



Aber NEWS

ISSUE 2 - 2010 October/November

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

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Promoting a fairer community for all

With more than 8,500 students and 2,000 members of staff from over 100 countries across the globe, it should come as no surprise that the University here at Aberystwyth is home to such a rich and varied community.



Filming the Equality and Diversity video

In 2009 the University launched its Equality and Diversity Scheme to demonstrate its commitment to equality and diversity, and support the new Equality Act 2010 which aims to promote a fair, equal and diverse society.

Now the University is launching a new bilingual video, Equality and Diversity, to further promote the Scheme and emphasise the value the University places on the diversity of its students and staff.

The 2½ minute web based video encapsulates the reasons why Aberystwyth University is a great place to study, work and visit, and consistently one of the

best universities in the UK for student satisfaction according to the 2010 National Student Survey.

Director of Human Resources, Sue Chambers, said, "The video has been endorsed at the highest level, by the University Council. It is our desire to strive to promote and embed a culture where respect and understanding are fostered, and the value of the diversity of our community is celebrated."

The video can be found on www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/ in various accessible formats. The University welcomes any thoughts you may have so please use the feedback form on the video web pages to send any comments.

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Stonewall commendation

Aberystwyth is one of the most gay-friendly Universities in the UK according to *Gay by Degree*, the first University

guide to be published by Stonewall, the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) charity.

The guide measures gay-friendliness based on a range of factors. Aberystwyth itself has a policy that protects LGB students from bullying, compulsory staff training on LGB issues, a student LGB society, events for LGB students, and consulting with LGB students.

To find out more go to www.gaybydegree.org.uk/



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Medieval stained glass inspires space scientists

The magnificent stained glass windows that adorn medieval cathedrals have provided the inspiration for a team of space scientists looking to capture the true colours of Mars.

The space robotics team at the Department of Computer Science is leading the development of the camera calibration target for the 2018 ESA ExoMars mission.

Integral to the camera's calibration target are small stained-glass coloured chips manufactured using a process very similar to that used in medieval times.

"Mars has little to no ozone in the atmosphere and this means that the

high UV radiation can cause colours to fade when exposed to sunlight", explains Professor Dave Barnes, who is leading the ExoMars Rover work at Aberystwyth.

"The stained-glass idea comes from observing the many brightly coloured windows in churches. These have been exposed to sunlight for centuries and show little to no colour degradation," he said.

Images of the Martian surface will be captured by the ExoMars rover's Panoramic Camera (PanCam) instrument.

The Aberystwyth team will be responsible for processing these returned images using a variety of computer vision techniques and algorithms developed at the University.

One problem is that the Martian environment casts an unwanted hue over



Professor Dave Barnes (left) and Dr Stephen Pugh during field trials on Clarach beach.

all captured images due to the fine dust particles in the atmosphere.

Scientists want the returned images to be colour corrected (as if they were being viewed by a human) to help them in identifying potential science targets for further investigation.

To do this a PanCam Calibration Target (PCT) must be mounted on to the ExoMars rover and every time a sequence of images is captured, images of the PCT are also taken.

The PanCam is a monochrome multi-spectral instrument. Using the images taken with the available filters, in combination with the data obtained from the images of the PCT, it is possible to generate true colour images of the Martian terrain.

The space robotics team is working with colleagues from the Institute of Mathematics & Physics who have the necessary glass expertise.

Measuring just 50 mm x 50 mm, 18 mm high and weighing just 20 grams, the PanCam Calibration Target is tiny, yet its contribution to the quest for life on Mars may yet be enormous.

The PanCam and PCT work is funded by the UK Space Agency.

EDUCATION and LIFELONG LEARNING

CAA moves to a new centre



Pictured (left to right) are staff members at the Centre for Educational Studies, Llinos Jones, Marketing Administrator; Amlyn Ifans, Finance and Admin Officer; Lynwen Rees Jones, Director; Richard Pritchard, Designer; Delyth Ifan, Editor; Fflur Pughe, Marketing Officer/Editor.

The Ganolfan Astudiaethau Addysg (Centre for Educational Studies), one of Wales' leading publishers of education resources and which forms part of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, has moved to new premises on the University's Gogerddan Campus.

The Ganolfan, or CAA as it is known, has been producing materials of a very high standard in Welsh and English for 28 years - varying from books, CDs and interactive CD-ROMs, to multimedia packs and online activities. Since it was established in 1982, it has produced around 2,000 publications. For further information on CAA's publications and work, visit their website:

www.caa.aber.ac.uk.

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 22nd October 2010**.

Car parking on Penglais

The Inner and Outer Zone car parking areas around academic buildings will combine from the **1st of October** into one Central Zone. Details of how to obtain a staff parking permit and 2010/11 parking fees are available online at www.aber.ac.uk/residential/en/houseservices/parking.shtml

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Vice-Chancellor column

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce **AberNEWS** at the beginning of the new academic year.

The last few years have been successful ones for Aberystwyth University. We are especially pleased with our continuing success in the National Student Survey and other assessments of student satisfaction. In a world of increasingly wide expectations we must remember that one of the fundamental features of a university is the education and training of its students.

We were also delighted with our progress in the nationally published league tables. Imperfect measures as they are, it is still gratifying to see a rapid ascent is all of them. The competitiveness of our academic provision – for prospective students and employers – is one of the factors that has led to our outstanding success in attracting record numbers of applications and the conversion of that interest to firm acceptances, leading to our not entering clearing this year. I should like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to achieve this position.

These achievements mean that we face the future in a relatively strong position. However the next few years are likely to be immensely challenging for Higher Education, as for other areas dependent upon government funding.

We must expect large reductions in recurrent grant over the next four years following the Spending Review, the

results of which will be announced in mid October. It will take some time after that for the effects on the funding available to the Welsh Assembly Government and then the distribution between expenditure heads to be known. Just before the publication of the Spending Review we expect the announcement of the recommendations of the Browne review.

Thus Higher Education is entering a period of intense challenge and uncertainty - and the past will certainly not be a guide to the future. In Wales there are a number of other significant developments, the combined effect of which introduces further levels of uncertainty. These include the policy of regionalisation, the increasing emphasis on Foundation Degrees and the changes to the funding mechanism which HEFCW is presently consulting upon, including the requirement that most of its recurrent funding is used in support of strategic priorities. In addition there is a strong drive for efficiencies, the capping of Home/EU undergraduate entry and the National Bursary Framework.

In this environment we will have to strive to maximise efficiency and deliver increased effectiveness in all that we do. It will be a challenge – but also an opportunity to ensure a successful and sustainable future.



Appointment of VC

At its meeting on 1 July the University's Council agreed to proceed with the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor and established a Selection Committee in accordance with Ordinance 5 of the University.

The Selection Committee's remit is to report its recommendations to Council, and to keep the Council broadly aware of the key aspects of the appointment process.

Membership of the Selection Committee is as follows: Sir Emyr Jones Parry, University President; Mr Richard Morgan, University Treasurer; Mrs Elizabeth France, University Vice-President; Dr Glyn Rowlands, lay member of Council; Dr John Harries, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Professor Len Scott, Senate representative and Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University. The Committee is serviced by Dr Catrin Hughes, the University's Registrar and Secretary.

Recruitment consultants Odgers Berndtson have been appointed to assist the University in this appointment process.

The post will be advertised in October 2010, candidates shortlisted for final interview in late December 2010 with interviews taking place in January 2011. The Selection Committee will then make its recommendation of an appointment to Council. This timeline will enable the successful candidate to take up post by no later than September 2011.

Student Satisfaction

Once again Aberystwyth University is leading on student satisfaction. The 2010 results of the National Student Survey (NSS), which were published at the end of August, awarded the University a score of 4.4 (on a scale of 1-5 for student satisfaction). This was the third highest score for any public residential university in the UK and just behind Oxford University.

The survey also places Aberystwyth 5th of all Universities in the UK and top in Wales for the sixth year running. At 92%, overall satisfaction at Aberystwyth was up 2% on 2009 and 10% above the Welsh and the UK average. Further information is available from the Unistats website www.unistats.com



HISTORY and WELSH HISTORY

Media and Memory in Wales 1950-2000

Do you remember sitting in front of the television to watch the Queen's Coronation in 1953, the harrowing images of the Aberfan disaster, the groundbreaking launch of the Welsh fourth channel S4C, or the mounting tension as the results of the 1997 referendum on devolution were announced?

Such memories will provide the basis for 'Media and Memory in Wales 1950 – 2000', a major new study into the influence of television on family life in Wales during the second half of the 20th century, "the age of television".



Dr Iwan Morus

Led by Dr Iwan Morus from the Department of History and Welsh History and Dr Jamie Medhurst, The Department of Theatre, Film and

Television Studies, researchers will record interviews with people in Wrexham, Caernarfon, the Rhondda and Carmarthen about their memories of watching historic events on television and how these reflect their sense of belonging and identity.

Working with project partners Culturenet Cymru, the interviews will form a bilingual online digital archive to which members of the public will be able to add their own memories in the form of images, audio or video.

The website is expected to be launched in the spring of 2011. The content will also be accessible via The People's Collection www.peoplescollectionwales.com.

MANAGEMENT and BUSINESS

The Centre for Excellence for Leadership & Management Skills in Wales

The School of Management and Business has joined forces with Cardiff and Glyndŵr Universities to deliver a Centre for Excellence for Leadership and Management Skills in Wales.

Leadership & Management Wales (LMW) is an integral aspect of the £37m Enhancing Leadership & Management Skills (ELMS) programme that has been funded by the European Social Fund and is managed by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The aim of LMW is to improve and enhance Leadership & Management skills in Wales through providing businesses with information about methods, frameworks and practices associated with the development of leaders and managers.

Aberystwyth University's role in the project relates to activities in Mid Wales, and as a result have appointed Tom Bates, who is based at The School of Management and Business, as a Research and Network Development Officer.

Tom is tasked with driving up demand for, and creating awareness of the issues relating to leadership and management development. This will be done by offering 'on the ground' support to businesses, available via phone, email or in person to assist with any questions businesses may have regarding LMW. Tom will also be present at, and organise a number of networking events throughout Wales in the coming years. This will be coupled with the promotion of the LMW website:

Web: www.lmw.org.uk

Email: lmw@aber.ac.uk

Phone: 01970 622209

GEOGRAPHY and EARTH SCIENCES

High Performance Computing Wales

Scientists at Aberystwyth have welcomed the creation of High Performance Computing Wales (HPC Wales), an ambitious £40m project to develop a new super computing network in Wales.

Professor Richard Lucas heads the Earth Observation Unit at the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences. The Unit uses images taken from aircraft and satellite to understand and quantify how environments, including those in Wales, are responding to change associated with human activities or natural events.

Professor Lucas also works closely with Aberystwyth company Environment Systems Ltd who provide leading edge consultancy and services in geographic and environmental information. The

company employs a growing number of experts in the processing, automated analysis and interpretation of satellite and airborne imagery; turning data into information to help us better understand our environment.

"Many of the datasets exploited in our research are large", he said. "Data from the spaceborne optical and radar sensors that we use are available over entire countries (e.g., Australia, Chile) and have and continue to be acquired on a regular basis. These time-series datasets offer unique insights into the past and present state of landscapes and can allow us to understand, model and predict changes that might occur in the future."

"The size and processing costs of these data are enormous. HPC will allow us to fully exploit existing and newly collected data and give us greater confidence in



Professor Richard Lucas

taking on larger projects that will benefit a wide range of users."

"With the provision of HPC, we have a far greater capacity to process and analyse these data to address issues relating particularly to human impacts on landscapes and changes associated with climatic variation."

High Performance Computing Wales (HPC Wales) is a five year project to give businesses and universities involved in commercially focused research across Wales, access to the most advanced and evolving computing technology available.

DEVELOPMENT and ALUMNI RELATIONS

The Annual Fund

Julian Smyth, Head of Development and Alumni Relations, outlines the objectives of the 2010/1 Annual Fund.



Last year the annual fund contributed towards the cost of extending wifi provision for students.

An Aber education is about maximising the potential of our students, and the Annual Fund's first year has shown that this attribute continues well beyond graduation. A greater number of our alumni, staff, Council members and other friends supported the Annual Fund at Aber in 2009/10 than supported all Welsh universities put together in 2008/9. Nearly 1,500 supporters gave over £250,000 in total, in single gifts and three-year pledges to our four core projects.

As a result the Annual Fund projects for 2009/10 have been fully funded and implemented. Our sponsored PhD student arrives in September, the IT project is nearing completion, the Student Hardship Fund is now a reality and the improvements to the Piazza were completed over the summer.

For 2010/11 the Annual Fund has set itself four goals:

- A "Money Doctor" advisor to help students manage their incomes effectively;
- A careers and employment alumni mentoring programme administered through the Careers Advisory Service;
- A three-year fully funded PhD studentship in the School of Management and Business; and
- The beginning of the digitisation of the University's documents collection to allow scholars to access them on the internet.

The Bar Kicks Back

Aberystwyth University's very first The Bar Kicks Back reunion weekend in Aber on 20th to 22nd August was a great success, with alumni of all ages returning to meet up with old friends and make new ones. The Bar Kicks Back 2011 will take place on the weekend of **2nd to 4th September 2011**, see www.aber.ac.uk/en/development for more details.

On the buses

The AHA discount scheme is set to continue for another year on local and national Arriva bus services. 'Ar-Hyd-Aber' is a program of student discounts on bus services run by Arriva that also offers some benefits to staff.

From September 20th onwards, AHA card holders are entitled to **unlimited free travel on all Arriva bus services in Aberystwyth a 50% discount on travels further afield and free off-peak travel to and from Cardiff.**

It also entitles cardholders to 1/3 off all Cambrian Line train services. All of this is available to any member of staff for just £40 for the year. For full details, terms and conditions, or to apply for the card, stop by the Students' Union reception.



Enterprise Week 2010: 15th – 19th November

Coordinated by the Enterprise team in CCS, this year's Enterprise Week will once again feature events, activities and competitions designed to stimulate an interest in Enterprise amongst students and staff. To keep up to date with the plans at Aberystwyth University, visit: www.aber.ac.uk/enterpriseweek

For more information about the Enterprise Support available, contact Tony Orme at: awo@aber.ac.uk

Recruitment of student callers begins in October, with the first telephone calling taking place at the beginning of November. An ambitious target has been set for the year of £275,000.

To find out more about the annual fund go to www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/support/annfund

The untold story of teaching excellence at Aberystwyth



Graham Lewis and Jo Maddern

Graham Lewis, Coordinator of the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice (CDSAP) and Jo Maddern, Learning and Teaching Development Coordinator at the School of Education and Lifelong Learning (SELL) look at the impact of the **Postgraduate Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education**.

One of the reasons that Aberystwyth is ranked so highly as a university is the quality of teaching. The main driving forces behind a culture that values teaching quality so highly is the **Postgraduate Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education**, a nationally recognised programme that has been running at Aberystwyth for over 10 years, and which all new teaching staff must complete.

A recent participant, Dr. Samantha Winter, Lecturer in Biomechanics in Sports Science describes the experience as transformative: "My perspective on my teaching has changed totally as a result of doing the {PGCTHE} course, and I feel it's been a very important part of my development, and all of that is down to the way it is run and the support given. I got a lot out of it and now I look forward to interacting with the programme as a mentor".

The programme values the richness that each individual can bring to the practice of teaching and, during the 2-3 years that it takes to complete the programme, teaching staff are developing their own, unique approach and produce three research projects about their own teaching. This constant flow of innovation, by new and enthusiastic staff constantly revitalises the teaching culture of all departments. Core principles of the programme are promoting student ownership of learning, connecting learning to assessment and understanding the individuality of learners.

The School of Education and Lifelong Learning (SELL) and The Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice (CDSAP) collaborate to deliver this programme and provide many other events to support the development of excellent teaching, including a twice-yearly mini-conference to share innovative teaching approaches across departments.

It is a real pleasure and a privilege to work one-to-one with academic staff across the entire university and to talk about teaching innovation and practice. We are now at a stage where teaching philosophy is talked about with equal vigour and rigour as research and I am proud to be part of such a 'teaching active' University.

The University provides funding for staff to develop new creative teaching approaches and recognises excellence with annual awards for both teaching staff and postgraduate teaching assistants. In 2010, the

BIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

Construction starts on new IBERS facilities

Work has started on the construction of new state of the art research and teaching facilities at IBERS.

University launched the Aberystwyth Academy for Excellence in Teaching with membership open to staff who have previously been so recognised.

A growing number of Aberystwyth staff have been recognised nationally and internationally for teaching excellence. In 2009, Heike Roms (TFTS), Dr Elena Korosteleva and in 2010, Dr Judith Broady-Preston (DIS) all received national awards for teaching in their disciplines.

However, much of the good work and commitment by teaching staff and the staff that support them goes on quietly unnoticed outside of the institution.

Aberystwyth has embedded the use of information and communication technology in many aspects of teaching through Gwella, which is Welsh for 'Enhancement', and much of the work done in this area is showcased on the NEXUS website: nexus.aber.ac.uk/xwiki/bin/view/Main

In 2008, CDSAP was nominated for a Times Higher Award for its innovative Supporting Students module which has helped a wide range of non-teaching staff from across the University to improve the way they help students during their time at Aberystwyth.

In 2009 SELL and CDSAP ran a teaching Summer School for 20 academics from King Abdul-Aziz University in Saudi Arabia and will be running similar Summer Schools in the future to share what makes our teaching so good with University teachers from across Europe and beyond. Dr Al Kenani, a former Maths and Physics Graduate from AU who participated in the inaugural summer school commented 'we still remember and fondly talk about the time we spent at Aberystwyth'.

Students deserve a quality experience and Aberystwyth University is dedicated to delivering just that.

Graham Lewis (gjl@aber.ac.uk)

Jo Maddern (oam@aber.ac.uk)

On the Penglais campus the foundations are being laid for a new two storey teaching a research block which is expected to be completed by late 2011.

Linked to the Edward Llwyd and Cledwyn buildings at first floor level, the building is expected to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) and be heated using a ground source pump that will draw heat from underneath Pantycelyn field.

The mature oak trees which stand next to the site are being retained.

At Gogerddan work on a new Phenomics facility, including the first greenhouse facility of its kind in the UK, is expected to start in November.

Once completed, the new facility will represent a step-change for IBERS, enabling scientists to collect data from large numbers of plants in months rather than years.

It will also become the centrepiece of a new Institute for International Plant Breeding that will include a laboratory



An artist's impression of the new building on Penglais

and accommodation for visiting academics and an enterprise hub for the agricultural, food, bio-renewables and land-based industries.

Covering an area of 2000 square meters, the facility is also expected to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating, with heating provided by a biomass boiler.

Together both projects represent an investment of £25m with funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Further information about both projects, including web cams and walk-through images, are available online at

www.ibers-projects.co.uk

STUDENT SUPPORT

Student health centre and crèche

Work on the new University student health centre and crèche, which will be located on Penglais hill across the way from Neuadd Pantycelyn, is also scheduled to commence in the autumn.

The site, which is currently being cleared, will also become the base for a GP Surgery, a pharmacy and services provided by the

Hywel Dda NHS Trust.

The development work is being undertaken by mid-Wales based Gaufron Health Care Limited of Llandrindod.

The University crèche currently based at Glenview will move to the facility after the work is completed in **late 2011**.

New road arrangements at Penglais. Road closures and changes to traffic arrangements will be in force for the duration of the work on the Penglais campus – see www.aber.ac.uk/en/estates/latest-news/newsarticle/title-89916-en.html for further details.

ABER PEOPLE

Meet the Guild

Jon Antoniazzi, President of the Aberystwyth Guild of Students, introduces this year's team of sabbatical officers.

As always the students of Aberystwyth University have elected an attractive bunch of Officers to represent them in the coming Academic year. The restructured full and part-time officer arrangement aims to better fit the needs of our students and Uni.

It has been an extremely busy year for us at the Guild and most of you will be getting to know the new team in different capacities over the coming year.

The forecast for HE in the coming years is bleak and the Guild is working and campaigning more with external organisations such as NUS, keep your eyes peeled for our involvement on the 10th November at the National Demo in London...

However, from new challenges, new opportunities grow and Aberystwyth University Guild of Students has undertaken a major shift in the way that it operates as an organisation; in supporting our students on their courses, in providing core support



Pictured, left to right, Naomi Allen (Student Support Officer), Bethan Foweraker (Education Officer), Jon Antoniazzi (President), Alun Minifey (Activities Officer), Rhiannon Wade (Welsh Affairs & UMCA Officer)

services and activities, and in providing a quality social space for students to use throughout the day and night.

The core objectives of the Guild have been refocused, to provide greater academic representation, and ensuring that we are campaigning effectively and relevantly on behalf of our members ensuring that they have a better deal on their education experience at Aberystwyth.

One of the most noticeable differences to the way in which we function will be based around Course Representation.

The Guild has recently appointed a Student Representation & Experience Coordinator (Affectionately named SREC/Shrek). The main responsibilities of this role will be in the training and development of department course reps and putting into place a model that works for the University, tying together all of the information from student staff consultative committees and putting student feedback and voice at the core of the University.

For more info: www.aberguild.co.uk

Appointments

Law and Criminology

Professor Noel Cox has been appointed as the new Head of the Law and Criminology Department at Aberystwyth University. Professor Cox joins the University from Auckland University of Technology where he was Head of the Department of Law. His research interests include constitutional law, Church-State law and cyberspace law.

IBERS

Professor Gareth Edwards-Jones has been appointed to the Waitrose Chair of Sustainable Agriculture at IBERS. The appointment is part of an innovative joint arrangement with Bangor University in which Professor Edwards-Jones will combine his work as Waitrose Chair of Sustainable Agriculture, with his position as Professor of Agriculture & Land-Use Studies at Bangor.

Computer Science

Professor Qiang Shen is the new head of the Department of Computer Science. Professor Shen, who succeeds Professor Chris Price, works on knowledge-based computer systems that imitate human judgment. Previously Director of Research at the Department, Professor Shen joined Aberystwyth from the University of Edinburgh in 2004.

Institute of Mathematics and Science (IMAPS)

Professor Manuel Grande is the new Director of IMAPS. Professor Grande joined the University in 2006 as the Head of Solar Systems Physics and has worked on a number of high profile space missions including Chandrayaan-1, Venus Express and Cassini. He succeeds Professor Neville Greaves who has retired after more than a decade in the post.



Cutting it at the *Fringe*



Sarah Gates and Liz Hyde

Liz Hyde from IMAPS and Sarah Gates from CCS performed with Louche Theatre at this year's Edinburgh Fringe.

The production of Stephen Todd's *The Remnants of Once Fine Girls*, directed by Harry Durnall, was performed in Greenside, a church venue a few minutes from Princes Street.

Amongst the company which travelled up to Edinburgh were Aberystwyth University drama graduates and members of the local community. The production was sponsored by local businesses, and was nominated for three awards. Louche Theatre cast and crew were delighted to receive a 3-star review from *The Scotsman*.

"I was looking forward to seeing the city as much as performing as I had never been before", said Liz. "Both experiences were fantastic and I can't wait to go again!"

Fellow Aber graduate Sarah said "I loved every second of it, the rehearsals, the performance and the atmosphere of the festival and am already thinking about next year!"

Sandy Spence of Computer Science was also involved in the technical preparations and photography for the show and is a regular participant in Louche productions.

www.louchetheatre.com

Appointment of Fellows

Nominations are invited for Honorary Fellowships of Aberystwyth University. Members of staff are invited to submit nominations to the Vice-Chancellor by **Monday 25 October 2010**. Each nomination should be accompanied by a brief biographical note about the nominee.

In awarding Fellowships, the University wishes to honour persons of distinction who have or who have had an

association with Aberystwyth or who have made a particular contribution to the life of Wales. It is especially valuable that Fellows establish a continuing relationship with one or more departments within the University.

The nominations will be considered in strictest confidence by a joint committee of Council and Senate with appointments expected to be confirmed in December.

Men of Iron

University staff members Jeff Saycell and Dave Smith along with Sport Centre member Euros Jones recently completed the gruelling Outlaw Triathlon.

The event was raced over the Ironman distance of 2.5 mile swim, 112 mile bike and 26.2 run and held at the National Water Centre in Holme Pierrepont.

All 3 have used the excellent training facilities provided by the Sport Centre which include coached swim sessions by staff member Lauren March, the newly opened 400m 2 lane running track and Spin Bike sessions under the supervision of University Spin instructors.

Jeff's time was 11 hours, 6 minutes and 53 seconds, Dave came in at 11 hours, 26 minutes and 9 seconds, and Euros Jones' time was 12 hours, 17 minutes and 21 seconds.



Dave Smith, Jeff Saycell and Euros Jones

Research



Gary Reed has been appointed Head of the University's Research Office. Gary's role includes coordinating the University's Research Strategy and preparations for the new Research Excellence Framework. He joined Aberystwyth from the University of Loughborough where he was Director of Research for the Centre for Automotive Management. For the past 3 years he has been head of the Aberystwyth and Bangor Research and Enterprise Partnership.



Careers Advisory Service

Through GradStart (funded by HEFCW), AU Careers Advisory Service has recently recruited a Graduate Careers Adviser, **Cathy Piquemal**, to develop and deliver GradStart Aber to unemployed and underemployed graduates. An exciting programme of careers/employability events, tailored presentations and workshops to help with job hunting, as well as the delivery of Institute of Leadership and Management accredited courses on leadership & management and essential business skills will be offered, whilst concurrently developing an innovative e-platform to provide further support and discussion.

For further information, and if you know graduates who could benefit from this initiative, please contact Cathy at crp@aber.ac.uk



International Recruitment and Collaboration

Iona Hopkins is the new Student Exchanges, Study Abroad and Partnerships Officer at IRC. Iona's work will focus on the Erasmus and the North American Exchange Programme and also IRC's Study Abroad (SYA/JYA) programme for fee-paying visiting students. Iona, who recently graduated from Bangor University with an MA in European Studies, is based in the Study Abroad office (T03) on the top floor of the Student Welcome Centre and can be contacted on

01970 622364 or studyabroad@aber.ac.uk.

MUSIC CENTRE



It has been a fruitful year for the University's Director of Music, Dr David Russell Hulme.

His ground-breaking edition of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore* was staged by Opera North last January in a production by Jo Davies that attracted enormous critical

acclaim. Returning to early sources, the new edition (published by Oxford University Press) sets out to restore the musical and dramatic text played during the lifetimes of the composer and the author. The differences between this and the much-altered familiar version certainly caused a few stirs!

David's involvement with other classic British operetta has also proved extremely successful. Last August he conducted a rare professional revival of *Princess Ida* in a brilliant production by Jeff Clarke for the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at Buxton Opera House. The same month, a recording of Edward German's *Tom Jones* which he conducted was released on the Naxos label and immediately shot to No. 3 in the classical chart.

Autumn 2010 rehearsals

Whether you're interested in playing in the University's symphony orchestra, wind band, or would rather join the Choral Union, Showtime Singers or the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers, the University's Music Centre has something to offer everyone. The autumn 2010 rehearsal programme starts during the first week of October. Full details are available online at www.aber.ac.uk/music or by phone 01970 622685 / e-mail music@aber.ac.uk.

WHAT'S ON

Exhibitions

SCHOOL OF ART		
23 Oct 2010 - 5 Jan 2011	'Japanese Pottery: The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns' (The Japan Foundation Touring Exhibition)	Ceramics Gallery, Aberystwyth Arts Centre
20 Sep - 8 Oct Monday-Friday 9am-5pm	POSTGRADUATE DEGREE SHOW	Galleries 1, 2 & 3
18 Oct - 19 Nov	IMPERFECT TRANSCRIPTIONS - The 24 Études of Frédéric Chopin, for Monique Photographs by David Gepp	Gallery 1 & 2
18 Oct - 19 Nov	IVAN GREEN: Photographs	Gallery 3
29 Nov 2010 - 28 Jan 2011	'Edward Gordon Craig: Stage Designs, Drawings, Engravings and Photographs' A Monnow Valley Arts Centre touring exhibition	
29 Nov 2010 - Jan 2011	PhD Exhibition Michael Roberts	

Performances and Events

ARTS CENTRE	
8 - 9 October	Pocket Dream from Propeller Theatre
14 - 16 October	Pinter - Bold Productions
15 - 16 October	Interiors (Vanishing Point And Napoli Teatro Festival Italia)
20 October	The Mill - Ockham's Razor
20 October	Burton This exquisite 75 minute one-man show depicts Richard Burton's life story - from his early year in Wales, raised in abject poverty, going on to amass fortunes due to his extraordinary abilities. Written by Professor Gwynne Edwards, a former AU member of staff and performed by Rhodri Miles.
27 - 28 October	The Cherry Orchard
6 November	7734 Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company
10 - 14 November	Abertoir: Wales Horror Festival Gore. Lots of gore.
16 - 20 November	Romeo and Juliet Pilot Theatre
23 November	Lysistrata - Actors of Dionysus

Courses

EDUCATION and LIFELONG LEARNING

Part Time Lifelong Learning Courses

Courses start on **Monday 4 October.**

It's not too late to enrol!

Art & Design: Courses for Beginners; Drawing; Painting; Creative Textiles; Sculpture; Art History; Photoshop; Web Design.

Humanities: Creative Writing; Genealogy; Archaeology; History; Literature.

Learn a new Language: Beginners to Advanced Arabic, Breton, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish,

Science: Animal life; Bird Life; Ecology; Food & Nutrition, Marine & Plant Life; Organic Gardening/Permaculture.

Social Science: Child Development & Psychology.

New courses for autumn 2010

- An Introduction to Archaeology
- Basic Latin for Family & Local Historians
- Web Design Using Dreamweaver (Wednesday afternoons and evenings from February)
- Introduction to Flash (starts 6 October 11am)
- Words that Run with Wolves - Illustrating and Writing Creatively for Children

Free taster sessions:

- Greek Lower Intermediate, Llandinam B22 Tuesday 5 October 6pm
- Greek Beginners, Hugh Owen D59 Wednesday 6 October 6pm
- Breton Beginners, Old College Saturday 16 October 10am

* New brochure out now. Contact us on 621580 or learning@aber.ac.uk or pick up a copy from Penglais Reception, Old College or 10 Laura Place.

* Download an enrolment form: www.aber.ac.uk/sell/geninfo/enrol/index.html