

ANNUAL REVIEW 2014-2015

BUILDING ON SUCCESS



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CONTENTS

3 AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

4-9 HIGHLIGHTS OF 14/15

10-13 RESEARCH

World-leading research
Early Christian Irish and Scots 'first-footers' in Iceland
Teachers' toolbox tested
Exercise to remain healthy
Wildlife decline may lead to 'empty landscape'
Life-saving rapid TB testing

14-15 TEACHING AND LEARNING

Very satisfied students
Accreditation to award HEA Fellowships
New moot court at Bangor

16-17 INTERNATIONALISATION

First RITS-Bangor MBA cohort graduate
International partnerships
South-east Asian collaboration

18-19 WELSH MEDIUM

hAPPy to learn Welsh!
Making a difference in Welsh language healthcare
Welsh jobs fair

20-24 COMMUNITY

Landmark partnership deal
Ugly Foods pop-up shop a success
Science park developments
Pontio begins to open
Lend me your ears
Community volunteering opportunity

GOVERNANCE

The Council, which is the governing body of the University, met on four occasions in 2014/15 and is chaired by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM. The Deputy Chairs of the Council are Sir Peter Davis and Mr David Williams. 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 Mr Geraint Jones, which both met on five occasions. Other Council committees which met during the year include the Nominations & Governance Committee, Ethics Committee, Bilingualism Committee and the Health & Safety Committee.

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

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AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The year under review was one in which Bangor University made substantial progress in establishing our position in the top tier of universities in Wales, and indeed internationally.

Most notably, for the second year running, Bangor topped the National Student Survey in Wales and is placed joint seventh among the UK's non-specialist universities. Six of our Schools were ranked 1st in the UK, and we rank in the top 10 in the UK in 19 subject areas. This is a remarkable vote of confidence in the university by our students, and reflects the excellent standards of teaching and facilities available at Bangor.

A wide range of other measures also confirm Bangor University's strong standing within higher education in the UK. These include the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey which ranked Bangor 14th in the UK, and the Times Higher Education Best Graduates Survey which placed Bangor in the top 40 in the UK. Our research strengths were also recognised in the Research Excellence Framework which positioned Bangor University in 39th position in the UK excluding specialist universities. Overall, more than three quarters of the research output submitted by the University was ranked as world-leading or internationally excellent.

Our on-going capital investment programme was considerably advanced during 2014/15. Significant progress was achieved during the year on our high quality student accommodation project at St Mary's which opened at the start of the 2015/16 year. The University also succeeded in overcoming lengthy delays that were experienced with the contractor on our flagship Pontio project and we now have a wonderful facility which will make an enormous contribution to the educational, social and cultural life of our students and of our region. Significant progress was also achieved in the planning of our new Science Park on Anglesey, which has been supported by funding from both the Welsh Government and the European Union. Planning also commenced on a project to redesign, modernise and expand the science facilities on our campus in the centre of Bangor.

The University entered into formal

agreements with major businesses in the region during 2014/15. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with both Horizon Nuclear Power at Wylfa and with Siemens Diagnostic Healthcare at Llanberis, underlining the relevance of our University to major employers in the region and reflecting the professional approach that we are adopting to managing these important relationships. We also continued to work closely with small and medium sized businesses in our region; under the KESS 1 project which concluded in 2015, Bangor University worked with 163 clients across a range of business sectors, and we look forward to leading an expanded KESS 2 programme commencing immediately.

The University's new strategic plan for the period 2015-2020 was adopted during the year. This plan sets out a strategic direction for Bangor University as a confident and successful University, which is able to think differently to identify challenges, risks and opportunities.

Our financial position continued to improve during 2014/15. We reported an operating surplus of £1.3m reflecting the significant progress made in areas of cost management and operational efficiency. Strong student recruitment in both home and International markets also made a big contribution to the improvement in our financial position.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to members of the Council and to colleagues throughout the University for their support and contribution to what was a very successful year for Bangor University.

PROFESSOR JOHN G HUGHES
VICE-CHANCELLOR





HIGHLIGHTS

Several individuals attended the University Degree ceremonies to receive honorary fellowships. They were: **Gruff Rhys**, rock musician and Super Furry Animals member; **Huw Stephens**, Radio 1 DJ; **Lowri Evans**, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries for the European Commission; **Jeremy Howell**, Bangor graduate and a professor at the University of San Francisco; **Dr David Roberts**, former Bangor University Registrar and Secretary; **Bernard Taylor CBE**, Bangor graduate and current Chairman of Cambridge Laboratories Ltd; **Myrddin ap Dafydd**, founder of Gwasg Carreg Gwalch; **Meirion Prys Jones**, chair of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity and former chief executive of the Welsh Language Board; **Nicholas Snowman OBE**, chair of Wartski, a famed London-based jewellers and **Shireen Chambers**, Bangor graduate and Executive and Technical Director of Institute of Chartered Foresters.

- 1 Gruff Rhys
- 2 Huw Stephens
- 3 Lowri Evans
- 4 Jeremy Howell
- 5 Dr David Roberts
- 6 Bernard Taylor CBE
- 7 Myrddin ap Dafydd
- 8 Nicholas Snowman OBE
- 9 Shireen Chambers
- 10 Meirion Prys Jones

The *Fish and Fisheries* journal which is jointly edited by Professor Gary Carvalho of the **School of Biological Sciences** has been ranked number one in its field. An essential resource for all of those interested in the biology, conservation and exploitation of fish, recorded an outstanding Impact Factor of 8.755, which is twice the impact factor of the nearest journal.

Dr Yvonne McDermott Rees, a Lecturer at the **School of Law**, was appointed to a prestigious three-year role as an Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. She is one of only four leading academics to be selected by the Society, one of the four barrister Inns of Court of England and Wales. The Inns of Court hold the exclusive right to call candidates to practice at the Bar of England and Wales.

10 New Coleg Cymraeg Lecturers (l-r):
Manon Wyn Williams, Gerwyn Owen, Owain
Wyn Jones and Eleri Jones.



11 The four successful physiotherapists:
Maddy Nicholson, Cathy Wynne, Rob Caine and
Ann Harpum.



For the fourth consecutive year, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol appointed individuals to work in various areas at Bangor University in order to increase the Welsh medium provision. The new staff were Eleri Jones, **School of Sports Health & Exercise Sciences**; Owain Wyn Jones, **School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology**; Gerwyn Owen, **School of Creative Studies and Media** and Manon Wyn Williams, **School of Welsh**.

Dr Charles Buckley of the **School of Education** was recognised as a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in recognition of his contributions to the development of learning and teaching.

Four physiotherapists working for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board have become the first among their profession in Wales to become prescribing physiotherapists following a conversion course taught and assessed by the **School of Healthcare Sciences**.

Internationally renowned researcher and public health advisor Professor Mark Bellis was awarded an Honorary Chair in recognition of his achievements in several areas of public health including violence prevention, alcohol, drugs and sexual health. He will be lecturing and contributing to research at the **College of Health & Behavioural Sciences**.



Sir Dave Brailsford officially opened **Canolfan Brailsford**, the newly refurbished Bangor University Sports Centre, renamed in the successful cycling manager's honour. This follows an investment of £2.5 million and a year-long remodelling project.

Bangor University and Horizon Nuclear Power, which is owned by leading global electronics company Hitachi, Ltd, signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding which will enable both organisations to collaborate and work more closely together in future years. This is Horizon Nuclear Power's first Memorandum of Understanding with a Welsh University to work together in respect of their Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station new-build proposal in north Wales.

Sports science student, Joshua Brewer-Smith, was selected to lead the UK's finest student white-water kayakers in the 2015 British Universities Kayak Expedition, an extended trip to Madagascar to discover new stretches of world-class waters yet to be navigated. The team will then record and publish their findings to aid future kayaking and rafting endeavors.

Professor Gary Carvalho of the **School of Biological Sciences** was appointed Chair of a Working Group for The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). He is to Chair the Working Group on Application of Genetics in Fisheries and Mariculture (WGAGFM) for 3 years from 1 January 2015.

Professor Ludmila Kuncheva FIAPR FLSW, **School of Computer Science**, Professor Rhiannon Tudor Edwards FLSW, Professor of Health Economics and Co-director of the **Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation**, Professor Helen Wilcox FEA FRSA FRSL FLSW, **School of English Literature** and Professor Angharad Price FLSW, **School of Welsh** were all elected to Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales. Also elected a fellowship was Professor Bridget Emmett FSB FLSW, Science Area Lead for Soil, Section Head and Head of Site, NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology which is in a partnership with the University's **School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography** as part of Environment Centre Wales.

1 Sir Dave Brailsford (right) with Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, at the official opening of Canolfan Brailsford following its refurbishment.



2 Jane Wright with her Queen's Nurse Award.



3 The expedition team at base camp.

Jane Wright, a lecturer at the **School of Healthcare Sciences**, received the 'Queen's Nurse' Award in recognition of her role in education, the community nursing workforce and the community nurses of the future.

HRH The Princess Royal visited the Henfaes Research station, Abergwyngregyn in February. The Princess Royal was shown examples of the types of vital research conducted by the **School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography**, who manage Henfaes. She also heard about the University's crucial work in helping farmers restore damaged agricultural land after extreme climate events, such as the Somerset Levels flooding.

Academics from the **School of Sport, Health & Exercise Science** led an expedition to the Himalayas as part of a research project to investigate altitude related illness. The expedition, organised by Medical Expeditions, followed a trekking route around the 8000m mountain Manaslu, reaching base camp at 5000m where the team set up solar and wind powered laboratories to investigate six research projects. These include 'the sources of stress and associated coping strategies when working at altitude' and 'testing the relationship between fitness and expedition success: is being fitter associated with less illness, more enjoyment and better performance?'

The **School of Law's** Institute for Competition & Procurement Studies with the support of the Welsh Government organised The Welsh National Procurement Awards 2015 at Cardiff's City Hall. The Awards celebrate achievements in Wales, in Public Procurement, Public Service Delivery and Tendering. The Awards marked the end of Procurement Week, a five-day international procurement conference, which is now one of the most extensive procurement conferences in the UK.



2 Osian Huw Williams, winner of the Musicians' Medal at the National Eisteddfod of Wales.



3 Ffion Haf Williams, winner of the Drama Medal at the Urdd National Eisteddfod.

Osian Huw Williams, a master's student at the **School of Music** won the Musician's Medal at the National Eisteddfod of Wales. The Medal was presented by Urdd Cerddoriaeth Cymru, with a financial prize of £750 and a £2,000 scholarship to further the winner's composing career.

Bangor, Swansea and Cardiff Universities won £2,249,927 funding from Health and Care Research Wales to lead the National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research, an all Wales Research Centre. Led at Bangor by Professor Jane Noyes from the **School of Social Sciences** in association with Professor Ronan Lyons, the Centre will coordinate population health research for the first time in Wales.

The University's **Library and Archives Service** received the Outstanding Library Team Award, presented at the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards 2015, along with other Welsh partners in the Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum (WHELF). WHELF comprises the National Library of Wales, all the Welsh universities, the Welsh NHS Libraries, the Open University in Wales and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

School of Welsh graduate, Ffion Haf Williams, won the Drama Medal at the Caerphilly and District Urdd National Eisteddfod for a play that she wrote during her third year at Bangor as part of her Scripting module.

Bangor University scientists have been awarded 5 of the 8 Research Clusters funded through the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon, Energy and Environment. Over the next four years, the University will receive £1.42M research income. The research topics cover a broad range: Multifunctional land-use and sustainable agriculture, to marine renewable energy, saltmarsh conservation and coastal resilience and the interactions between plant design and architecture. The Clusters are collaborations between research groups at Bangor, Aberystwyth, Swansea and Cardiff Universities, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology based at Bangor, and several other UK and international partners.

RESEARCH

WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH

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

Research in the Schools of Sport, Health and Exercise Science; Modern Languages and Cultures; Welsh; Education; Linguistics and English Language; Psychology; Healthcare Sciences; Medical Sciences; Social Sciences; Ocean Sciences; Biological Sciences and

Environment, Natural Resources and Geography have all been ranked in the top 20 in the UK.

Bangor University's reputation as a world leading research university is further emphasised by:

Bangor ranked 39th in the UK (excluding specialist institutions and single-submission universities).

Eight of our 14 submissions achieved a GPA score (which is a measure of research quality) in excess of 3.0 out of a maximum score of 4.0.

Professor David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, responsible for research said: "This is an excellent performance by Bangor, and I am particularly pleased with the major impact that our research is having around the world. From the major contribution we make to improving healthcare and wellbeing, bilingualism, and protecting the environment, it is clear that the research carried out by Bangor academics is having a major economic impact as well as on the lives of people around the world.

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



EARLY CHRISTIAN IRISH AND SCOTS

'FIRST-FOOTERS' IN ICELAND

The Icelandic people have long held that their forbearers, the island's first inhabitants, were Vikings. However, new archaeological discoveries related to artificial caves at Seljaland in southern Iceland have revealed that human activity predates early Viking settlements by almost a century.

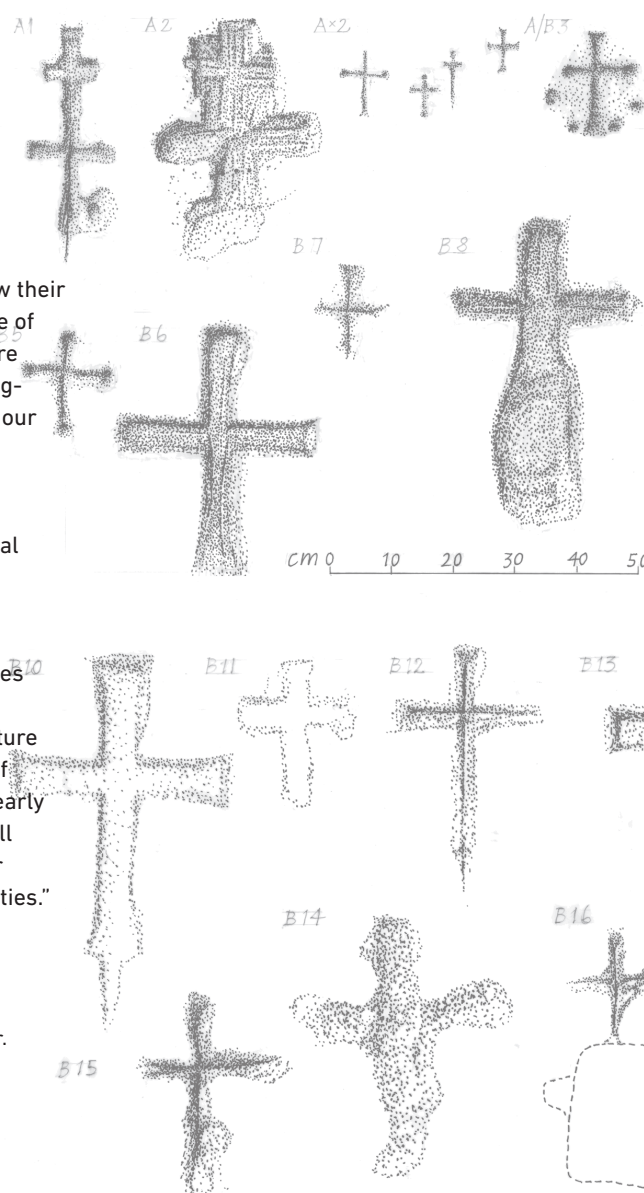
Dr Kristján Ahronson from the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology, challenged the accepted history in his latest [book](#). Dr Ahronson accurately dated construction of one of these caves by analysing layers of volcanic airfall. Furthermore, he discovered that cross carvings inside the Seljaland caves bear striking stylistic similarities to those found in the northern and western fringes of Britain and Ireland.

Dr Ahronson explains: "The history of early Celtic 'saints' and their role in spreading Christianity along the western seaboard as they sought seclusion is well-established. We have now demonstrated that they could have travelled as far as Iceland in their quest

for the wild places in which to follow their religious life. Certainly, the presence of such communities in Iceland – before the well-established arrival of Viking-Age Scandinavians – would explain our discoveries at Seljaland.

"The caves at Seljaland are among approximately 200 surviving artificial cave sites in southern Iceland. We recorded over 100 simple crosses and 24 more elaborately carved or sculpted examples there. The crosses bear a range of striking stylistic similarities to early medieval sculpture in the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland, such as at the important early medieval monastery of Iona in Argyll as well as more extreme locales for Scotland's early Christian communities."

Illustrations of crosses from Seljalandshellar and Kverkarhellir.
Drawn by Ian G Scott
© Kristján Ahronson



TEACHERS' TOOLBOX TESTED

A teacher-training programme, aimed at preventing the early development of children's antisocial behaviour and increasing young children's social-emotional competence, is being rolled out and tested in a four-year study in Jamaica's capital, Kingston.

The 'Irie classroom Toolbox' trains teachers in the use of key behaviour management strategies that are relevant, easy to use, effective and flexible. It will be used with over 6,000 children aged 3 to 6 years in 76 preschools over the course of the study.

The research is led by Dr Helen Henningham at the School of Psychology, in collaboration with the Tropical Medicine Research Institute at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. The intervention has been specifically designed to be scalable, low cost and suitable for use in low resource settings.

Dr Henningham explains: "Violence is a major public health problem worldwide. Preventative interventions in early childhood are important components in tackling the problem. Our early work has shown that Jamaican pre-school teachers trained to use evidence-based child behaviour

management strategies provide a more emotionally supportive classroom environment and use less corporal punishment. This translates to reductions in high-risk children's conduct problems and increases in their social skills at school and at home. Large improvements were also obtained to class-wide child behaviour including fewer aggressive and disruptive behaviours and increased interest and enthusiasm in learning activities."

The study, totalling £1,354,703, is funded by the Medical Research Council, The Wellcome Trust and the UK Department for International Development.

Left: A teacher coaching 3 year-old children in friendship skills as they play with blocks.

EXERCISE TO REMAIN HEALTHY

Marathon and endurance races are increasingly popular, as is a new thirst for intense exercise, such as in 'spike' or 'buzz' intensity training methods and classes. But which will do the least damage to your immune system?

Research by Professor Neil Walsh and his team at the School of Sport, Health and Exercise Science challenges the current thinking that longer, less strenuous workouts are less harmful to the immune system. Their new findings show that half-an-hour of very intense exercise does not affect the immune response but that more long-lasting exercise at a moderate intensity decreases immunity.

Conducted for the first time using real people, as opposed to test tubes, cells or artificial 'lab' experiments, and measuring the exercising body's actual immune

response to a skin patch test applied after different durations and intensities of exercise, the research results clearly imply that long periods of moderate exercise will reduce your immune system's capacity, making you more likely to succumb to any opportunistic bugs that might be around. Short duration intense workouts, however, were found to have no significant effect on the body's immune system.

According to Professor Walsh: "Our findings sit well with current thinking on endurance training, which also suggests that shorter intense bouts of exercise are important for improving performance. So it's not at odds with an optimal endurance athlete's training programme."



Some of the planet's most majestic creatures, like the African elephant, are at severe risk of extinction due directly to human activities.



Research Project Officer,
Jo Hacking, testing samples for TB.



© Gina Hayward

WILDLIFE DECLINE MAY LEAD TO 'EMPTY LANDSCAPE'

Populations of some of the world's largest herbivores are dwindling, raising the threat of an "empty landscape", especially in Africa and parts of Asia.

Animals such as rhinos, elephants and gorillas, are at risk of extinction, according to research led by Oregon State University. Analysis of 74 herbivore species, published in *Science Advances*, blamed poaching and habitat loss. A previous study of large carnivores showed similar declines, but this was the first time that herbivores over 100kg had been analysed.

This process of declining animals is causing an empty landscape in the forest, savannah, grasslands and desert.

Dr Matt Hayward from the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography and the School of Biological Sciences, worked as part of a team of 15 international scientists. His contribution was to identify threats to large herbivores and provide examples of species that have been affected.

He explains: "25 of the largest wild herbivores now occupy an average of only 19% of their historical ranges. Competition from livestock production, which has tripled globally since 1980, has reduced herbivore access to land, forage and water and raised disease transmission risks."

The consequences of such a decline include the effects on the food chain, where large predators such as lions, leopards, and hyena rely on large herbivores for food. This would also impact humans, as an estimated one billion people rely on wild meat for subsistence while the loss of iconic herbivores will have a negative impact on tourism.

Most large herbivores in Europe and North America are already extinct.

LIFE-SAVING RAPID TB TESTING

Tuberculosis is still spreading at alarming rates, with 9.6 million people falling ill with TB in 2014. It ranks alongside HIV as a leading cause of death worldwide, and people living with HIV are far more at risk of developing TB. In 2014, one third of the 1.2 million HIV deaths were caused by co-infection with TB.

With the spread of drug resistance, and the lack of new drugs, the early diagnosis of TB is becoming ever more important. Sputum microscopy and culture methods, developed decades ago, are still the most commonly used TB diagnostic tests, particularly in the developing world.

This is because many new tests are either expensive, not suitable for point-of care use or are too slow.

The World Health Organisation has identified the need for new rapid diagnostics, and research led by Dr Chris Gwenin and Professor Mark Baird of the School of Chemistry, has given rise to rapid flow through test that gives visual results within 15 minutes. This proprietary lipid TB test is suitable for use at the point of care, costs less than \$10, and can also be read by a mobile phone.

To try to give this technology the best chance of becoming accepted as the point of care TB diagnostic method of choice, Diagnostig Ltd was established as a spin-out of the University in December 2014. The aim is to provide a route to international validation, regulatory approval and commercial production of a device that is affordable for high-burden TB populations.

TB Flow Through Assay; left chip is testing positive for TB, and right chip is testing negative for TB.





TEACHING AND LEARNING

VERY SATISFIED STUDENTS

The University remains the top in Wales, and is among the top 10 of the UK's best non-specialist universities, according to the National Student Survey.

The Survey polls around half a million graduating students at each university in the UK, which provides the most comprehensive feedback on the student experience at each institution.

Professor Oliver Turnbull, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning said: "As well as a long record of academic excellence, Bangor is renowned for providing excellent teaching and student support, and this is borne out by these wonderful results. We've successfully introduced initiatives to give students a stronger voice in the University, and that approach is reflected again in this terrific outcome.

"The fact that almost one quarter of our degree subjects have a 100% satisfaction rate is clearly to be celebrated, as is our 91% overall satisfaction score, which places us level with Oxford University, and ranked higher than every other Russell Group institution."

Bangor tops the UK tables in six subjects, according to graduate feed-back, and is top in Wales in a further 12. In addition to this, the University appears in the top 10 in the UK for 19 of the 39 subject areas taught at the University.

Prof Turnbull added: "The data provide valuable information to prospective students, and reflects our expertise in teaching, for which we have recently been awarded a Higher Education Academy Award to enable us to share our best practice with other UK higher education institutions."

ACCREDITATION TO AWARD HEA FELLOWSHIPS

The University's successful Continuing Professional Development Framework has received its accreditation from the Higher Education Academy.

The scheme was developed jointly with Aberystwyth University as one of a number of Aber-Bangor Strategic Alliance projects. It formed the Reward and Recognition strand of the Aber-Bangor Learning, Teaching and Widening Access Strategy. It's the first jointly accredited scheme by two independent pre-92 universities in the UK.

The accreditation allows the University to confer its own HEA Fellowships across all categories of the UK Professional Standards for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education: from



'Associate Fellow' to 'Principal Fellow'. Fellowships constitute a CPD route to a recognised teaching qualification in Higher Education, and this internal route will greatly enhance the University's capacity of staff holding a recognised

teaching qualification, ahead of the funding bodies' intention for HESA data against this metric to be published at institutional level within three years.

Dr Sue Clayton of the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching led the development at Bangor. She is currently rolling out monthly induction sessions for eligible staff to begin the process of recognition, together with advanced training for a pool of reviewers who will assess applications across both institutions.

Dr Clayton said: "The benefits of this scheme to the University metrics are significant, and it is also a means by which experienced academics from across the disciplinary spectrum will inevitably be talking with colleagues about their great teaching."

NEW MOOT COURT AT BANGOR

The University invested in installing a state-of-the-art Moot Court facility, which will further underpin Bangor's position as a leading example of a UK university Law School that places employability and student skills development at the core of its LLB Law Degree curriculum.

Officially opened by the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, he praised the achievements of Bangor Law School in the ten years since it was first established in 2004. He stressed the critical importance of students gaining advocacy and mooting skills as a way of preparing for a career in the legal profession.

Mooting is already a major activity at Bangor, with the Law School having hosted eight internal competitions and competed in five external contests in 2014 alone. One of those external competitions was the LexisNexis Welsh National Mooting Competition, in which Bangor clinched the first prize. The University has also established



From left: Dermot Cahill (Head of the School of Law), Lord Chief Justice and Stephen Clear (School of Law) at the new Moot Court.

a name for itself on the European mooting scene, having become the first Welsh law school ever to qualify for the Telders International Moot Court competition in 2013.

Professor Dermot Cahill, Head of Bangor Law School, said: "In recent years, Bangor Law School has more than demonstrated its competency in

mooting. This significant investment by the University will enhance law student employability, bring more external competitions to Bangor, and improve the quality of the teaching resources on the undergraduate Legal Skills and Mooting modules, which are taught through both English and Welsh."

INTERNATIONALISATION



FIRST RITS-BANGOR MBA COHORT GRADUATE

Thirty-four proud MBA students from the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen (RITS), a branch of China's top Tsinghua University, were conferred their MBA degree at Bangor University during the 2015 graduation ceremonies, following two years part time study on the RITS-Bangor validated MBA programme. The 34 attending the ceremony in Bangor were among over 100 students who are the first to graduate following the successful validation of the programme in October 2012 in RITS Shenzhen and Shanghai centres.

Ms Luo Wei, Deputy Director of RITS, said: "We are delighted with and proud of the progress our students have made on the programme over the last two years. The students have worked really hard to achieve this remarkable result. Almost all of our students have a busy job, and some even run very successful businesses. Juggling between study, work and family is never easy, but with the support of RITS and Bangor

University staff, they have demonstrated that the set-up of the part time validated MBA programme worked."

Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, said: "We value the strategic partnership with RITS, and are committed to the success of the project. Most of the MBA students are young entrepreneurs in the most economically developed cities in China. Having such students among Bangor University's alumni community will not only provide diversity for the institution, but also opportunities for further business links for the University and the north Wales region."

Above: Students from the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen (RITS) at Bangor for their graduation ceremony.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The University and the Emirates Institute of Banking and Financial Studies (EIBFS) established a strategic collaborative relationship on pathway articulation, research collaboration and programme validation. EIBFS, based in the United Arab Emirates, is a well-established centre of excellence in banking and finance studies. Working with the Bangor Business School, EIBFS hopes to further expand its academic provision to deliver the most up to date knowledge, and encourage innovative high quality research among its faculties.

Another development saw the University's Confucius Institute welcome Professor Olga Leontovich, Head of the Department of Intercultural Communication and Translation at Volgograd State Pedagogical University, the biggest teacher training university in southern Russia, to Bangor. This marked the start of a strong collaboration

between the two universities and this partnership aims to explore the issues surrounding intercultural communication and practice in the UK, Russia and China in relation to the growing global nature of the Confucius Institute.

In Uganda, Bangor University and Makerere University, one of the oldest universities in Africa, which attracts 40,000 students every year, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative research and innovation specifically relating to Sustainable Development.

The partnership has already attracted funding for Bangor's Sustainability Lab, through Hub Cymru Africa with other major development bids in the pipeline. The MoU will also open up opportunities for Welsh SMEs and social enterprises to pursue sustainable development opportunities in Africa.



Above: Dr Einir Young, Dr Graham Ormondroyd and Jalia Packwood from Bangor University meet with representatives from the Makerere Pineapple business cluster to discuss a collaborative research project.

SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COLLABORATION

Researchers at the School of Environment Natural Resources and Geography secured two major grants, paving the way for collaborative research based in south-east Asia. Professor Morag McDonald, Dr Graham Bird and Dr Paula Roberts, in conjunction with colleagues in Indonesia, UK and USA, successfully secured funding from the Global Innovation Initiative (GII) for their project: Establishing a network of research excellence for mine reclamation in Southeast Asia.

The GII is a joint UK-US programme established to foster multilateral research collaboration with higher education institutions in Brazil, China, India and Indonesia. The GII award of nearly £150,000 towards the total project costs of £420,000 is one of eight awarded to UK-led partnerships by the British Council and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as part of the GII.

The project will focus on the challenges



Dr Bill Perkins, Aberystwyth University; Professor Gerry Miller, University of West Carolina; Dr Irdika Mansur, Seameo Biotrop (Indonesia), Professor Morag McDonald and Dr Graham Bird, Bangor University and Dr Tri Soeprbowati, Universitas Diponegoro tackle the coal mine site restoration.

and opportunities faced in attempting to reclaim mine sites in partnership with an Indonesian state-owned coal mining company, PT Bukit Asam and Western Carolina University in the US; Indonesian organisations Bogor Agricultural University, Bandung Institute of Technology, Universitas Diponegoro, Universitas Brawijaya, Southeast Asian Region for Tropical Biology, and Aberystwyth University. Indonesia is the

fourth largest coal producer in the world as well as having abundant resources of other important minerals.

As noted by Professor McDonald: "The project will allow us to engage in high quality research in the areas of water quality and land reclamation, whilst at the same time engaging in knowledge, staff and student exchanges with our partner organizations."



WELSH MEDIUM

hAPPY TO LEARN WELSH!

The North Wales Welsh for Adults Centre have developed two interactive entry level apps for Welsh learners. They created fun, comprehensive, easy to use apps, to help Welsh learners outside the classroom.

The apps include several interactive templates, which allow learners to practice their Welsh language skills outside the classroom. These templates include word searches, voice recording, listening tasks, multiple choice questions and various other templates.

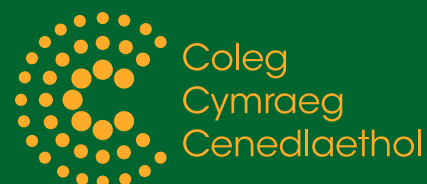
Both apps were launched on the S4C television series *Cariad@laith*, a series sponsored by the Welsh Government. Eight celebrities ate, slept and learned Welsh with the aim of being crowned the champion of *Cariad@laith* 2015. Nia Parry, the series' presenter and an experienced Welsh tutor said: "These new apps are a great learning resource,

it's like having a Welsh tutor in your pocket. You can use it while you're on the bus or train or relaxing in the garden! It is a good way to practice a little and often."

The North Wales Welsh for Adults Centre is proud to have invested in another app, but this time for the Intermediate level. The centre hopes to have this level ready for early in the next academic year. Haydn Hughes, deputy director of the centre, said:

"We're very proud of this investment, and the fact that we'll be able to provide Welsh learning apps at all three levels. We must invest in digital resources for Welsh learners, and ensure an international platform for our language, providing resources that are current and fit for today's digital way of life."

Above: The Welsh celebrities taking part in *Cariad@laith* at the App's launch, Derek Brockway, Chris Corcoran, Rebecca Keatley, Caroline Sheen, Jamie Baulch and Tom Shanklin.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WELSH LANGUAGE HEALTHCARE

The University received two awards for its ground-breaking work to extend and improve the use of the Welsh language in health and social care at the Welsh Language in Health, Social Services and Social Care Conference and Awards. The Awards raised awareness of the importance of the Welsh language in the health and social services sectors in particular when dealing with patients, their families and the public.

The first award was for the School of Healthcare Sciences' innovative scheme to encourage the use of Welsh in healthcare services and six students are the first to become Welsh Language Champions. They will be able to encourage their peers to use Welsh and to identify and encourage new developments in the Welsh language for patients and service users throughout their careers. This project was funded by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

The second award was given for the translation and adaptation of a cognitive assessment toolkit for Welsh speakers. The toolkit means that Welsh speakers



Being congratulated by panel Judge Dr Dai Samuel are nursing students and Language Champions: Elin Roberts, Elin Bryfdir Jones, Hannah Ward, Bethan Edwards and Mared Parry.

with dementia can now be assessed through the medium of Welsh to identify their needs and plan for best care. This work was sponsored by Health and Care Research Wales.

The project is part of a wider programme of work undertaken at the North Wales

Organisation for Randomised Trials in Health and Social Care by the Language Awareness Infrastructure Support Group that promotes opportunities for using the Welsh language in health and social care research across Wales to meet the needs of bilingual speakers.

WELSH JOBS FAIR

The University hosted its first Welsh Jobs Fair. As the principal provider of Welsh medium Higher Education, the University equips its students to undertake a broad range of posts that require Welsh language skills. Around 30 employers attended the Fair – from the public and private sector, locally and internationally based. Their representatives explained to the students how their Welsh language skills are relevant to the world of work.

Professor Jerry Hunter, Pro Vice-Chancellor Welsh Medium and Civic Engagement, said: "This Welsh Jobs Fair emphasises Bangor University's commitment to developing a workforce that is able to respond to the needs of a Welsh language labour market. We are keen for our students to understand the range of opportunities available to them as Welsh speakers and as students who have studied through the medium of



The Welsh Jobs Fair in Powis Hall.

Welsh".

Alaw Griffith, Welsh Language Officer for the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, said:

"The Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board were very proud to have been part of the Welsh Jobs Fair. It was an opportunity for us to speak with the students and emphasize the importance of having Welsh language skills when applying for a job within the health

service. Being able to provide services to patients in their first language is paramount, and we often ask for Welsh language skills when recruiting for certain jobs."

The Fair was a joint venture between the University's Welsh language Students Union, Canolfan Bedwyr and the University's Careers Service.



COMMUNITY

LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP DEAL

The home of Bangor City Football Club was renamed the Bangor University Stadium after a new partnership was agreed. The University became Bangor City's stadium naming rights partner as part of a three year agreement, the second change of stadium name since the football club moved to its new home in 2012.

Bangor City FC Chairman, Dilwyn Jones, said: "We see this as an exciting opportunity and partnership for this club, Bangor University, the city and our supporters.

"This collaboration is aimed at establishing sustainability and progression through a sharing of skills and resources. I am excited at the

prospect of developing relationships with students and staff and bringing an extra dimension to player and business development at the club."

This new partnership agreement will see the University engaging with the football club in many different ways.

Richard Bennett, Director of Sport at the University, said: "This is the start of an exciting partnership with Bangor City FC and something that will benefit both Bangor University, the football club and the local community. Through a number of work placements and volunteering roles, we will help the club develop their junior programmes as well as giving our students employability skills in area such as facility management, media and coaching."

From left: Ethan Ray (BCFC Community Manager), Professor Carol Tully, Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, Dilwyn Jones (BCFC Chairman), Richard Bennett, Director of Sport and Peter Crew (BCFC).

UGLY FOODS POP-UP SHOP A SUCCESS

An enterprising team of students opened a successful pop-up shop in a Bangor shopping centre. The shop sold 'ugly' fruit and vegetables that didn't meet the conventional beauty standards required to allow them onto supermarket shelves. This was because of their size or irregular appearance, but they are perfectly wholesome in other respects. The 'Ugly Foods Shop' offered customers the chance to save these fruit and veg from landfill and buy at a cheaper price than from conventional retailers.

The shop brought a new lease of life to Bangor's Deiniol Shopping Centre as well as allowing students to develop vital enterprise and employability skills. Gwyn Hughes, Town Clerk, Bangor City Council, said: "As part of our on-going initiative to re-generate the High Street, we were delighted to work closely with Bangor University on innovative ideas to offer shoppers in the city centre something different."

Dan Taylor, an MRes student from the School of Psychology who managed the shop, said: "The Ugly Foods Shop has taught me of the potential to become an entrepreneur in the future. I've learnt so much throughout the process, from being able to create a business from an initial idea to actually implementing it and being in charge of staff. It has been a really worthwhile experience and great to be able to be involved in a venture which seems to have been able to meet a need in the community."

This venture was coordinated by the B-Enterprising team and funded by the Welsh Government.

The pop-up Ugly Foods shop at the Deiniol Shopping Centre, Bangor.



SCIENCE PARK DEVELOPMENTS

It has been a year of constant activity for the team developing the Menai Science Park project. Outline planning consent has been secured for the 20-acre site at Gaerwen on Anglesey and a firm of architects, Faulkner Brown have been appointed to design the first building. In addition, the team have been busy preparing the bid to the European Structural Funds to complete the funding package for the project.

The aim is to provide a home for near market innovative businesses and near market research projects. In the early days, the park will be concentrating on the low carbon-energy and environment and information and communication technology sectors. At present the park is in discussions with a number of potential tenants in these sectors, including a

number of substantial anchor tenants which could provide significant inward investment opportunities. This will provide an opportunity to use the research expertise for which Bangor University is renowned.

The need to market the park will increase as the work to develop the facilities gathers pace.

The park's website www.m-sparc.com was launched during the Anglesey Show 2015. The website will enable businesses to receive information about the latest developments and how they can benefit from the enterprise. The decision to include the site within the Anglesey Enterprise Zone will be a key marketing tool, as well as being able to offer investment opportunities and tax advantages.

Artist impression of the Menai Science Park.





PONTIO BEGINS TO OPEN

As the Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre nears final completion, a range of activities have been taking place in advance of the full opening.

Innovation has already been involved in a number of international collaborations which have resulted in new products being manufactured and reaching the marketplace.

There have been innovation events involving students, local and national businesses, as well as collaborations with institutions such as Bern University, Stanford University and the Royal College of Art.

New equipment worth nearly £1million has been installed and will be used to assist students, staff, business and the public to innovate and explore new ideas and develop new products. Pontio is also now formally registered as a FabLAB, and is part of an international network of

digitally connected 'makerspaces'.

The 'Pontio on the Road' Spring 2015 programme brought a wide variety of artistic events to the area including film and comedy, music, dance and circus amongst many others.

The undoubted highlight of the year was Pontio's first ever Gwledd SYRCAS Feast. Staged in and around the city in July, this 8-day event revolved around 10 performances of contemporary circus company Pirates of the Carabina's award-winning show FLOWN in a Big Top on Beach Road. Close to 5,000 people came to Bangor to see the shows.

Pontio also made full use of the city centre for street acts, circus skills workshops, a talk on circus music, and an artistic residency based in the Pontio shop. A food-themed circus procession through the town on market day, organised by Pontio's Blas project,

declared the arrival of the festival and put local schoolchildren and performers at the heart of the event.

'PORTH', a spectacular aerial performance with projection on the external wall of the Pontio building drew gasps from the crowds. Several hundred people gathered over three nights to see a vertical dance trio interact dynamically with projection mapping - the very first performance on the Pontio building.

LEND ME YOUR EARS

A conference developed to host debates and discuss issues that stem from deafness and hearing loss is now a well-established event in the University's calendar. Now in its third year, the most recent 'Lend Me Your Ears' conference attracted a record numbers of attendees.

Funded by the University's Widening Access Centre and arranged by Iona Rhys Cooke of the Pro Vice-chancellor's Office and Wyn Thomas of the School of Music, the annual conference is aimed at individuals and families from north Wales who have experience of deafness and hearing loss.

The University runs the conference with support from Action on Hearing Loss Cymru, National Deaf Children Society, North Wales Deaf Society and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. It also provides an opportunity for attendees to socialise and introduces them to a network of expertise and support available to them in the region.



Pamela Rodgers and her grand-daughter, Isabell Rodgers at the last 'Lend Me Your Ears' conference.

The overwhelming success of the conference has resulted in the University, via its Widening Access Centre, developing its own provision in the field. Delivered in partnership with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, four 'Deaf Awareness', and two 'Introduction to British Sign Language' sessions were held this year, with over 120 students and staff members attending. Capitalising on the

success of these sessions, the Widening Access Centre and the 'Lend Me Your Ears' conference, working in partnership with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai once again, have developed a 10-week 'Introduction to British Sign Language' course for 2015/16.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Student Volunteering Bangor held its second annual residential volunteering opportunity, offering 21 students a week working at the Felin Uchaf centre near Aberdaron on the Llŷn Peninsula.

Felin Uchaf is a land based social enterprise which explores and promotes ways of living in creative partnership and harmony with the environment. Since 2004 the charity has been transforming a traditional Welsh farmhouse and surrounding land into a vibrant visitor and community enterprise. Their aim is to help generate and support new green business initiatives and rural enterprises that make responsible use of the area's natural resources.

Volunteers from the University assisted with the development of a new timber framed building which will accommodate a new visitor centre.

Felin Uchaf's Project Manager, Dafydd



The Student Volunteering Bangor team at Felin Uchaf.

Davies-Hughes, said: "The students' contribution towards our initiative is huge. It enables us to tackle ambitious practical projects requiring a concerted team effort and in return affords the volunteers valuable hands-on experience of working on a land-based community project. As well as working alongside other people from across the world and such an array of different backgrounds, we share lunches, music and fireside storytelling in the Celtic roundhouse. It's a great way to forge new

friendships and to get to know a beautiful part of the local area and its culture and traditions. We very much look forward to welcoming these amazing students back again next year."

Sion Rowlands, SVB Volunteering Officer, said: "There were students from different schools, different countries and different stages in their university education all coming together to work towards a very worthy cause. I can't wait to go back again."