



Aber^rNEWS

ISSUE 3 - December 2010/January 2011

Aberystwyth...probably the best place in the world to be a student

UNIVERSITY NEWS

£3.7m boost for beaches

Surfers and bathers who enjoy the beaches of west Wales and Ireland's east coast, will be able to check the quality of sea water on-line and in real time by 2015.

The source for the information will be a new water testing system being developed as part of 'Smart Coasts; Sustainable Communities', a new £3.7m initiative to maximise the potential of the coastline on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Professor David Kay of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences is leading the project in Wales and will be working closely with colleagues at University College Dublin.

The system involves forecasting water quality, based on sampling and analysis as well as field and coastal data, which can be linked to electronic information systems to provide bathers with up-to-date details of water conditions.

It will provide a better understanding of pollution sources and help maintain Wales' Blue Flag beaches by meeting the new EU Bathing Water Directive (2006).

Bathing beaches throughout the European Union are required to comply with the new Directive by 2015, with sampling commencing in 2012.

It is hoped that this will improve the quality of the coastal areas of Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Swansea as well as Dublin to boost tourism and support local economies.

The project has received £2.7m from the EU's Wales/Ireland Cross Border programme and will see the research team working with Environment

2 Preparing for life after graduation



4 A celebration of teaching excellence



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8 Aber people



Agency-Wales and Environmental Protection Agency-Ireland, City and Council of Swansea, Wicklow Council in Ireland, and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.



Employability: Preparing for life after graduation

As part of the University's employability strategy being rolled out this year, the Careers Service has developed a marketing campaign to encourage students to enhance their employability and manage their career planning in preparation for life after graduation.

The phased campaign series uses the voices and experiences of students and graduates in web videos and print to convey key employability and careers guidance messages. The campaign includes five strong calls to action, and links to comprehensive Careers Service web resources, and will be repeated over each term:

- "Don't just take their word for it" which uses student and graduate success stories to demonstrate how the Careers Service can help its clients; see www.aber.ac.uk/careers
- "We helped Rhys to earn while he learns" which promotes the services of Job Link to support students looking for part-time/term-time work; see www.aber.ac.uk/careers/joblink
- "Are you giving yourself the best chance when you graduate?" which encourages students to make the most of their university experience and enhance their employability by getting involved in clubs, societies, volunteering and work experience; see www.aber.ac.uk/careers/getstarted
- "What makes you different from other job applicants?" which highlights how students and graduates have benefitted from work experience, and encourages them to consider schemes such as GO Wales and the YES (Year in Employment scheme); see www.aber.ac.uk/workexp and
- "Got a plan for after uni yet?" which highlights graduate options and the importance of career planning; see www.aber.ac.uk/careers/choosefuture.



COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AberNEWS is published by the Department of Communications and Public Affairs, Aberystwyth University. Tel: 01970 621763 E-mail: communications@aber.ac.uk.

If you would like to submit an item for publication you can do so in hard copy or by e-mail. Unfortunately, due to the limited space, we are not able to publish all the items we receive. The deadline for the next edition is **Friday 7 January 2011**.

A sixth web video, "Whatever your story, we can help", highlights how the Careers Service is effective in helping people from any background and context including disability, widening access and cultural perspectives – see www.aber.ac.uk/careers/diversity.

A key element of the campaign will be emails to departmental employability champions to encourage academic staff to cascade these key employability messages.

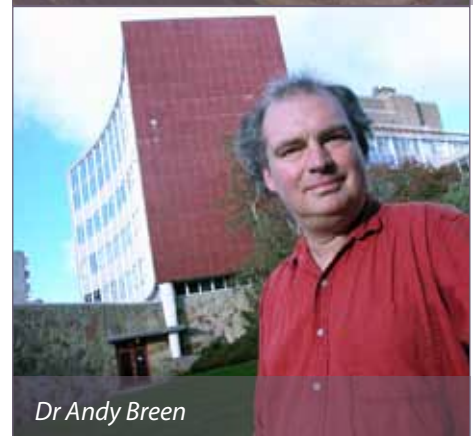
Further information is available from Emma Harrison ohh@aber.ac.uk or Carolyn Parry cep@aber.ac.uk.

LOFAR to boost solar research

The first major radio telescope to be built in Britain for decades will provide the best view yet of the Sun's outer atmosphere according to **Dr Andy Breen** from the Institute of Mathematics and Physical Science.

Aberystwyth is one of 22 UK Universities that have collaborated on the development of the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) station at Chilbolton, Hampshire.

Dr. Breen leads the interplanetary section of the Solar and Space Environment science area within LOFAR. "It will give us a much better perspective of the Sun's outer atmosphere and solar wind, and how it impacts on the space environments of planets," he said. "The Chilbolton station gives us the wide separation between sites that we need for solar wind studies." LOFAR is an European project which when complete, will see 5000 separate antennae grouped into 'stations' all over Europe, to form the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope.



Dr Andy Breen

Vice-Chancellor's column

These are challenging times for Higher Education. We have witnessed a number of very important announcements recently, which taken together point towards a rapidly changing scene.

The conclusions of the UK Government Spending Review, announced in October, will have a significant impact on Higher Education (HE) throughout the UK. Taken with the report of the independent review of HE funding in England and student finance chaired by Lord Browne (Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education), far-reaching changes are likely. Though the Browne review relates to HE in England, there will be significant consequences for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In the Spending Review, the UK government has announced large and wide-ranging reductions in public expenditure. It is proposed to reduce the funding to the Higher Education Funding Council for England very substantially, and this will mean large reductions in the resource available to support teaching.

On the other hand funding for research (including allocations to the Research Councils) will remain level in cash terms. The disaggregating of the research budget is not yet known, but it is expected that it will lead to significantly greater concentration of research support. It is likely that in Wales also only research of international excellence will be supported, and probably only in units of assessment which are large enough.

The draft budget for Wales has been announced, and if it is eventually confirmed, the allocation of funding to HEFCW will be about 9% lower in cash terms in the 2011/12 financial year than the current year. There will be very little capital funding. This will almost certainly lead to some in-year reductions in the recurrent grant. In Aberystwyth we have anticipated significant reductions in the period of the spending review and I am now considering how best to respond to the changes announced by WAG.

The response of the Westminster government to the Browne review implies a fundamental shift from public to private sources of finance for HE. It enables institutions to establish a graduate contribution for undergraduate courses of between £6000 and £9000.

The Welsh Assembly Government has now announced its decision on future funding of HE. Universities in Wales will be allowed to establish a graduate contribution for undergraduate courses also of between £6000 and £9000 per annum provided that they demonstrate a commitment to widening access and other strategic objectives contained in HEFCW's corporate strategy. The difference in Wales is that for Welsh domiciled students the Welsh Assembly Government will provide a grant for the balance over and above the current levels wherever they study in the UK. There will be support for part time students, and the same proposals apply to students from the EU outside the UK studying in Wales.

There will continue to be no 'up front' charge. The mechanism for repayment will be as in England – an income threshold of £21,000 per annum, indexed by salary levels, and a variable progressive rate of interest depending on income.

I continue to emphasise the value of collaboration and working with other institutions. Some of you may have seen recent references in the media to the number of HE institutions in

Wales. We have seen mergers and collaborations already in Wales, one example being the establishment of IBERS. We have a very successful strategic relationship with our colleagues in Bangor, and Aberystwyth is developing good working relationships with FE colleges in our region, including, of course, Coleg Ceredigion. The Regional Strategy for North and Mid Wales submitted recently to HEFCW, Collaborating and Developing Across Regional Networks (CADARN) is a solid and robust approach to regional partnership, provision policy, and progression for learners.

Collaborative activities must have clearly defined objectives, be of benefit to all concerned and must be 'top down and bottom up'. In research it is essential to assemble the required range of expertise.

There is no doubt that we are entering a period of fundamental change. However, I am confident that Aberystwyth University is in as good a place as any institution to respond. We are an institution which is growing in size and ambition, contributing enormously to the economy of mid Wales with a turnover of some £120m per annum. We must see the developments to which I have referred as an opportunity to become even stronger and more successful.



Pro-Vice Chancellor announces retirement

Dr John Harries has announced his intention to retire at the end of December.

John came to Aberystwyth in 1967 to study Agricultural Botany and started his career as a lecturer at the Welsh Agricultural College in 1974.

In 1992 he was appointed Principal of the Welsh Agricultural College and led it through a successful period of growth until it merged with the University in 1995.

In 2002 he was elected Dean of the Faculty of Science before being appointed to his present position as Pro Vice-Chancellor in 2005.

Professor Noel Lloyd said, "Dr Harries has made an enormous contribution to the University - within the department, and as Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor. We wish him and his family well on his retirement."

In 2002 John was made Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society in recognition of his contribution to agricultural education.



A celebration of teaching excellence

Seven members of staff were presented with awards for teaching excellence at the University's annual UNESCO World Teachers Day Excellence Awards lunch which was held on Tuesday 5th October.

Peter Bunting (Geography & Earth Sciences), Rosemary Cann (Education and Lifelong Learning), Ayla Gol (International Politics), Sangeeta Khorana (Management & Business), Mina Davies-Morel (Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences), Michael Rose, (Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences), Anoush Simon (Information Studies) received the 2010 Awards for Teaching Excellence.

In addition Ross Bellaby (International Politics), Wenda He (Computer Science), Heath-Kelly, Charlotte (International Politics), Michael Seibold (International Politics) and Les Tumilty (Sport & Exercise

Science) received the 2010 AU Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant.

Also presented at the event was the 2010 Gwella award which was presented to Carl Kater (IBERS), Ayla Gol (International Politics), Julie Mathias and Tim Gillison (Information Studies) and Samantha Winter (Sport Science), and the HEA Subject Centre Fellowship which was presented to Dr Judith Broady-Preston HEA (Information Studies).

A further 14 members of staff were presented with the Postgraduate Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education (PGCTHE).



Teaching Excellence Award winners Peter Bunting, Sangeeta Khorana, Mina Davies-Morel, Ayla Gol and Anoush Simon.

The event coincided with the launch of the new Aberystwyth University Journal of Academic Practice, details of which are available online at: nexus.aber.ac.uk/xwiki/bin/view/Aberystwyth+University+Journal+of+Academic+Practice/

Further information is available from Dr Jo Maddern (oam@aber.ac.uk) or Graham Lewis (gjl@aber.ac.uk)

'Mads' at the Millennium

As part of their 60th anniversary celebrations, current and former members of the University's Elizabethan Madrigal Singers performed at the Millennium Stadium for the Wales v South Africa rugby international in November.

Since October 1950 over 500 students have sung with the Mads as it is known. Over the years the choir has worked with composers such as Michael Tippett and toured across the world to countries such as Russia, Iceland, the USA, the Seychelles and most of Europe.

The celebrations have included the publication of a book and digital archive about the history of the choir and the commissioning of new works and culminated in a public recital at Gregynog on December 4th.

The choir was invited to perform at the Millennium Stadium by former member Haydn James who has served as Musical Director for the Welsh Rugby Union, leading choirs and bands in the pre-match singing at more than 60 of Wales' home international games in Cardiff.



www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre

PRIFYSGOL
ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY

SPORTS CENTRE

Fit & Well 2011


From **January 10th until February 4th** the Sports Centre will once again be hosting "Fit and Well" which is a month long programme of events to promote health and well-being. It's educational, fun, relaxing, invigorating and ought to inspire you to think outside the box of how to keep fit and healthy. Ranging from mountain biking to theatre tickets, fitness testing to on-site massage or weight loss programmes and healthy eating on campus there will surely be something for everyone.

For further information please contact the Sports Centre :



Tel : 01970 622280

E-mail : sports@aber.ac.uk



HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT

What has fake blood and make-up got to do with Health and Safety?



Quite a lot if you are a member of staff with a qualification in First Aid. The University's Health, Safety and Environment office have started an innovative program of First Aid training to add to the other training opportunities available from the Unit.

Open to staff who hold a First Aid at Work or Emergency First Aid at Work certificate, the



courses involve the opportunity to assess and treat casualties in simulated accident situations.

According to Dr Helen Williams, Assistant Health, Safety and Environmental advisor, the training has been provided to give staff the opportunity to practise their skills within the three year mandatory training period and to work with other First Aid trained staff across the university.

"First aid training gives you the skills to deal with a situation but it's useful to have some practical experience before you are faced with a real casualty. This training will help build the confidence of our First Aiders which will help them to deal confidently with situations that can arise in their workplace."

The first session was based in a laboratory and staff from IBERS, IGES and SELL took part. The second session looked at accidents which could occur in lecture rooms and offices with staff from a variety of departments.

The use of fake blood and some make-up resulted in some very realistic wounds caused by a variety of "accidents" that had to be treated. The scenarios were developed in collaboration with a local training provider, CRT Medical, who provided the 'casualties' and the associated training on the day.

Russ Colman from CRT Medical said "It is highly commendable to see that Aberystwyth University takes the time and effort to organise realistic and practical training for its staff."

The training was intensive and designed to test the motivation, communication and skill of their first aiders. I'm pleased to say that all those who took part performed very well and took away a great deal from this excellent learning opportunity."

More sessions with a variety of possible scenarios will be arranged in the future and the HS&E office aims to invite all of our First Aid at Work trained staff to take part in one of these sessions.

Click on www.aber.ac.uk/safety-environment/english for more information about Health, Safety and Environment at AU.

Historical facts

Did you know that in 1867 the incomplete Castle hotel (now known as the Old College) was purchased by the Welsh University committee from the railway contractor, Thomas Savin for £10,000?

This, along with a host of other historical facts about the University can be viewed online on the University's new history pages www.aber.ac.uk/en/university/history

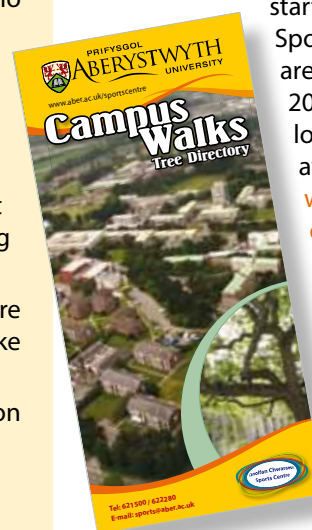
The green green grass of...Aber

Simon Edwards from the Estates Department sent us this photograph from the Ryder Cup which was held this year at the Celtic Manor resort near Newport, Gwent. Despite the torrential rain Simon, who is chairman of Borth Golf Club, and his son had a great day at one of the world's biggest golfing events.



Campus Walks

It is well documented that walking is good for both your mental and physical health, and the Sports Centre is proud to announce three walks for you to enjoy on campus. The walks all start and finish at the Sports Centre and are approximately 20, 30 or 40 minutes long. A map is available online at www.aber.ac.uk/en/sportscentre/health/walksoncampus/ along with a leaflet about the some of the rare and unusual trees along the routes.



Degrees of satisfaction



Julian Smyth

Julian Smyth, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, considers the contribution of philanthropy, from the Victorian era to the present day.

Raising money for education used to be about the Master of an Oxbridge college having a quiet glass of port with a multi-millionaire old boy, letting him know that not only would a substantial donation result in his name being attached to a new building, but that his less-than-gifted son would be fast-tracked into the college with little regard to official entrance requirements. How things have changed!

Today, nearly all universities (and an increasing number of schools) have established permanent ongoing “development” offices, tasked with keeping in touch with all former students and generating philanthropic funds. Whatever the final result of the recent Browne report into university funding, you can bet your bottom dollar, pound, yen or euro that such offices are going to become more and more important to the future success and development of our universities.

But before we wring our hands and bemoan the loss of universal and comprehensive state support for higher education, it is probably worth reminding ourselves that this “golden age” of university funding only lasted forty years – from the 1944 Education Act until the mid-1980s when the Thatcher government began to dismantle the support that students had grown used to – such as housing benefit during the holidays. During this halcyon era, less than 10% of the secondary school population went on to university – today that figure is approximately 45%. It is, therefore, perhaps unsurprising that, even before the current economic meltdown, resources were becoming

more than a little strained and students were being required to take out loans for fees and maintenance.

Which brings us to philanthropy. We used to be rather good at it. Look at our Victorian town and city centres, at the hospitals, schools, libraries, university buildings, public baths, parks, museums and concert halls – a large proportion of which were built by philanthropy and for the public benefit.

Here in Wales there was no university at all until 1872, when the then University College of Wales was founded in Aberystwyth. It was set up not by the principality, nor the church, nor the national government: it was funded by public subscription from ordinary working people and topped up by the generosity of great Victorian philanthropists such as the coal and railways magnate David Davies, and it was driven by the passion and energy of Hugh Owen and his committee of volunteers with no thought of reward. For fifteen years after its foundation it managed to exist without any governmental support, funded purely by modest fees and the Welsh people’s continued generosity.

It’s not that the Welsh or British people became mean or miserly in 1944 – the gradual erosion of our philanthropic tradition had started thirty years earlier with the wiping out of a generation in the First World War, followed by the Depression and then the Second World War. Poverty was rife, many of the wealthy had not weathered the Depression well either, and the country as a whole was broke. Once the welfare state had been created, there was little need or justification for any rekindling of the philanthropic fire.

What has happened over the last twenty years is that philanthropy has been reborn. Just like in 1872, the very wealthy and the not-so-wealthy have joined together in common cause to support our educational institutions. In 2009/10 the number of former students making a gift to Aberystwyth University, as an example, rose by a staggering two thousand percent. And why are they doing so? Well, their reasons are many and varied, but I believe there are two over-riding causes for this steep rise in support: firstly, they give because they wish to support current students. It is less about the universities themselves, albeit some clearly generate warmer feelings than others, than about wishing the current generation of students to have the same benefits of a university education as previously and being aware of how much today’s students are at the mercy



COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES (CCS)

of economic forces not of their own making. Secondly, they give because they are asked to - properly and by committed and professional staff - and thanked sincerely thereafter. This is not selling used cars but a dream and a vision. University staff engaged in this work talk incessantly about building relationships, lifelong involvement, communication, stewardship of donors and partnership. They mean it too. They know that people will give when they know what's going on, where their money will be spent, what it will be spent on, and why it was needed in the first place.

I think, therefore, that we may look back on this period with a certain amount of pride in how we rallied round to support our young people. There may be fewer new landmark buildings on our campuses in the next few years, but there will be scholarships, bursaries, hardship funds, employability and career support initiatives, much of which will be funded, as in the Victorian era, by a combination of widows' mites and magnates' millions. God bless 'em, every one.

Clear winner

An idea that centres on new techniques for manufacturing transparent glass ceramics is the winner of the University's inaugural 'Invention Competition' which has been launched by Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS).

Designed to encourage staff and students to get their technologies into the market, this year's competition, which carried a prize of £2000, has been won by **Dr Martin Wilding** from the Institute of Mathematics and Physics.

His invention could lead to improvements in the transparent qualities of bulk ceramics and enhanced cost effectiveness in their manufacture.



*Dr Martin Wilding with
Dr Rhian Hayward of CCS.*

CCS is continually scouting for new ideas and inventions. Contact Dr Rhian Hayward rih@aber.ac.uk / 01970 628744 or visit www.aber.ac.uk/ccs to find out more.

MANAGEMENT and BUSINESS

The Apprentice

The Apprentice star **Kimberly Davis** was a guest speaker at the International Conference on Networks, Learning and Entrepreneurship which was hosted by School of Management and Business at the end of September.

The event was organised as part of the Sustainable Learning Networks Ireland Wales (SLNIW) Project, a joint project between Aberystwyth University and the Waterford Institute of Technology which offers business networks for small

enterprises in West Wales and South East Ireland.

The conference included an Apprentice-style competition judged by Kimberly, David Lea-Wilson of Halen Môn, Dr Bill O'Gorman from the Waterford Institute of Technology and Nerys Fuller-Love from the School of Management and Business. The challenge for members of the SLNIW Welsh business networks was to create a marketing campaign for a fictitious new product.

The winning team's concept was a 'bubble' designed to give people and additional hour of time during the day.

Further information about the SLNIW project is available from Anne Howells nsh@aber.ac.uk or Lesley Langstaff lkl@aber.ac.uk tel: 01970 622506. SLNIW is part funded by the European Regional Development fund.



Pictured (left to right) receiving the winner's prize from Kimberly Davies are Gary Howell (Morgan Walsh Consultancy Ltd), Andrew Button (Map Analysis Ltd), Mearina Owen (The Tan Shop), Wendy Parry (Smart-Tees Ltd) and Carolyn Michel (Design Elements).

ABER PEOPLE

Appointments

Academic Secretary

Dr Alan Macmillan has been appointed the University's Academic Secretary.



Alan came to Aberystwyth as a postgraduate student in International Politics after completing an MA at the University of Aberdeen. He spent nine years in the Department of International Politics as a Master's and then a PhD student, and as a Research Assistant and Graduate Teaching Assistant.

In 1996 he joined the Academic Office in a temporary post to help prepare for the 1998 QAA review of the University before being appointed as the administrative assistant to the Deans' Office in 1998.

Alan succeeds **Mr David McParlin** who recently retired. David joined the Academic Office in 1974, taking over from someone who started their career there in 1922! During his time in office he has been responsible for student records, developing policy on Academic Quality and Standards, appeals, complaints, rules and regulations, student discipline and more recently the introduction of AU degrees. We wish David well on his retirement.



International Recruitment and Collaboration (IRC)

IRC have announced two new appointments, **Chris Neville** (International Officer) and **Murtza Ali Ghaznavi** (Middle East Manager).

A marketing graduate from Bradford University, Chris joins Aberystwyth after spending 5 years working in education marketing recruitment in Shanghai China.

Murtza Ali Ghaznavi is responsible for promoting collaboration and recruitment primarily in the Middle East Region as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS - former Soviet Republics of Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan etc.) and Africa. Born and raised in Dubai he attained his LLB and MBA in the UK and has subsequently represented higher education institutions in his home region and worked as a market entry specialist in the Middle East and the CIS regions.



Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion

Doug Kerr has joined the Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion as Mentoring Support



Officer and manager of "Ffordd hyn/Signpost", Aberystwyth's flagship mentoring programme for new undergraduates. This scheme has been running for almost five years and is a key part of the University's retention strategy, particularly for those from a widening access background, those who are struggling to make the transition from school and college and those with no family experience of higher education.

Doug will also be working with students who come from a care leaver/fostering background, both before they arrive at University, through application and arrival, supporting Aberystwyth's commitment to the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for Careleavers in Higher Education.

The School of Management and Business

Ben Hopkins has been appointed Lecturer in Human Resource Management. An Oxford graduate (Economics and Management) Ben gained an MA in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management from the University of Warwick where he also conducted his PhD research. Ben's research interests are in the areas of human resource management, industrial relations and organizational behaviour. His current research examines the development of informal and formal hierarchies in temporary and migrant workforces.



Dr Nazrul Islam joined the School as a Lecturer in Innovation Management. He holds a D.Eng. in Innovation Management and an M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology. He previously taught at Cardiff University, Tokyo Institute of Technology and the University of Dhaka. His areas of research interest include the management of emerging and disruptive technology innovation (e.g. nanotechnology, biotechnology, and hydrogen production technologies), technology forecasting and roadmapping, assessment of technology readiness and lifecycles.



Dr Patrizia Kokot joined the School of Management and Business last summer. She completed her PhD at the Gender Institute of the London School of Economics and her Master's degree in Economics at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. Her research focuses on women's experiences of career advancement and how these experiences differ cross-nationally considering the intersections of gender, race, class and sexuality. Currently, she is also working on a project examining class and leadership formation in organized crime.



Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a colleague, **Alex Baldock**, and two former members of staff, **Mr Stuart John** and **Mr H T Conway**, during November and December.

Alex Baldock was a Duty Manager with the University's Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) department where he had worked for two years.

He graduated with a degree in Business and Management in 2006 here at Aberystwyth. Between 2004 and 2008 he was a valued member of the student staff at the Guild of Students, working as an Ents (Entertainments) Steward and then as an Ents Steward Supervisor, before joining the staff at the Guild's Finance Office in October 2008.

Jim Wallace, Director of RHS, paid tribute to Alex as an extremely well liked friend and colleague to staff and students, both within the department and across the University. "He was involved in invaluable liaison work in residences, and as such he will have been known to very many of our students. His approach to his work was always professional, and, for a young man, he demonstrated an understanding and maturity beyond his years," he said.

Mr Stuart John, was a student of French in Aberystwyth (1949-1953; MA 1954-1956), before taking up a post of Administrative Assistant in the Registry (1957-1959) and subsequently as a Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer in French from 1959 until his retirement in 1995.

A specialist in nineteenth-century French literature, Stuart John served as Head of French, and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts; his advice was much in demand on numerous university committees, and he played a major role in the design of

the Hugh Owen Building. After his retirement, he was a member of the University Council. He was for many years the Chief Marshal during the university's annual degree ceremonies.

A tireless, dedicated and highly effective teacher, he was held in high regard by generations of students and colleagues.

Mr H.T. Conway, universally known to staff and students as Steve Conway. Steve joined the Education Department, with responsibility for training PGCE students in Biology, in the autumn of 1955, and remained in the department until his retirement in 1988.

During the 1970s he was the central figure behind the development of the graduate M.Ed. course in Educational Technology, which in a pre-computer age was a pioneer in the application of new forms of technology to education.

A collection was made in Steve's memory for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, in recognition of his lifelong interest in ornithology.



Vice-Chancellor receives CBE

Professor Noel Lloyd was presented with the CBE at a ceremony in London on Wednesday 21st October. The award was announced in the Queens Birthday Honours List in June and was made for services to Higher Education in Wales.

Charity ride

Rob Wyn Jones from the Department of Human Resources raised over £1000 for the Welsh Air Ambulance Service, by undertaking a sponsored cycle ride from Aberystwyth to Ynys Môn, North Wales on 12th October 2010.



Rob's 86-mile trip took in some lovely scenery (and some cramp along the way!) through the Llyn Peninsula, Snowdonia, ending up at Lon Cei Bont in Menai Bridge. Rob is also an avid user and spinning instructor at the University Sports Centre.

The ride was completed in a time of 6 hours 40 minutes, and was in memory of Rob's late father Ieuan. Rob would like to thank all who have kindly donated in both Aberystwyth and North Wales. If anyone would like to donate they can do so via www.justgiving.com/robwynjones.

Track record

The Sports Centre's inaugural Four Minute Mile Challenge, which marked the opening of the new running track, was won by a student led team in a time of 4 minutes 59 seconds. Brother and sister **Ifan and Alaw Beynon Thomas**, who are studying Agriculture and Business, and Geography, teamed up with **David Cole** (Law) and Aberaeron teacher **Sian Kirk**, to set the new track record.

The trophy was presented by Professor Noel Lloyd, a regular user of the track, and director of the Sports Centre Frank Rowe.



Frank Rowe, David Cole, Alawn Beynon Thomas, Ifan Beynon Thomas and Professor Noel Lloyd.

WHAT'S ON

Exhibitions

ARTS CENTRE

Until 8 January	WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR	Gallery 2
Until 22 January	AT THE EDGE: BRITISH ART 1950 – 2000	Gallery 1
	Artists Films Season 2: 26 short films, two riveting ghost stories (just right for cold, gloomy days), a record of an amazing moving sculpture and the opinions of twenty Welsh people.	The Box

SCHOOL OF ART

23rd October to 5 January	'Japanese Pottery: The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns' (The Japan Foundation Touring Exhibition)	Ceramics Gallery, Aberystwyth Arts Centre
29 November to 28 January	'Edward Gordon Craig: Stage Designs, Drawings, Engravings and Photographs' A Monnow Valley Arts Centre touring exhibition	School of Art Gallery, open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
29 November to 28 January	Michael Roberts, PhD Exhibition	

Performances and Events

ARTS CENTRE

10 – 22 December	The Wizard of Oz Aberystwyth Arts Centre presents the much loved musical for their Christmas production – a treat for all the family!
7 – 22 January	Cinderella The Warden's Dramatic Society present their annual pantomime, starring Richard Cheshire and Ioan Guile as sisters Mi Mi and Fi Fi!
Until 9 January	WINTER CRAFT & GIFT FAIR The perfect place for all your Christmas shopping!
9 January	Special Concert 8pm BRYN TERFEL and GWAWR EDWARDS join local choirs CÔR GORE GLAS and COR AELWYD BRO DDYFI for a wonderful evening of singing.
28 – 29 January	National Dance Company Wales 7.30pm Ravishing and entrancing new commissions from two international choreographers Stephen Petronio and Gustavo Ramirez Sansano.

SCHOOL OF ART



The Face

Michael Roberts, PhD Exhibition

29 November 2010 to 28 January 2011

Michael Roberts is fascinated by the flaws often ignored or diminished in the tradition of portrait painting. Over the last four years the artist has worked from hundreds of images, analyzing his subjects for the blemishes, scars, and wrinkles, which connect us to one another as human beings. Drawing on medical illustrations throughout his observations, Michael Roberts' works are often intense and unsettling. Through his detailed depiction of skin, Roberts' paintings produce a universal portrait of the human condition rather than the idealised memorial of an individual.

Open Days

The dates for the 2011 open days have been announced. They are **Wednesday 6th July, Wednesday 14th September and Saturday 15th October**. If you can't make it, why not try the new virtual open day www.aber.ac.uk/en/virtual-open-day/.

Christmas break

The University will close for Christmas on **Thursday, 23 December 2010 and re-open on Tuesday, 4 January 2011.**

Season's greetings from the team at Communications and Public Affairs.

Virtual Tour

See the University as you've never seen it before! A virtual tour of campus has been added to the website recently, see www.aber.ac.uk/en/virtual-tour

