



ANNUAL REVIEW

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006-2007 2008 2009 2010 2011



University of Wales, Bangor



A word from the VICE-CHANCELLOR



Professor Merfyn Jones

November 2007

Once again I can report that this University has undergone major change during the last year - indeed this is the last year that I shall be addressing you as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Bangor - next year I will be proud to write an introduction to the first annual review of Bangor University.

Since we received the excellent report on degree awarding powers from the QAA last year, the Privy Council has formally granted us the necessary amendments to our Charter and we now have Taught and Research Degree Awarding Powers of our own. We received a further excellent report from the QAA in 2007 following an "institutional review".

I congratulate everyone at the University for their contribution towards this magnificent achievement. It has truly been a team effort which has highlighted all that is best about Bangor and its people - both staff and students.

I would also like to thank His Honour Eifion Roberts QC for his substantial contribution as Chair of Council over



the last ten years. On behalf of everyone at Bangor, I wish him well in his retirement and thank him for his wise counsel over the years.

Last year I mentioned the challenges involved in our estate, and since then we have made significant progress. The new Management Centre has been completed, and the excellent facilities provide a springboard for us to develop executive management education and training programmes, many of which have already begun.

The new Environment Centre Wales building has also been completed and the Orton building, which served the University for over 80 years, has been demolished. Another area of significant change has been the Ffriddoedd site, where Llys Tryfan and part of Plas Gwyn halls have been demolished and new halls are being constructed which will provide better quality accommodation for students arriving in 2008.

In relation to research, our performance has been at record-breaking levels, and I am delighted to announce that we have won over £20m in research grants.

I am confident that this will put us in a good position for the RAE, the results of which will be announced at the end of 2008. Top quality research informs our teaching, and students will benefit tremendously as a result of this excellent research performance.

I am also delighted to report that our financial position has strengthened further, and continued focus on this is vital if we are to succeed. As I mentioned last year, we face tough competition from other universities within the UK and internationally and the firm foundation of a sound financial position enables us to compete with the very best.

Bangor is also becoming more involved on an international level, and one example of this is our part in establishing the new British University in Kuwait. International partnerships are essential for Bangor and we are building strong collaborative links with universities in China, Malaysia and elsewhere.

We have achieved a great deal during the last year, and I feel sure we will continue to achieve beyond all expectation in the coming years.



Looking to the FUTURE



The new Environment Centre Wales.

Three new major units will be operating fully at Bangor University for the first time this year – Environment Centre Wales, the Centre for Research on Bilingualism, and the Management Centre. Together, this exciting investment totals £27m and represents a significant milestone in the development of research, teaching and learning at Bangor.

In addition, the Bangor-led 'Wales Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience' which also involves Cardiff and Swansea Universities and the centres established under the Research and Enterprise partnership with Aberystwyth are already breaking new ground and are establishing themselves as centres of real excellence.

Our drive to appoint new academics has been described as one of the most significant steps for Higher Education in Wales over recent years, and this will continue. There is no doubt that this investment will strengthen our position as a research University of international standing and also provide high quality teaching to our students.

In 2008, work will begin to develop a new centre for arts, learning and innovation which amongst other things

“Our drive to appoint new academics has been described as one of the most significant steps for Higher Education in Wales over recent years...”

...a series of major developments

will provide modern facilities to replace the Theatr Gwynedd building and include a new Students' Union. Much work is yet to be done, but there's already a lot of excitement surrounding it, and the University will be working with a wide variety of stakeholders to develop this concept in more detail during the next few months.

Students are of course at the centre of what we do, and the new £35m expansion and remodelling of the Ffriddoedd Residential site will continue, with new halls opening in September 2008.

The next few years will see the development and implementation of an ambitious new sports strategy for the University. As recreational sport is important to many of our students and staff, as well as to the local community, the University is keen to develop its sports facilities and increase the opportunities to participate in sporting activity.

Finally, many of you will be aware that 2009 will be the University's 125th anniversary, and plans are already underway for a series of events to commemorate this important occasion. We very much hope that you'll join us in the celebration.



“...2009 will be the University’s 125th anniversary, and plans are already underway for a series of events to commemorate this important occasion.”

Excellence in TEACHING



Yusi Liu



Yusi receives her award from BBC news reader Moira Stewart.

Wales International Student of the Year

Chinese student Yusi Liu's inspirational story of student life in Bangor has won her the **Wales International Student of the Year 2007**.

The 22 year old **Psychology** student was one of more than 2,000 students, representing 130 nationalities, to enter for the Award by writing a personal 'letter home' in English.

"I was delighted and very excited about receiving the Award at a glittering Dinner in London. I entered the competition because I have a colourful and enjoyable life in the UK, especially in Wales. I wanted to share my story because people here are so friendly and I have made lots of friends both local and international. Since arriving at Bangor, I've joined many clubs and societies, done volunteering work, attended various international events, been involved with the Rotary Club and had several part-time jobs. All of these have enriched my life at Bangor," said Yusi.

Alan Edwards, International Student Welfare Adviser said, "We are very pleased that Yusi has won this prestigious award. We encourage international students to participate as much as possible in University life and Yusi has taken part in a range of events".

New bursaries for students

Bangor has an enviable reputation for student care and support. The University was able to announce that a £2.5m package of **Bursaries and Scholarships** would be available to students entering the University in 2007.

Meanwhile, two hundred new first year students received a total of £365,000 in a Bursary Scheme introduced to offer extra financial support to students. Ranging from £1,000 - £3,000 in value, the bursaries were awarded to a wide range of applicants who demonstrated the "potential to succeed at Bangor".

Carys Roberts, Head of Student Recruitment said; "We wanted to reward, not simply the highest performing students, but a wide range of different students. We asked applicants to emphasize their own potential to succeed, highlighting academic and extra-curricular achievements, any community or voluntary involvement or describing any disadvantages they may have to overcome to get to university."

"I was delighted and very excited about receiving the Award at a glittering Dinner in London."

...top quality in educational experience and support

*HRH Prince Charles
with international
students during his
visit to the University*

English Attraction

English teachers from China have been travelling to Bangor in increasing numbers to improve their fluency and language teaching skills. Forty-eight teachers were attracted from across China to spend a month at the University's **English Language Centre for Overseas Students** (ELCOS) during the summer. They followed a professional certificated course, and studied English teaching, methodological skills and British culture and society as well as 'survival Welsh'. The course included cultural and study visits to Edinburgh and the Highlands, Oxford, Stratford and London.

This is only one of a number of increasingly popular English language and study skills courses run by ELCOS, which has a growing reputation at home and internationally. The Centre also taught a record number of pre-sessional students who went on to join full-time courses at the University. Through the whole year, the Centre teaches students from around 70 countries.

A distinct advantage of studying over the summer was that the students were present for the visit of HRH Prince Charles to the University. The Prince was keen to meet with the students after attending the Centenary Ceremony.



“The Centre also taught a record number of pre-sessional students who went on to join full-time courses at the University.”

Excellence in TEACHING



Students assess group contribution

Midwifery students are assessing their peers in an innovative project at the **School of Healthcare Sciences**. The students are presented with a problem-based learning group-project based on a public health issue. Traditionally they have been marked on the final presentation only. Innovatively, under the project, an element of the mark is provided by an anonymous peer assessor within each group.

"Communication and team work are two essential competences that midwives need to attain. It was felt that introducing peer assessment would

ensure that each group worked more efficiently. An internal peer assessor would encourage an equal effort from each member and ensure that input was more accurately assessed," explains Mary Longworth, Lecturer in Midwifery.

Peer assessment has been included as an element of the 18 month midwifery course and will be considered for inclusion at the next direct entry midwifery course review. In the meantime direct entry students are able to experience peer assessment as a valuable learning experience, though it does not currently feed through to final marks.

"With unbeatable student satisfaction rates, world-class expertise and a lively performance scene, there is no better place to be a music student."

Students say Bangor is best in UK for Music

It's official: Bangor University is the best place in the UK to take a degree in Music. Bangor's **School of Music** beat 43 other institutions – including specialist music colleges – to the top spot in the 2007 National Student Survey, scoring an unbeatable 100% for overall satisfaction.

"We strive to give our students the best possible education and overall experience. We are immensely pleased and proud that our efforts have been so obviously successful", said Professor Thomas Schmidt-Beste, Head of the School of Music.

The annual National Student Survey asks the UK's final-year students to assess the quality of 7 different aspects of their university experience. The School scored the highest marks in no fewer than 4 of these categories: assessment and feedback (87%), organisation and management (95%), personal development (92%), and 'overall satisfaction' (100%).

Bangor has topped the Music subject listing in this Survey twice in the last three years. With unbeatable student satisfaction rates, world-class expertise and a lively performance scene, there is no better place to be a music student.

...providing courses to meet the needs of students and employers

Scholarships highlight where graduates are needed

As part of its commitment to ensure a steady stream of graduates to meet employer needs in the region, the University has been able to offer exciting new scholarships during the last year. In conjunction with the **North Wales Police**, the University launched a new scholarship aimed specifically at attracting young people to follow a degree through the medium of Welsh and then consider a career with the police after graduating.

Four scholarships are awarded to the best students who have applied to follow a degree course in Welsh Medium Sociology and Social Policy or any other joint honours degree in Welsh Medium Sociology/Social Policy at the **School of Social Sciences**.

In a similar scheme, 12 bilingual students following environmental courses received **Environment Scholarships**, funded by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency. Each Scholarship



student also undertakes a placement with the sponsors or any other environmental body that support the scheme. These Scholarships are available to any bilingual student following an environment related first degree or post-graduate course, and studying an element of the course in Welsh. The aim of the Scholarship Scheme is to extend the number of Welsh speakers working in related professions.

The first recipients of the North Wales Police Scholarships were awarded their certificates by Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom at an event at the National Eisteddfod.

“...the University has been able to offer exciting new scholarships during the last year.”

Groundbreaking RESEARCH



The Irish Food Dudes with Ireland's Minister for Agriculture, Mary Coughlan TD, flanked by Professor Fergus Lowe and Dr Pauline Horne from Bangor University.

“The Food Dudes are a global solution for a global problem.”

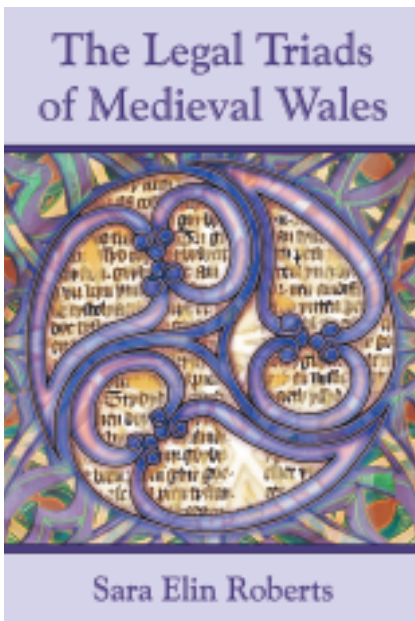
The Food Dudes go international

With obesity now the world's biggest chronic health problem, the arrival of the *Food Dudes* to help rescue the health of the world's children could not be more timely. This year the Irish Government took a major step towards preventing obesity in their country by making *The Food Dudes' Healthy Eating Programme* available to all primary schools in Ireland.

Developed in the **School of Psychology** by Professor Fergus Lowe and Dr Pauline Horne, and supported by over a decade of research, the *Food Dudes* is the only programme available anywhere in the world that has been shown to bring about large and long-lasting changes in children's diets. What makes it unique is its use of psychological principles to inspire children to enjoy eating fruit and vegetables.

International recognition of the Programme is growing. In December 2006, the Bangor team were given an award from the World Health Organisation in recognition of the Programme's contribution to counter-acting obesity. The award was presented by the European Commissioner for Health, Dr Marios Kyprianou, at a European Ministerial Conference in Istanbul. The *Food Dudes* are now becoming a central feature of the European Commission's strategies to change children's diets. Pilots of the programme are also currently being planned in England, Italy, Canada and South Africa.

...across disciplines



The Legal Triads of Medieval Wales

A groundbreaking book by Dr Sara Roberts of the **School of Welsh** won the prestigious Selden Society's David Yale Prize 2007 for a distinguished contribution to the history of the laws and legal institutions of England and Wales.

Medieval Wales had a separate system of law to that found in England, and the law has been preserved in several medieval manuscripts. Whilst the purpose of the law manuscripts was to lay down the legal complexities of the era, what has been preserved can also be read as fascinating literature in medieval Welsh. An important element of the law manuscripts is the large collections of legal triads (lists of threes), probably composed for educational, mnemonic purposes, which offer a real insight into the workings of medieval Welsh law.

The Legal Triads of Medieval Wales is an exciting new study and the first full exploration of the legal triads - the largest collections of triads found in Welsh - covering almost every aspect of medieval Welsh law. Each triad is set in its literary and legal context, with a full edited text, translation and notes for each triad found in the law manuscripts. This book will be a useful starting point for studying medieval Welsh law, as well as providing further insight into the area for specialist readers.

“The quality of research at Bangor has improved even further and this is reflected in the sums awarded to the University...”

Record breaking grants won

Bangor University won a record breaking total of over £20m in research grants during the year.

An analysis by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* of grants awarded to universities places Bangor 45th according to the number of most prestigious Research Council grants awarded to universities. Research Councils are the bodies which fund university research.

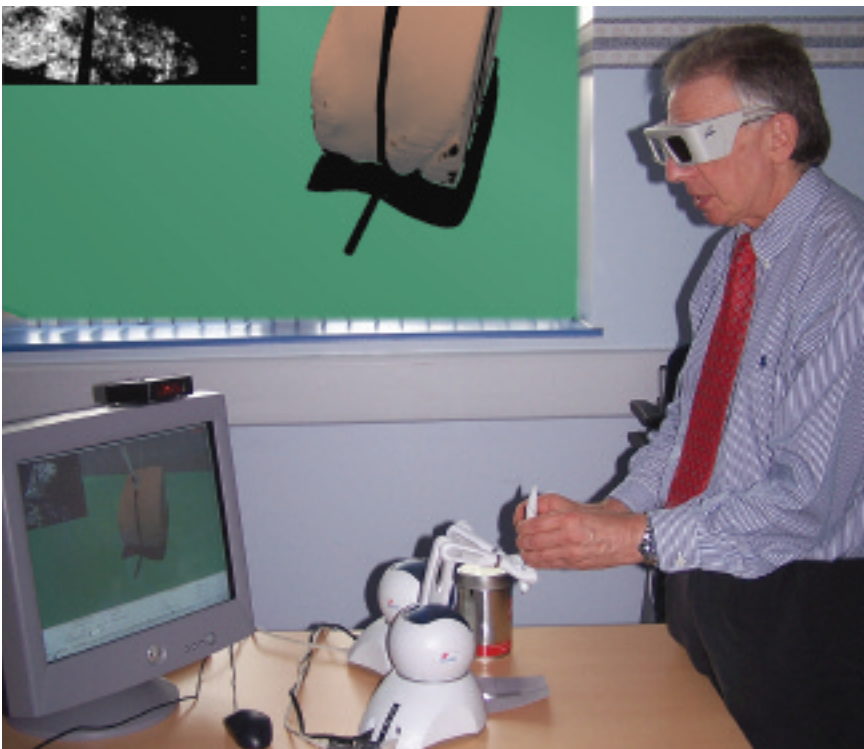
For an institution such as Bangor, this is a notable result and places the University ahead of many larger and more well-known universities; in fact Bangor is 24th for the number of awards per member of staff.

A further analysis (*Research Fortnight*) illustrates Bangor's excellent success rate in winning research grant applications. Bangor leads Welsh higher education institutions according to the success rate of applications.

“The competition to win Research Council grants is extremely stiff and grants are highly sought after,” explains Professor John Farrar, Pro Vice Chancellor at Bangor University. “The quality of research at Bangor has improved even further and this is reflected in the sums awarded to the University for research that will have national and international relevance across a wide range of disciplines. Bangor's research also benefits the region.”

Groundbreaking RESEARCH

A consultant interventional radiologist is training on BIGNePSi using haptic feedback and 3D glasses.



Virtual Reality comes to the aid of medicine

Leading one area of highly specialised research is Professor Nigel John of the **School of Computer Science**. His **High Performance Visual & Medical Graphics Research Group** has won funding from the Department of Health and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to develop physics-based simulation of interventional radiology procedures - a

medical speciality where doctors use imaging technologies to diagnose blockages in arteries and also treat them with balloons, stents, and catheter delivered medications. These projects are enabling the research team to extend the Bangor Image Guided Needle Puncture Simulator (BIGNePSi). The Group is currently improving the fidelity of the simulator by introducing soft tissue deformation and modelling effects such as respiration and blood flow.

£5m Bilingual Research Centre at Bangor University

A major new £5m research centre for the study of bilingualism is to be created at the University, bringing together some of the greatest experts in bilingualism from across the world.

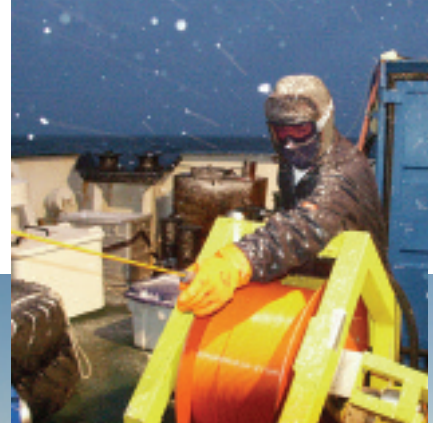
Academics from the **Schools of Linguistics, Psychology and Education** will be involved in the five year research project to examine the relationship between the two languages of bilingual speakers in bilingual communities both within the UK and internationally.

Professor Deuchar, who will lead the Economic & Social Research Council-funded Centre said: "This is a major development that will no doubt influence the public perception of bilingualism and the formulation of

"This puts Wales and Bangor University at the forefront of international research on bilingualism."

...in a world-class research University

Scientist Ben Powell deploys instruments aboard the research vessel in the snow.



Melting sea ice seen during the summer Arctic research cruise.



language and educational policy not only in Wales but worldwide.

The Centre will carry out studies on theoretical issues such as bilinguals' linguistic knowledge of their two languages and any potential interactions between those languages, the neurological basis of bilingualism, language development in bilinguals, and cognitive benefits of bilingualism throughout the lifespan."

"This puts Wales and Bangor University at the forefront of international research on bilingualism. Wales is regarded as a world-wide leader in language planning and bilingual education. This Centre celebrates that leadership and will ensure that Wales will continue to innovate and enhance bilingual policy and practice both nationally and internationally," said Centre Co-director, Professor Colin Baker.



Bangor and International Polar Year

International Polar Year 2007-08 addresses the urgent need for clearer understanding of our future climate. Bangor's scientists will be among the 50,000 scientists, students and support staff from over 60 nations, involved in more than 200 Arctic and Antarctic projects designed to shed new light on the impact that the polar regions will have on the global climate system and the consequences for humanity.

Dr Nia Whiteley, of the **School of Biological Sciences** will be spending the International Polar Year determining whether amphipods found in Antarctica; small shrimp-like crustaceans that are at the bottom of the food web, are under threat from global warming. Samples she

collected from above the Arctic Circle in June will be compared to species collected from Scotland, Wales and Portugal. Her interest is in finding out how these important and abundant creatures will adapt to climate change.

Scientists from the **School of Ocean Sciences** are also contributing; taking part in a research cruise to the Arctic Ocean with the aim of understanding more about the role freshwater in the Arctic Ocean plays in determining our climate. Also part of IPY, the research was funded by the **Natural Environmental Research Council**.

The Arctic Ocean plays a major role in determining our climate through its influence on ocean currents such as the Gulf Stream.

Playing our part in the COMMUNITY

Participants at the 10th Anniversary of the part-time Degree course, with guest speaker, Simon Weston OBE.



A night to remember for Lifelong Learners

The **School of Lifelong Learning** held a special reunion in July to mark the 10th anniversary of the first intake of the University's part-time BA Social Studies degree. The reunion was attended by a large number of previous and current students, family and friends, and was followed by an *Audience with Simon Weston OBE*, former Welsh Guardsman, chaired by the BBC Newyddion's Dewi Llwyd.

One of the degree's core modules, *War, Society and the Media* examines the nature and impact of warfare in the twentieth century. As Simon had been mentioned in students' work, he was a natural choice of speaker. Simon turned out to be an inspirational choice; his experiences during the Falklands and his observations on other military

engagements were fascinating and relevant to students' academic interests, as were his personal charisma and genuine interest in lifelong learning.

The Social Studies degree was the first part-time degree course offered by the University. In the meantime, the University has extended the range of courses available. Courses currently include **Diplomas** and **BA Degrees** in Literature with Creative Writing, Combined Studies, Fine Art, and **Foundation Degrees** (FdA) in Community Development, and the Management of Care. All courses are designed to be flexible in format, and are particularly designed to meet the needs of part-time students, most of whom are also working full-time.

"All courses are designed to be flexible in format, and are particularly designed to meet the needs of part-time students..."

A taster for University life

Over forty Year 12 pupils from 10 schools across North Wales got a taste of higher education during a 3 day residential Summer School at the University.

Funded by *Reaching Higher Reaching Wider*, the Summer School was aimed at sixth form pupils who are unsure about going to University or who come from a family with no tradition of higher education. It targeted young people from Communities First and bilingual communities, to give them a positive experience of higher education and raise their awareness of the opportunities available to them.

The pupils sampled life as a student at Bangor, staying in the University's Halls of Residence. Rhian Heath from Ysgol Maes Garmon explains: "We had tours around the Students' Union, examples of lectures, talks on student life and finance and social activities like go-carting and ten pin bowling in the evenings. It was a real taste of student life. I realised how different high school is from university and how much I'm looking forward to it."

Stephen Howsam, 17, from Rhyl High School also found the experience very rewarding. He said, "This scheme is great. I got a better insight into university life and now looking forward to my future studies."

...active participation in the region

Some of the revellers at SVB's successful Moulin Rouge fundraiser

Bangor's Moulin Rouge

Bangor Students' Union Academi was transformed into the 'Moulin Rouge' by people wearing top hats, corsets and feather boas for a successful Student Volunteering Masquerade Party which raised £1,100 for local community projects.

Andrew Wilson, Manager of **Student Volunteering Bangor** (SVB), said, "The aim of the evening was to raise money for our projects, including Splodge that works with children in Maesgeirchen, and the Christmas Tea Party for over a hundred local pensioners where we provide food and entertainment."

SVB is a student led organisation based in the Students' Union with 100 active student volunteers. Andrew added, "We help students to lead their own community-based volunteering projects - projects that have a significant positive impact on communities in North Wales, and provide student volunteers with useful skills and experience."

SVB also organised the February Student Volunteering Week which, as well as the normal activities, included a Sports Day for Local Children, a Beach Clean and an Easter Tea Party for Local Pensioners.

"We help students to lead their own, community based, volunteering projects..."



Management Centre development reaches completion

The newly opened **Management Centre** is an exciting new £14m executive teaching and learning facility which is set to become a flagship for North Wales and beyond.

Experienced businessman Dr Colyn Gardner was appointed Chief Executive in September. Colyn has a banking background and is no stranger to the training and development market, having pursued a career growing, acquiring and floating financial training businesses.

The Management Centre's portfolio includes short courses in a whole range of management skills and degree-awarding postgraduate education

programmes. These include an executive MBA aimed at budding local middle to senior managers, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) professional examinations, together with short courses in leadership, coaching, marketing and finance aimed at a local market.

The Management Centre is an exciting venue with a wide range of teaching and meeting rooms, complete with audio visual and information technology, as well as overnight accommodation and catering facilities, all set in a location that is second to none.

Playing our part in the COMMUNITY

Dr Robyn Wheldon-Williams demonstrates something which should not be attempted at home during the 'Sioe Gemeg' at the National Eisteddfod.

Bringing kids and Chemistry together

Robyn Wheldon-Williams' explosive **Sioe Gemeg** (Chemistry Show) brings chemistry's spectacle to children and young people in Wales. The Show's exploding vegetables and rockets shooting skywards all prove that science is fun. "But believe it or not, there's a lot of information being presented as well!" says Robyn Wheldon-Williams.

Robyn, a teacher, has been on a day a week secondment at the **School of Chemistry** since September 2006 as part of the School's drive to recruit students. The School's campaign to promote Welsh-medium chemistry also continues apace. The first bilingual Chemical Secrets course for Years 12/13 has taken place. An online GCSE Chemistry resource was launched with the support of *Hands on Science* and *Reaching Higher Reaching Wider*, as well as a revision booklet for the Chemistry Easter School - a course for year 10 pupils - with another for year 11 pupils to be launched next year.



The year's highlight was the launch, in conjunction with *The Royal Society*, of a Welsh language DVD '*Gronynnau Mewn Mudiant*' (Particles in Motion) which has been distributed free to Welsh schools.

As a result of the successful year at the School of Chemistry and drawing on the experiences of **Sioe Gemeg**, Robyn is now responsible for the Science & Technology pavilion at the National Eisteddfod, in partnership with the University.

"The Show's exploding vegetables and rockets shooting skywards all prove that science is fun."

...ensuring access to expertise

Being congratulated by The Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MBE, are (l-r) Dr Richard Edwards from the School of Computer Science; Bryn Jones, University Innovation Bangor; Wendy Wedmore and Associate Edmond Yau of Vision Support Trading Ltd.

University wins business 'Oscars'

Bangor University has been recognised as one of the best in the UK for fostering successful partnerships with business.

The **Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MBE**, Minister for Industry and the Regions, awarded Vision Support Trading Ltd and Bangor University the top prize at the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Awards 07: Best KTP in the UK.

The University's partnership with Lane4 Management Ltd was also one of five award winning partnerships in England. The Minister congratulated all involved and praised the partnership for all it had achieved. In all, Bangor received two of the nine awards presented.

The event celebrated the achievements of programmes that have helped businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through better use of knowledge, technology and skills within the UK's universities and colleges.

University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones said: "This highlights the quality of the research done by our academics and its relevance to the world of business. We have developed an enviable reputation for knowledge transfer activities and place great emphasis on working in partnership with business".



Also being congratulated by the Minister are (l-r) Bryn Jones, University Innovation Bangor; Adrian Moorehouse, Lane4 Management; Professor Lew Hardy, School of Sport, Health & Exercise Sciences and Mark Gittins, KTP Associate.

"This highlights the quality of the research done by our academics and its relevance to the world of business."

Highlights from 2006-2007



Philip Pullman

Elizabeth Carver, of the **School of Healthcare Sciences**, received the Society and College of Radiographers "Radiographer of the Year for Wales" award, sponsored by Fuji. Elizabeth was nominated for her services to education, training and promotion of an evidence-based approach in the profession.

Award-winning author and Honorary Fellow, Philip Pullman, delivered a **Public Lecture**. The 'Whitbread Book of the Year' winner discussed "Strangeness & Charm - the fundamental particles of narrative" to a packed Lecture Theatre.



Mercedes Peón

Mercedes Peón, one of Galicia's most celebrated singers, discussed her music and performance to mark the launch of Wales' only Centre for Galician Studies at the **School of Modern Languages**. The Galician government are partners in the Centre for Galician Studies in Wales, which will promote the academic study of Galician language and culture.



Dr Abdul Aziz Sayed Ali from the British University in Kuwait and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones.

In-depth research by Professor Huw Pryce of the **School of History, Welsh History & Archaeology** inspired *Tywysogion* (Princes), a major documentary television series revealing the medieval princes of Wales as leaders who played a part on the European political stage. Professor Pryce scripted the television series and wrote the accompanying book.

Professor Tony Brown, of the **School of English** was short-listed for the prestigious Roland Mathias Prize, sponsored by BBC Wales. The prize - for Welsh writing in English - is awarded every two years for a work published in the field of poetry, short stories, literary criticism or Welsh history. Professor Brown had been short-listed for his study of the poet R.S. Thomas, for the University of Wales Press. Tony Brown is co-director of the University's **R.S. Thomas Study Centre**.

It was announced that the first British University to be formed in Kuwait is being established with the help of staff and academics from Bangor University. The **Bangor Business School** will be the lead academic group within this initiative. The 'British University in Kuwait' is a private institution offering degrees mainly in the areas of business and management and will open for degree courses in 2008.

Dr Abdul Aziz Sayed Ali from the British University in Kuwait and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Merfyn Jones, signed the agreement on behalf of the University.

The Right Honourable Lord Falconer QC, The Lord Chancellor, with Founding Professor of Law, Thomas Watkin, University Vice-President, Mrs Betty Williams MP and University Registrar, Dr David Roberts.



The Right Honourable Lord Falconer QC, Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and head of the judiciary system, visited the University to present the **Lord Morris Memorial Lecture**. The lecture, presented by such a prestigious speaker, was viewed as a significant boost to the rapid development of the University's new **Law School**.

First Minister, Rhodri Morgan outlined his vision of Wales in the year 2020 in a speech to the **University's Court**. Vice-Chancellor Professor Merfyn Jones said: "This is a time of change and challenge for higher education, and it's important that Universities take account of the political and policy context in which we operate. We are therefore delighted that the First Minister has decided to come to Bangor University to outline how he would like to see Wales in 2020."

A study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States* (PNAS) described how air pollution worsens global warming, with particular regard to the role of peat bogs in storing CO₂. The report was authored by Professor Chris Freeman of the **School of Biological Sciences**, and a network of scientists led by him.

The North Wales Organisation for Randomised Trials in Health and Social Care (NORTH) was launched as part of the **Institute for Social Medical & Care Research**, having been funded by the Wales Office for Research & Development in Health and Social Care for three years in the first instance. The Centre will increase the quality and quantity of evidence available to guide those responsible for deciding which services and treatments to provide.



Left-right: Professor Ian Russell, Professor of Public Health & Director of NORTH; Mr John Williams, Director of Wales Office for Research and Development for Health & Social Care; Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Farrar and Professor Tim Maughan, Director of Clinical Research Collaboration Cymru- Co-ordinating Centre.

First Minister Rhodri Morgan AM addresses the University's Court



Stewart Laing

Sports Science graduate and Doctorate student Stewart Laing left Bangor to take up a new career with the British Olympic Association's Olympic Medical Institute. Stewart has been appointed as a sports scientist with the Winter Olympic Team - working towards winning medals at the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010. He becomes the third Bangor graduate to have been recruited by the British Olympic Association in recent years.

"...a significant boost to the rapid development of the University's new Law School."



Ten individuals received **Honorary Fellowships** during the University's Degree Ceremonies this year. Honorary Fellowships are the highest honour that the University can bestow and are awarded to people who have links with Wales or the University who have made a significant mark in their chosen field:

- 1 Dr. Edward John James Davies OBE
- 2 Owain Arwel Hughes OBE
- 3 Siân James
- 4 Dr. Owen T. Jones
- 5 Dr. David Prichard
- 6 David Richards CBE
- 7 Professor Stefan Rahmstorf
- 8 Professor Emeritus J. Gwynn Williams, CBE
- 9 Iolo Williams
- 10 Rhys Ifans

