Synnwyr Business/Business Sense Sustainability health checks were benefiting business.

There were also case study presentations from Gwynedd based companies, Cyfle, Aquacure Ltd., Calon Lân and ETL who have all undertaken successful projects with the University. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive and it is hoped to further develop the event in coming years.

As part of Bangor University's sponsorship of the Gwynedd Business Week, the **Management Centre** hosted the prestigious Gala Dinner. Addressing a packed audience, guest speaker Mr Mervyn Davies, Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank Plc and Chair of University Council praised the University for its contribution and commitment to developing the regional economy. The newly refurbished Management Centre is a visible example of that commitment, supported by Objective One West Wales and Valleys programme and Gwynedd County Council it is home to the University's executive and leadership training programmes as well as its business club and networking activities.

BANGOR ASSISTS IN FIRST 'VIRTUAL' CONCERT

The first professional orchestral concert in 'Second Life' represented one of the highlights of a highly successful Arts & Humanities Research Council funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (RLPO) and Bangor University's **School of Music**.

The performance, held in 'Second Life' – the virtual world where people can assume identities and 'live' a separate 'virtual life', took place in a computer-generated version of the orchestra's home with representations or avatars of the conductor, Vasily Petrenko and composer, Kenneth Hesketh. It illustrates how the RLPO has embraced new media technologies to broaden audiences and realise new commercial income streams.

The Orchestra now has a strong web presence, bringing it to younger audiences and offering alternative means of accessing and enjoying the Orchestra through multi-media clips and audio-downloads. A collaboration with *Classic FM* in podcast production also gave the ensemble nationwide coverage. These and other activities have increased traffic on the website and generated additional sales.

The project has led to further successful grant applications for the Orchestra including a second collaborative KTP project with the University's **School of Music & School of Creative Studies**.

'The Second Life Concert was one strand in a four stage new-media development project,' explains KTP Associate Victoria Grimbly.

'The KTP Programme has enabled us to develop this important aspect of the company's outreach work and has made resources and expertise available to us, which we otherwise would not have been able to access or resource,' explained Millicent Jones, Marketing, Communications and Fundraising Director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.



Photo © Mark McNulty



PRINCE MADOG AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Having turned to Michel Kaiser, Professor of Marine Conservation Ecology at the **School of Ocean Sciences** for advice and guidance in setting up a sustainable fish sourcing policy for their own-label brand, The Co-operative supermarket invited the School of Ocean Sciences to lend a hand in launching the new policy. This resulted in the University's Research Vessel, the *Prince Madog*, making a trip with a difference as ship, staff and guests sailed up the Thames to launch the new policy.

Professor Kaiser, an authority on sustainable fisheries, said: 'We were delighted to offer our knowledge and expertise and to support the event because of what the Co-op and others are doing to promote sustainable fishing practices.'

'The Co-op are investing money to encourage more fisheries to apply for certification from the Marine Stewardship Council, an organisation that sets the highest standards for qualification as a sustainable fishery.'

He believes that Co-op's policy would make a big difference to UK fishing.

'By taking this stance, the Co-op and other retailers have eliminated the markets for seafood caught using unsustainable fishing practices. Fishermen will be rewarded for landing fewer but better quality fish, and in the long-term this means healthier seas and fish stocks, and ultimately more fish that we can eat.'

Professor Sian Hope, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer and Enterprise said: 'This is a simple yet effective illustration of the way that making our expertise available to others can have immediate and important impacts on our daily lives.'

The Fine Arts BA graduates



'THE UNIQUE FINE ART DEGREE ENGAGES WITH A VERY BROAD RANGE OF ART INTERESTS ON THE BASIS THAT ARTISTS TODAY BENEFIT FROM EXPERTISE IN DIVERSE MEDIA.'





UNIVERSITY'S FIRST FINE ART DEGREE SHOW

A wide range of work was premiered at the University's first Fine Art BA Hons Degree Show. The Show was the pinnacle of six years of intensive study by part-time degree students, who studied the degree offered by the **College of Education and Lifelong Learning** at venues across north west Wales.

Sustainable individual creativity and the ethos of practice-led instruction led to seven successful students exhibiting at Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery, Bangor. They were among the largest ever cohort of part-time degree students to graduate from the University this summer.

The unique Fine Art degree engages with a very broad range of art interests on the basis that artists today benefit from expertise in diverse media. The programme creates the opportunity for students to develop their knowledge and understanding of fine art practice on an individual basis, developing personal creativity within a contemporary context. The key principle to the degree is sustainable individual practice and this is achieved by delivery at venues throughout north west Wales. The degree is completed by flexible part time study of six years and the rigorous programme at each level includes visiting artists, seminars and individual tuition underpinning practical studio activity.

Ifan Morgan Jones receives the Daniel Owen Prize at the National Eisteddfod



Manon Wyn Williams displays her Drama Medal at the Urdd Eisteddfod

'HERE'S PROOF, IF PROOF WERE NEEDED, THAT OUR MAs AND PhDs IN CREATIVE WRITING ARE A REAL INCUBATOR OF NEW WELSH NOVEL-WRITING TALENT!'

Professor Gerwyn Williams,
Head of the School of Welsh

STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO WALES' CULTURAL FABRIC!

Part-time Creative Writing MA student Ifan Morgan Jones was awarded the Daniel Owen Memorial Prize at the National Eisteddfod in August for his novel *Igam Ogam*.

The work was originally presented as part of his MA portfolio at the University's **School of Welsh**, where he was awarded a Distinction.

This is the third time in four years that one of the School's Creative Writing MA or PhD students has won this important award; the Eisteddfod's leading literary Award and one which any novelist would be pleased to win. In 2006, Creative Writing PhD student, Gwen Pritchard Jones won the prize for her historical novel, *Dygwyl Eneidiau*, and in 2005 MA student Sian Eirian Davies won with her novel, *I Fyd Sydd Well*.

Congratulating Ifan, Professor Gerwyn Williams, Head of the **School of Welsh** said: 'Here's proof, if proof were needed, that our MAs and PhDs in creative writing are a real incubator of new Welsh novel-writing talent!'

Earlier in the year, Manon Wyn Williams won the Urdd's Bryn Terfel Scholarship, having won one of the main acting competitions and the Drama Medal at the Urdd National Eisteddfod. She went on to gain a First Class Honours Degree in Welsh: Language and Literature in 2008.

‘THE PURPOSE OF THE ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAMME IS TO PROVIDE A MEANS FOR ALUMNI TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THEIR ALMA MATER...’



A St Mary's Alumni reunion in Llandudno

BANGOR'S ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Bangor University's alumni community, Alumni Bangor, was launched by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones in 2005. Former students of the University, University of Wales, Bangor, UCNW, Normal College and St. Mary's College are automatically members.

2006-7 saw the University reaching out to its local, national and international alumni community, with events held in Bangor, Cardiff, London, USA and China. The University continues to work in close partnership with the Alumni Advisory Board and with the local Old Students' Association and the London Bangorians.

The purpose of the alumni relations programme is to provide a means for alumni to keep in touch with each other and with their alma mater, to increase involvement in the life and progress of the University and to promote a strong, mutually supporting relationship between alumni and the University, including its current student body.

‘Bangor's alumni community is becoming increasingly far-flung. Our alumni have tremendous goodwill towards the University and are active ambassadors for Bangor’, said Rachel Davies, Alumni Relations Officer.

The University aims to ensure that its alumni relations programme not only supports the mission of the institution but that it also meets the needs of its alumni community.

The Vice-Chancellor meeting alumni in China, November 2007





www.bangor.ac.uk

