Annual Review

2013-14
Welcome

Sir Emyr Jones Parry – Chancellor

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Aberystwyth University’s Annual Review for the 2013–14 academic year.

There’s no doubt in my mind that Aber offers an excellent education: addressing key issues with first-rate teaching, which in turn is backed up by some of the best research in the UK. We’re firmly rooted in our local community, but addressing today’s key issues on an international scale.

Aber provides a transformative education, and encourages students to become rounded individuals through making the most of their time with us. However, the Aber experience is much more than just studying. Together, our students and staff provide a real community in which students can savour the myriad of opportunities in sport and society. To top it all, the University is in idyllic countryside on the Welsh coast, and is recognised as one of the safest universities in Britain. Also, Aberystwyth was recently announced as the best UK town by the Academy of Urbanism, recognising the environmental beauty and the social strengths of our community.

Attracting students is vital to the financing and sustainability of any university, and Aberystwyth is no different. Working in partnership with our active Students’ Union, we are investing heavily in providing the best possible student experience. Teaching rooms are being refurbished and equipped with the latest technology to meet the expectations of today’s generation of students. The new Fferm Penglais residential complex is nearing completion and will provide student accommodation to rival the best available in the sector. We have established an ‘Aber Academy’ to enable our academic staff to innovate and take the lead in developing new teaching techniques.

We do all of this in the face of a turbulent, changing external environment. Throughout, the University is showing itself to be nimble enough to adapt in order to offer the best possible opportunities. Much of this would not be possible without the continued support of our valued students, staff, alumni and friends.

Once a bond is established with Aber, it is rarely broken. Individuals from all walks of life fondly remember their time with us, and I’m proud that this continues today with more recent student cohorts – as evidenced through the #faberystwyth hash tag trending on Twitter on numerous occasions!

We have come a long way since Aberystwyth University was established in 1872 with 26 students and a teaching staff of three. The scale of the University’s operation may have increased but our values and purpose remain the same – to provide an excellent education, whether locally, nationally, or internationally.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Aberystwyth University.

Emyr Jones Parry
Welcome to the Aberystwyth University Annual Review for 2013-14!

The past year has seen a whole range of awards and accolades coming to Aberystwyth, from our AMBA accreditation for the School of Management and Business, to our Times Higher Education Award for Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology, for the extremely important and high-profile work in our Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) on high sugar grasses. We also celebrated a big IBERS night in Brussels, with BEACON one of only four RegioStars winners from across Europe. You'll also be glad to know that the safest university in Wales is being recognised for work towards environmental awareness and sustainability with the award of EcoCampus Bronze (and I'll let you into a secret – we've just followed up by achieving Silver).

On research successes, you can read inside this review about placebos, the hygiene benefits of fist bumping, a lost song by Gilbert and Sullivan, and – one of my personal favourites – a knowledge exchange project on space with one of our local primary schools which culminated in the release of a weather balloon more than 30km above mid-Wales, providing some spectacularly beautiful photos of our spectacularly beautiful part of the world.

Our annual Teaching and Learning Conference is going from strength to strength, and the Student-Led Teaching Awards are more keenly contested every year.

Development of the Estate continues with the completion of the Llanbadarn Centre, progress on the superb student accommodation at Fferm Penglais, and the initiation of the Upland Research Platform at Pwllpeiran.

Our Strategic Plan highlights both international activity and working in partnership closer to home. While our first ever international campus takes shape in Mauritius, and we celebrate success in the i-Graduate survey, we're also seeing tremendous outreach activity in the Arts Centre under its new Director; and our Summer University gives confidence and opportunities to young people who may not have thought higher education was for them.

There's a lot of change in universities at the moment and I'm proud that Aber people are rising to the challenges. We hope you enjoy reading about the past year at Aber – but we're even keener that you feel included. There are all kinds of ways you can be involved with our University – I do hope this Review inspires you to come and see us. Why not get in touch today?
The Council is the institution’s supreme governing body and is responsible for the conduct of Aberystwyth University’s administrative, financial and other affairs in accordance with its objects, as set out in the Royal Charter.

During the 2013-14 academic year, significant work was undertaken to bring the University’s governing documents – the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances – in line with current legislation and best practice in the sector.

Revised Supplementary Charter and Statutes were approved by the Privy Council and came into force for the start of the 2014–15 academic year, on 1 August 2014. A number of new and revised Ordinances came into force on the same day.

One of the most noticeable changes was replacing the roles of President and Vice-Presidents with those of Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors respectively, in line with other institutions in the sector.

However, the role of the Council remains unchanged. As the institution’s governing body, it determines the University’s strategic direction and monitors the Institution’s performance. It is also responsible for safeguarding the good name and values of the institution, and ensuring its sustainable operation and development.

Membership of the Council includes representatives from the University Executive, staff and student body, but must have a majority of independent individuals who are external to the University.

Six Council meetings were held during the 2013-14 academic year, with an average attendance of 83%.

Council members are not remunerated nor given any allowance as a result of their membership. However, they can be reimbursed at approved rates for out-of-pocket expenditure relating to any duties undertaken as a member of Council. During 2013-14, a total of £17,492.13 was reimbursed to 13 Council members.

Council membership for the 2013–14 academic year was:

Ex-Officio Members
Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG FinstP, President*
Mrs Elizabeth France CBE, Vice-President**
Miss Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, Vice-President**
Dr Glyn Rowlands, Vice-President**
Dr Timothy Brain OBE, Treasurer
Prof April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor
Ms Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Prof John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Prof Chris Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor

Appointed Members
Mr Roger Banner
Mr Mick Buckley
(unti 25 November 2013)
Mrs Janet Davies
Mr Keith Evans
Prof Wynne Jones OBE
Mr Ian MacEachern OBE
Prof Gareth Roberts
Sir John Skehel

Representative Members
Mr Jacob Ellis, Students’ Union President (from 01 July 2014)
Mr Ioan Evans, Students’ Union President (until 30 June 2014)
Ms Miriam Williams, UMCA President (from 01 July 2014)
Ms Mared Ifan, UMCA President (until 30 June 2014)

Senate Members
Prof Kate Bullen
Prof Neil Glasser
Prof Tim Woods

Staff Members
Mrs Rachel Hubbard

*Now Chancellor and **Pro-Chancellors
A prestigious European Commission RegioStars Award 2014 was won by the BEACON Biorefining Centre of Excellence in March.

An innovative Welsh research partnership led by Aberystwyth University’s Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, BEACON is a Welsh Government EU funded collaboration between Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea Universities.

BEACON is dedicated to developing industrial products from plants to reduce reliance on fossil-based resources such as coal and gas.

The RegioStars Award is international recognition of the importance of the innovative work being undertaken by BEACON.

Aberystwyth University’s Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences won the Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology award at the Times Higher Education Awards in November 2013. The University’s winning entry focused on the breeding and development of High Sugar Grasses (AberHSG).

Aberystwyth University features amongst the world’s top 200 institutions in four of the 30 subjects featured in the 2014 QS World University Rankings by Subject, which combine information from global academic and employer reputation surveys and citations per paper. At Aberystwyth, Geography, Politics, Agriculture & Forestry and English Language and Literature all feature in the top 150.

Aberystwyth University is the one of the top 300 universities in the world according the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2012-13. 400 of the world’s leading universities feature in the rankings, with their performance measured for teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. Aberystwyth is 38th amongst the 48 UK Higher Education Institutions to feature in the top 400, and second in Wales. Overall it appears 282nd.

Aberystwyth’s research citations increased from 56.6 to 64.3 between 2011-12 and 2012-13.
Aberystwyth University has the best range of Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards of any university in the UK

As part of its participation in the EcoCampus National Award Scheme, the University was recently awarded the Bronze Certificate for introducing an Environmental Management System (EMS) across the University.

The award scheme helps universities to identify, evaluate, manage and improve their environmental performance and practices in various progressive phases.

The EcoCampus system covers all aspects of the University’s operations including: waste management, energy use, water efficiency, sustainable purchasing, construction and refurbishment, biodiversity, travel and community involvement.

The award-winning Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences building on the University’s Penglais campus achieved its final certification as BREEAM Excellent in 2013.

BREEAM, the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, is described as “the world’s foremost environmental rating system for buildings”, and the certification confirms that the building is fulfilling a high standard of environmental performance.

Designed to make the most of natural sunlight and ventilation, the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences building is heated by a 4000m² ground source heating system. Other sustainable energy saving features include insulation made of sheep’s wool, a green planted roof and a rainwater harvesting system that provides all the water required for flushing the toilets.

Aberystwyth University is the safest university in Wales according to a report published in June 2014 by The Complete University Guide.

Aberystwyth also retains its position among the top five safest locations in England and Wales to study.

Compiled from official police data, The Complete University Guide gives the clearest picture possible of the crime rates for the communities surrounding almost 140 universities and other higher education institutions in England and Wales.

Four Masters (MSc) programmes at Aberystwyth University’s School of Management and Business (SMB) have been given the stamp of approval and fully accredited by AMBA, the Association of MBAs. A further four SMB Masters programmes at the University have had their accreditation renewed.

AMBA accredits programmes at over 200 business schools in over 80 countries. AMBA accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement in postgraduate business education, and gives business schools international credibility and status.

Aberystwyth is the only Welsh university to have received accreditation.
The National Plant Phenomics Centre (NPPC) at Aberystwyth University received significant media attention during the year. The NPPC is unique in the UK and one of only a handful of similar facilities in the world. Featuring a state of the art automated greenhouse with the capacity to house up to 850 plants on a series of computer-controlled conveyor belts, the NPPC allows scientists to apply different environmental regimes to individual plants as they study the influence of individual genes.

BBC Radio Wales’ Science Café visited the NPPC for an episode broadcast on 20 August 2013. The NPPC was also covered by an 8 page feature in BBC Focus magazine in August 2013. Finally the NPPC was featured on ITV Wales’ Coast & Country on 2 May 2014, when the ITV Wales team visited the Centre to find out more about flood resistant grass developed at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences and the University’s research to develop high sugar grasses that helps meat and milk production and reduces methane emissions.

Dr Jenny Mathers from the Department of International Politics was a frequent commentator in the media on current events, particularly the crisis in Ukraine and the international politics of Russia.

Dr Chris Beedie, Reader in Sport & Exercise Psychology, illustrated how placebos can improve sporting performance on the long standing science programme Horizon. The episode, The Power of the Placebo, was broadcast on BBC 2 on 17 February 2014.

Thanks to the research of Dr David Russell Hulme, Director of Music, BBC Radio 2 was able to broadcast the world premiere of a lost song by Gilbert and Sullivan on Friday Night is Music Night in March 2014.

The programme featured several songs reconstructed from incomplete material by Dr Hulme, widely regarded as the world’s foremost authority on Sullivan’s manuscripts.

Dr Hulme specialises in reconstructive work of this type and his highly-praised work has been widely performed, recorded and broadcast.
The University’s Old College hosted the première of the international detective drama series *Y Gwyll / Hinterland* in October 2013.

*Y Gwyll / Hinterland* was filmed entirely in Ceredigion, with Aberystwyth and familiar University locations at the heart of the drama.

The University was a key partner during the production, with students benefitting from placements and gaining invaluable industry insight. The series was produced in both Welsh and English and has been sold to broadcasters across the world.

Professor Will Haresign from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences talked to BBC Radio 4’s *Farming Today* on 18 February 2014 about the potential dangers posed to livestock by flood water. It followed the publication of a research paper by the University which showed that some beef cattle had died when storm water washed high levels of lead from disused lead mines onto grass which was then cut for silage.

Aberystwyth alumnus and honorary fellow, Michael Sheen OBE, won the best actor category at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Cymru Awards (BAFTA) 2013, for his role as the Teacher in the highly acclaimed *The Gospel of Us*. Another Aberystwyth alumnus and honorary fellow, Rhodri Meilir, was also nominated for his role as Trefor in S4C’s *Gwlad yr Astra Gwyn*.

Research conducted by Dr Dave Whitworth and PhD student Sara Mela from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences which revealed that bumping fists may be a more hygienic greeting than shaking hands was widely reported across the globe. Using rubber gloves and a thick layer of E. coli, the Aberystwyth scientists exchanged handshakes, high fives and fist-bumps, and showed that the transfer of potentially disease-causing bacteria is highest during a handshake.

As well as receiving extensive coverage in local press, the findings of the research were featured in *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Telegraph*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Mirror*, in several international newspapers and online news outlets, and by the BBC and CNN.
Dr Mike Humphreys featured on BBC Radio 4’s Farming Today programme on 29 April 2014, talking about his work trialling hybrid grasses which could help prevent flooding.

A minor flooding incident in the cellar of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences building on Penglais Campus led to the chance discovery of over one hundred beautifully hand-illustrated Victorian wallcharts featuring plants.

Designed for classroom use in the 19th century, the 120 year old educational wallcharts were described by Dr John Warren, Director of Learning and Teaching for the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, as “the PowerPoint of their day”.

Dr Mark Neal, robotics expert from the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science, helped pupils from a local primary school, Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth, to launch their very own space mission from their playground in June 2014.

Technology for the mission developed by Dr Neal involved a helium-filled weather balloon suspending a polystyrene capsule fitted with two cameras, two GPS trackers and a small homemade computer that measured altitude, temperature and the motion of the balloon and transmitted the information back to earth via a wireless link.

Reaching an altitude of over 30,000 metres, the equipment provided stunning time-lapse images as the balloon climbed to the very edge of the earth’s atmosphere.

The project received significant coverage in the local press, as well as being featured by The Western Mail, South Wales Evening Post, Daily Post, and BBC.
Professor Henry Lamb from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences was featured on the BBC News in January 2013 discussing the ancient forests of Tywyn. The winter storms which battered the coastline of Wales revealed the existence of an ancient forest, with the remains of trees dating back 6,000 years.

Dr Lamb is an expert on radiocarbon dating, which is widely used to measure the ages of archaeological sites, past climate events and changes to the environment.

The beginning of 2014 started dramatically for Aberystwyth, with one of the most violent storm and tidal surge combinations for many decades pounding the seafront mercilessly. The emergency services and Met Office issued warnings that during the high tide periods there was significant danger to property and lives.

Images of the terrifying waves made news stories around the globe, and at the University emergency procedures were implemented. As The Guardian reported at the time, “While the government and other national bodies have been criticised for what victims have seen as slow responses to this year's flooding, Aberystwyth University won praise for its slick response.”

Thankfully nobody was hurt and the damage to the buildings along the seafront was not severe. The promenade, however, did not come off so lightly, with paving slabs, benches and lamp posts thrown around and smashed, and the whole area covered in a thick layer of shingle, sand and stones.

Despite the scenes of devastation that followed the storm surges, repairs were complete in time for the beginning of the tourism season, and it was soon ‘business as usual’ on Aberystwyth’s busy seafront.

Dr John Warren, Director of Learning and Teaching at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, was featured on James Wong in Conversation and delivered a talk entitled ‘50 Shades of Green – the exotic sexual practices of plants’ at BBC Radio 4’s Gardeners’ Question Time annual Summer Garden Party at the National Botanic Garden of Wales in June 2014. Dr Warren is a plant ecologist with research interests in the maintenance of diversity and enhancement of conservation value.
Creating opportunities

Breaking down barriers to access, supporting students and staff to succeed and grow, embedding employability across our curriculum and promoting experiences that allow our students to test and develop their skills, valuing people and maximising their potential, reflecting social responsibility in all we do.

79 young people celebrated their achievements at the Aberystwyth Summer University graduation ceremony in August 2014.

A flagship widening access programme, the Summer University gives young people an opportunity to spend six weeks experiencing university life, challenging the assumption that higher education is ‘not for them’.

The University has demonstrated its commitment to supporting equality of opportunity for all through the appointment of Professor Kate Bullen to the newly created role of Director of Ethics and Equality, and the fixed-term secondment of two Athena SWAN Diversity Champions.

In April 2014 the University submitted applications for two key awards: an Institutional Athena Swan Bronze award, recognising and celebrating good practice on recruiting, retaining and promoting women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) in higher education; and the Equality Challenge Unit Gender Equality Chartermark (GEM) which aims to address chronic gender imbalance and underrepresentation in the arts, humanities and social sciences. A departmental Athena SWAN bronze award was also submitted by the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences.
The University supported five female staff members to attend the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE) Aurora programme this year. Aurora is a new women-only leadership development initiative. Feedback from the attendees was very positive, a second group of women will be attending Aurora training in 2014-15. To further enhance career development with female staff the Springboard Women’s Development Programme will be delivered on campus in 2014-15.

In February 2014 the University received the outcome of its submission to the Stonewall Workplace Index annual review, which seeks to identify institutional excellence in the support of LGBT staff. Aberystwyth University climbed 12 places in the 2014-15 index to 186 of 369.

Thanks to a £15,000 grant from the Higher Education Academy (HEA), Aberystwyth University students were given the opportunity to compete for the opportunity to design and create an accessibility app to help students, staff and visitors navigate their way around the University easily, taking into account their disability.

AberPrentice saw students working in small teams with only three days to complete the task, before being asked to conduct a requirements analysis and pitch a professional standard tender document to a panel of external judges.

The AberPrentice winning team, Team Explore, consisted of three students: Volodymyr Maksymchuk, Jonathan Field, and Daniel Grindley. They each received four weeks of paid work experience with Aberystwyth University Student Support to deliver the app, and an iPad Air. The team intend to go live with the app during academic year 2014-15.
Research with excellence that makes an impact

Building on our research successes to make a difference by addressing global challenges and providing a way of understanding the future through the past.

In research published in the journal *Nature*, Dr Pippa Moore from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, along with an international team of scientists revealed global maps that show how fast and in which direction local climates are shifting.

The maps show that over the next century, plants and animals will need to adapt or shift locations to track their ideal climate in response to continued global warming. The new maps also show where new thermal environments are being locally generated and where existing conditions may disappear.

To see what’s happening in your backyard download the Google Earth files here: [www.sams.ac.uk/michael-burrows](http://www.sams.ac.uk/michael-burrows)

The origin of the smaller bluestones which make up the inner circle at Stonehenge has been the topic of research for many years. In 2011 a research team involving scientists from National Museum Wales, the Institute of Archaeology at University College London and Aberystwyth University confirmed for the first time the exact location of the source of some of the ‘rhyolitic bluestones’ – an outcrop in Craig Rhos y Felin, near Crymych in north Pembrokeshire. Now, the same research team has identified Carn Goedog in Pembrokeshire as the location for the main type of bluestone used for the Stonehenge monoliths, the so called ‘spotted dolerite’.

A map of Europe showing how fast and in which direction local climates are shifting.
The diminutive speckled sea louse (*Eurydice pulchra*) possesses two separate and independent body clocks, the circadian which follows the night and day cycle, and another for the ebb and flow of the tide which runs on a 12.4 hour cycle. This discovery by researchers from Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cambridge and Leicester Universities, led by Dr David Wilcockson from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences presents an exciting new perspective on how organisms define biological time.

An international team of researchers led by Dr Gareth Griffith from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences have identified that Wales has some of the most scientifically important and diverse habitats for grassland fungi in the world.

The grassy meadows and hills of north-western Europe are home to around 400 species of mushroom-forming fungi. However, increased intensification of agriculture over the past 75 years has meant that most of the low nutrient grasslands required by these fungi have been destroyed through ploughing and land improvement.

Dr Griffith and colleagues hope that publication of this study will lead to wider public recognition of the global significance of these Welsh habitats and fungi in general to biodiversity conservation.

Glaciers are a major habitat for microscopic life according to Dr Arwyn Edwards from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences and Dr Tristram Irvine-Fynn from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences.

Writing in the online journal *Cytometry Part A*, Edwards and Irvine-Fynn argue that there may be as many as a septillion (a trillion trillion) microbes living in the uppermost two metres of the Earth’s glaciers – as many as there are in the top 200 metres of the world’s oceans.

“This is a major habitat for microscopic life which we know little about,” said Irvine-Fynn.

Scientists at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences have discovered that the chemicals that give cut grass its distinctive ‘green odour’ kill off bacteria that convert healthy omega-3 fats into saturated fats in a cow’s gut. The discovery could lead to dairy products containing a higher proportion of healthy omega-3 fats all year round.

Researchers from the Centre for the Study of Ageing, Abuse and Neglect at Aberystwyth University are exploring barriers to accessing justice for older victims of domestic abuse. Commissioned by the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales, the Wales-wide research project seeks to understand some of the individual and organisational barriers that may deter older people from engaging with the justice process, and to explore how different referral mechanisms across adult protection and the police service may influence access to justice opportunities for people aged sixty years and over.
The work of Dr Neal Snooke, a lecturer at the Department of Computer Science, has helped capture images of Greenland glaciers for the purpose of building digital elevation maps and gathering data for research.

Dr Snooke has been working on unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology, commonly known as drones, for the past three years. In June 2014, six new UAVs were sent to Greenland fully equipped with Sony Alpha 14 megapixel cameras to capture high quality photographic data of Store and Lille glacier, which flows into the sea off Greenland.

Called the Skywalker X8, the airframe is a flying wing design, large enough to allow a high quality camera to be fitted inside and to accommodate the electronics and batteries. It has a 2 metre wingspan, weighs around 2.5Kg, and is constructed from expanded polypropylene foam, making the frame quite robust and easy to repair.

Urgent action is required to tackle the growing threat of resistance to antibiotics, and Dr Sharon Huws and her team at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences have characterised over 80 novel antimicrobials from microscopic bacteria in a cow’s rumen (a specialised compartment in the gut) with the potential to be used in treating bacterial infections in humans. Dr Huws has received funding to continue this work and further the understanding of how these antimicrobials work and their potential to be used in treating bacterial infections in humans.

Research involving Dr Ann Rowan and Professor Neil Glasser, from the Centre of Glaciology in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, has established that small glaciers almost certainly existed in the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland as recently as the 18th century, whereas previously it had long been understood that Britain’s last glaciers melted some 11,000 years ago.

Scientists had speculated that glaciers may have formed in the Highlands around the time of the Little Ice Age – a period of cooling between the 16th and 19th centuries – but hard evidence has proved elusive.

Dr Rowan and Professor Glasser were part of an international team that used a numerical glaciological model to show that small glaciers would have formed in the corries – steep-sided hollows found in the Scottish mountains – by a cooling of air temperatures of 1.5°C and a slight increase in precipitation of 10% compared to today’s climate. This is consistent with conditions that existed during the Little Ice Age.
Dr Martin Swain of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, was one of the authors of a paper published in *Science* on the completion of the genetic code of the tsetse fly.

Tsetse flies function as the insect carriers of African trypanosomes - parasites - to humans and animals in sub-Saharan Africa. Human African trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness is a widespread tropical disease that can be fatal if not treated. It is spread by the bite of an infected tsetse fly hosting a small parasite that leads to a serious infection in the brain and the meninges (the covering of the brain and spinal cord).

The completion of the genetic code of the tsetse fly will accelerate research on tsetse’s basic biology, and the outcomes of the research can then be applied to improving current tsetse control methods.

Evangelical religion is one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing religious movements in the world today. The present-day global evangelical movement had its origins in the religious revivals that swept the British Atlantic world in the middle decades of the eighteenth century.

Dr David Ceri Jones from the Department of History and Welsh History has been awarded a grant of £115,527 from the Leverhulme Trust to better understand the early evangelical movement through a reassessment of the life, context and legacy of its inventor and chief inspiration, the trans-Atlantic revivalist, George Whitefield (1714-70).

An independent report by BIGGAR Economics, which analysed the economic impact of the University’s Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences in 2014, concluded that every £1 of public funding invested in the Institute generated £12.18 of benefit for the UK economy in 2012-13. The Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences, which is strategically funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), generated a total economic benefit of £365 million Gross Value Added for the UK economy and supported almost 2,450 jobs.

Scientists in the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences are working with partners at Rothamsted Research North Wyke in Devon to develop new grasses that enable grassland soils to capture increased volumes of rainfall, thereby reducing the risk of flooding downstream.

The 5 year £2.5 million LINK project named SUREROOT is funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and match-funded by a range of industrial partners from across the food production spectrum.

Scientists at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences have identified a protein that is essential for male fertility in plants that grow in high temperatures.

In human males the temperature of reproductive organs can have an adverse effect on fertility, and in this study the same appears to be true in plants. A relatively small change in temperature can strongly affect the ability of many crops to produce seed.

The research has potentially significant implications in the race to provide enough food for a growing population in the light of climate change.
Aberystwyth University, in partnership with eight other UK universities, has been awarded a grant worth £1.5 million which will help communities, individuals and policy-makers better understand water issues such as flood risk, drought risk, access to water, supply and waste system security in a creative way.

The Welsh Government directly invests in the region of £40 million in flood and coastal erosion risk management annually and has cited the importance of communication with the public as a key priority. The project will focus on four case study areas, and in each area a local academic team will coordinate with artists, community activists and selected community partners charged with aspects of regeneration and community resilience.

Research into the development of industrial products from plants at Aberystwyth University will receive a share of an £18 million initiative to support Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy.

The Networks, which are funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, are designed to boost interaction between the academic research base and industry to help provide sustainable processes for producing bio-based alternative products which currently rely on petrochemicals.

Dr Carina Fearnley from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences was one of five candidates to be shortlisted for the 2013 Lloyd's Science of Risk Research Prize, which focused on human elements of risk.

The research conducted by Dr Fearnley, a lecturer in Environmental Hazards, looked at the decision-making processes involved when assigning a volcano alert level and the complexity and risk involved in the process. It focused on the role of understanding and communicating uncertainty, risk, and complexity to develop resilience to natural and environmental hazards.

It is hoped the research will lead to a greater understanding about how hazard and risk assessment and communication for natural hazards occurs in practice, to reduce loss of life and socio-economic impact on vulnerable communities.

Professor Peter Midmore of the School of Management and Business is leading a £2.1 million project to investigate how scientific research on agriculture affects the economy, society and the environment in Europe.

Together with nine partners across Europe and two Aberystwyth University colleagues, he will coordinate the IMPRESA (The Impact of Research on EU Agriculture) project over three years.

The EU's budget for agricultural research is set to double over the coming years compared with the period 2009-2013. Conclusions from the study will help shape future agricultural research policy in Europe.

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Dr Joe Gallagher from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences and Professor David Leak from the University of Bath, will direct one of the 13 unique industry-academic networks. The network will provide a platform to bring together over 50 academic and industrial experts involved in innovation, manufacturing and supply chains within the industrial biotechnology sector.
Teaching that inspires

Enhancing our recognised world class student experience through investment in quality infrastructure and an excellent portfolio which emphasises employability and lifelong skills, equipping our students for future success.

The winners of the University’s third Student-Led Teaching Awards, as nominated by students, were announced at a ceremony in May 2014.

Organised by the Students’ Union, with the support of the University, the evening was a celebration of teaching excellence as well as the contribution of support staff and student representatives.

After the announcement of awards including New Staff Member of the Year, Outstanding Teaching Award and Personal Tutor of the Year, the evening culminated in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences being named Department of the Year 2014.

A full list of winners can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/05/title-149981-en.html

Dr Madeline Carr from the Department of International Politics and Dr Victoria Wright from the Department of Psychology were joint winners of the Aberystwyth University Exemplary Course Award 2014. Established by the University’s E-learning Team, which supports technology-enhanced learning and teaching, the awards honour modules which demonstrate exemplary practice in four areas: course design, interaction and collaboration, assessment and learner support.

Delegates from across the University and the UK spent three days considering the latest research and methodologies in the enhancement of student engagement and learning at Aberystwyth University’s annual Learning and Teaching Conference, held in September 2013.

Why Should I Change the Way I Teach? Enhancing Student Engagement and Learning brought together academics and specialist support colleagues to consider a diverse range of subjects, all related to the central theme of how to continuously improve methods and technologies used in modern teaching.
Aberystwyth University is one of eight partner universities to have been awarded a new Centre for Doctoral Training in Diamond Science and Technology (CDT) by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The new CDT will bring diamond research to a new threshold which promises many pioneering diamond-enabled technologies and original scientific insights. The creation of the new centre forms part of a £350 million investment by the UK Government to train over 3,500 postgraduate students in engineering and physical sciences and brings together 40 leading researchers from the eight partner universities.

Professor Andrew Evans, project leader at Aberystwyth, has recently developed a new method for producing graphene from diamond.

The University has teamed up with ASLIB and Emerald, key providers in information management services, to provide busy professionals across the globe with university accreditation in information leadership.

‘Pathways to Information Leadership’ is an online and e-learning professional development programme which offers over 25 courses for individuals who want to become, or aspire to be, information leaders.

As busy professionals find it increasingly difficult to find time to devote to formal learning and qualifications, the Pathways approach enables learning that is targeted at the specific requirements of the learner or their organisation, combining flexibility and convenience.

The South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership, in which Aberystwyth University is partnered with seven other universities – Bath, Bath Spa, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Reading and Southampton - has been awarded £14.2 million funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council over five years to deliver postgraduate supervision, training and skills development.

The funding will allow for innovative postgraduate support, including the development of broader skills such as partnership working and language skills, and experience in working outside academia through industrial and international placements.

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Five Learning and Teaching Fellowship Awards were presented during the 2014 Graduation Ceremonies which took place from 14-18 July. Learning and Teaching Fellowships are awarded to raise the profile of teaching or support for learning at the University and recognise an individual's local and wider influence on the teaching community.

In 2014, Dr David Whitworth (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences), Dr Antonia Ivaldi (Department of Psychology), Nitin Naik (Department of Computer Science), Graham Lewis (Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice) and Professor Len Scott (Department of International Politics) were all recognised for the exceptional contribution they have made to teaching and learning at the University.

“95.4% satisfaction rating for “Personal tutors” - ranked 2nd in the UK and 7th in the world
i-Graduate’s International Student Barometer
Engaging the world

Building our international reputation, attracting students and staff from across the globe and working in collaboration with internationally-recognised partners.

In March 2014 the University announced its ambition to open a new campus in Mauritius. The new campus will begin to accept students from 2015 onwards for courses in the School of Management and Business, and aims to gain approval to deliver courses in Law and Computer Science.

The arrangement will see students at the University’s Mauritius campus enjoying the same status as their counterparts at Aberystwyth, and they will receive Aberystwyth University degrees on completion of their studies. There will also be scope in the future for students at Aberystwyth who want to spend time at the Mauritius campus to do so.

The campus is currently under construction at Quartier Militare, 12km inland from the capital Port Louis. Future plans include building student residences, enabling a higher number of students to study at the branch campus.

By establishing a branch campus in Mauritius, Aberystwyth University will become the highest-ranking overseas university to operate in the country.

In August 2013 the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy as a means of promoting academic collaboration and cultural co-operation between the two institutions. The purpose of the Memorandum is to facilitate continued dialogue between the two institutions to identify potential areas of mutual academic interest, potential research opportunities and initiatives, and the dissemination and sharing of experiences among students and staff.

Aberystwyth University is one of the top 10 institutions of choice to study in the UK and no.1 in Wales for Norwegian students according to figures released by HESA in 2013.

With 98 Norwegian students currently at Aberystwyth studying on a wide range of degree schemes, the most popular areas of study are at the world-renowned International Politics Department and the Department of Theatre Film & Television Studies.

Norwegian students excel at the University with 70% achieving a first or upper second class degree compared with 59% from all other countries (summer 2013).

Amarjeet Munneja from the University’s International Office, Devendra Bhangale from Mumbai who is studying for an MBA in International Business Administration, Shan Mumford from the University’s International Office and Vice-Chancellor, Professor April McMahon

Representatives from Aberystwyth University attended a reception hosted by the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales, to celebrate Diwali, the ‘festival of lights’. Guests included the Indian Honorary Consul in Wales, Raj Aggarwal, members of the local Indian community, cultural organisations from Wales, Welsh Universities and Colleges and representatives from Indian and Welsh companies. The evening reception recognised the valuable contribution made to Wales by the Indian community and Indian companies, such as Tata Steel in South Wales.
An evening of live music, traditional food, dragon and Chinese dancing took place at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on 31 January to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Organised by Ula Wang from the University’s International Office, who was born and raised in Wuhan in China, the event was attended by pupils and teachers from a local school, and some of the University’s 375 ethnic Chinese students.

The Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, begins on the first day of the first lunar month (usually late January or early February) and ends on the 15th day of the first lunar month, also known as the Lantern Festival.

Amongst the hundreds of prospective students who travelled to Aberystwyth to discuss their study options at the University’s March 2014 visiting day, was Dana Barringham from Sydney, Australia. On a week-long visit to Wales, Dana flew in especially to attend the visiting day and in particular to talk to staff at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences about the courses that interest her; zoology and life sciences.
Working in partnership

Collaborating with other universities, with the local community and Further Education, with employers and businesses and with our alumni, building global partnerships and enriching the experience of our students, staff and our partners.

The chance to see a banana tree, meet a humanoid robot, get some free personal fitness training and read the news on television were just some of the attractions on offer at Aberystwyth University’s second community open day.

Access All Areas 2014 took place in June and attracted hundreds of visitors, who took the opportunity to learn about the psychology behind illusions, meet a medieval merchant and a Victorian scientist, de-cipher and decode messages to locate a secret treasure, discuss the concept of nuclear zero, watch simulated glacial flow and much more. The Old College was also open, with free guided tours of the Grade 1 listed building originally constructed as a hotel and purchased by the University in 1867.

A group of ten Aberystwyth students from the School of Management and Business spent a fortnight in China in June 2014, where they gained first-hand experience of what it is like to be an inhabitant of the world’s second largest economy at a time of profound social and economic change.

The study trip took place to the Southwest University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE) in Chengdu, one of China’s most distinguished centres for the study of economics and management. Chinese students from SWUFE were selected as ambassadors and paired up with Aberystwyth’s students to create a rich learning environment for all students involved.

The School of Management and Business and SWUFE have established a strong relationship with student exchanges and are developing joint research programme on finance and economics.

In October 2013, the University signed a groundbreaking agreement with Seoul National University to share miscanthus germplasm, which will support improvements in miscanthus breeding, and respond to national policies on the development of renewable energy. Through a series of plant breeding programmes at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, scientists are realising the full potential of miscanthus as a sustainable bioenergy crop. Miscanthus may be used to create higher energy yields on lower grade lands which are less suitable for food production.
In November 2013, the University’s Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences formed a new technical alliance with Wherry & Sons Ltd, the UK based specialist producers of pulses for food use around the world. Demand for protein is projected to increase worldwide and pulses - peas and beans - can play a significant part in addressing that growing requirement.

In December 2013, the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences extended its alliance with Senova, the private Cambridge based seed marketing company, for a further 15 years. Oats varieties bred in Aberystwyth have been marketed through a strategic alliance with Senova since 1989 and this successful partnership has resulted in many new oat varieties being introduced to the UK and European market. The oat programme at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences is globally very significant and this public private alliance will ensure that the contribution of both parties in respect of oat innovation is further enhanced. Oat varieties developed at Aberystwyth University now account for 68% of the UK’s £2 million-a-year market in oat seed.

These alliances are great examples of how UK science and business can work together, combining complementary strengths to play a vital role in addressing long term global food challenges.

The University’s Arts Centre has been chosen as one of five landmark sites in Wales to promote RSPB Cymru’s Giving Nature a Home campaign, aimed to inspire more people in Wales to create new homes and attract more wildlife into their gardens. The other four landmark sites in Wales are Portmeirion, Powis Castle, the National Botanic Gardens and St David’s Cathedral. The campaign, launched in June 2013, aims to help tackle the housing crisis facing Wales’s threatened wildlife and will see bird boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog houses placed at these iconic venues as well as households across Wales.

The Low Carbon, Energy and the Environment Network, a pan Wales initiative led by Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities, is one of three projects to share funding of £21 million as part of the Welsh Government’s £50 million Sêr Cymru programme.

In March 2014 the Network was awarded £7 million to appoint PhD students and fellows to develop new research and attract more investment to Wales.

The focus of the network is on the interactions between land, water, the provision of food and energy production, and how they can be maintained to meet society’s needs, particularly in the face of the challenges posed by climate change.

In May 2014 the University signed a new pathway agreement with Enniscorthy Vocational College, County Wexford, Ireland. The new agreement builds on a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two institutions in 2012. The PLC Media Production Course in Enniscorthy has had links with the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth for many years. The new Pathway Agreement extends the relationship to Sport and Leisure, Science and Legal Studies and gives students at Enniscorthy the opportunity of a guaranteed place at Aberystwyth University, once they meet the agreed criteria.
In March 2014 the University welcomed more than 1,200 school pupils from 25 schools in Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd for a three day Science Fair, forming part of the 2014 National Science and Engineering Week.

National Science and Engineering Week is Wales’ and the UK’s widest grassroots celebration of all things science and engineering. The theme for the Science Fair was ‘Explore the Future’, and those attending the festival had the opportunity to take part in a wealth of demonstrations and activities from hands-on encounters with wild animals to understanding volcanoes and climate change and 3-D pictures of the Sun.

Aberystwyth University contributed to the successful attainment of University Health Board status by Hywel Dda Health Board.

The University has developed a range of significant and important innovative collaborative projects since signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Hywel Dda in 2011.

When announcing the new University Health Board status in December 2013, the Minister for Health and Social Services Professor Mark Drakeford confirmed the health board had strongly demonstrated its close work with Aberystwyth University and other higher education institutions across a wide range of subjects including education, research and development.

On 4 December 2013, the Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities Strategic Alliance was celebrated at the Senedd, home of the National Assembly for Wales.

The event, sponsored by Elin Jones AM and Alun Ffred Jones AM, brought together Assembly Ministers, Members, policy makers and stakeholders to learn about the collaborative work undertaken by both institutions.

Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities are collaborating across a broad range of their activities to oversee the development, delivery and growth in the Alliance. Recent developments include joint strategies in teaching and learning, innovation and engagement, widening access and regional planning process.

Two years since the launch of the Alliance, the event provided an opportunity to showcase some of the projects and initiatives pursued jointly by the Universities.

The Department of Law and Criminology is working with Dyfed-Powys Police to develop a new Centre for Rural Policing and Justice to look at ways of tackling crime in rural communities.

Dyfed-Powys covers the largest force area of any constabulary in England and Wales, and the force has said that tackling crime in rural communities is the biggest challenge it faces.

The project will work with universities and other partners to look at the particular needs of rural villages and towns and how they can be policed, and develop new ways of understanding and tackling rural crime.

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May 2014 saw an action packed programme of cycling in Aberystwyth with the return of Aberystwyth Cycle Festival for a fifth consecutive year. Hosted in partnership with the University, the event from 23-25 May welcomed some of Britain’s top cyclists and included on and off road action.

Aberystwyth University is part of SusNet Wales, a three-year initiative enabling Higher Education Institutes to work in partnership with secondary schools and colleges. Through SusNet Wales the University has been awarded £128,000, an element of which enables students to directly engage with practising researchers in subjects including biology, chemistry, geography, politics, sports and exercise science.

Aberystwyth University is ideally placed to develop such a partnership with Welsh schools in providing unrivalled opportunities for exposure to world class research coupled with the ability to communicate through either the medium of Welsh or English.

In June 2014 the University sponsored Ras yr Iaith (the language race), which aimed to promote the use of the Welsh language by bringing together Welsh speakers, non-Welsh speakers and learners. The race took place on 20 June, and involved a special baton being passed on at sites across Ceredigion.

Wales IP, a collaboration between Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea Universities, went live in March 2014. A web gateway that brings together Welsh research and global business, Wales IP acts as a portal for potential investors, helping them locate innovative opportunities developed by Wales’ research-intensive universities.

Funded by the Higher Education Council for Wales, Wales IP provides a one-stop destination for investors or companies seeking commercial applications, acting as a gateway to 95% of the region’s research and helping researchers to find intellectual property and identify areas of collaboration.

In September 2013 the University participated in the production of the feature film DRY by Next Page Productions.

DRY is an international feature film with a strong message against the practice of forced child brides in Africa and indeed beyond. It was filmed on location in Nigeria and Aberystwyth, including on the University campus.

The production received strong support from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies (TFTS) and the Arts Centre and provided a golden opportunity for TFTS students to work first hand with an experienced film crew. Aberystwyth students participated in a variety of activities, helping with photography, assisting with camera, sound, make up, art direction and some even taking small acting roles.
Following a nominations and voting process by students and staff, the Aberystwyth Lifeboat and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has been selected as the Vice Chancellor’s Charity of the Year for 2014-15. Now in its third year, the Vice-Chancellor’s Charity of the Year appeal seeks to raise funds for a worthy cause. RNLI volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service in the UK and Ireland from 236 lifeboat stations, including Aberystwyth. Additionally the RNLI has more than 1,000 lifeguards on over 180 beaches around the UK and operates a specialist flood rescue team, which can respond anywhere across the UK and Ireland when inland flooding puts lives at risk.

*Credit: RNLI*
Investing in our future

Growing our resources and investing in our environment to deliver on our strategic priorities, ensuring Aberystwyth’s future sustainability and growth.

The new Fferm Penglais Student Residences, which represent a capital investment of around £45m, will offer the very latest in purpose built student accommodation for 1,000 students.

Located within easy walking distance to the University’s Penglais Campus, the new residences will offer plenty of space for living and studying and will be equipped with hard wired and Wi-Fi internet access.

Inspired by the landscape and architecture of rural Wales, the new development features a series of two and three storey buildings with flats for six or eight students living in self-catered accommodation. Individual rooms will be bigger than anything the University has offered before and the development includes 100 studio flats specifically designed for postgraduate students.

A central hub will also provide a range of social, learning and living functions including launderettes, bike stores, communal space for clubs and societies, and computing facilities. There will also be a new grass sports pitch.

After months of preparation and renovation, the Llanbadarn Centre became the new home to the Institute of Management, Law and Information Science from the beginning of academic year 2013-14.

In an improvement programme which has seen the University invest £4.5m, the five Institute’s buildings have been reconfigured, refurbished and re-equipped with state-of-the-art teaching rooms, non-traditional teaching spaces, social areas and IT facilities, ensuring they meet modern learning and professional development needs. The Llanbadarn Centre also has its own dedicated library, stocked with textbooks, journals, and learning support material, and full access to the latest electronic resources.
In November 2013 Lord Elystan Morgan officially opened the new home of the Department of Law and Criminology, which now bears his name.

A former Labour MP and Judge, Lord Elystan Morgan was educated at Ardwyn Grammar School in Aberystwyth and Aberystwyth University where he studied law. Over the years Lord Elystan Morgan has retained a close association with the University and served as its President for 10 years between 1997 and 2007.

The Elystan Morgan Building at the University’s Llanbadarn Centre houses more than 850 staff and students. All 119 rooms in the four storey building have been recently renovated, refurbished and equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and IT facilities.

On 30 January 2014, the Welsh Government Minister for Natural Resources and Food, Alun Davies, officially announced the initiation of Pwllpeiran Upland Research Platform in Ceredigion.

The platform will be developed by the University’s Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, supported by £2.5 million investment from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

The uplands in Wales encompass 80,000 hectares, and this natural resource provides essential services including water, food, fuel, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitats, biodiversity havens, flood alleviation and recreational space.

The Pwllpeiran Upland Research Platform will focus on future opportunities for the benefit of the upland farming community throughout the UK and beyond, and will form part of the imminent development of the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus. This commitment to a new era of upland farming research was welcomed across the agri-food sector.

The University has achieved a Bronze Food for Life Catering Mark Award from the Soil Association, for all of its campus restaurants.

The Food for Life scheme is fast becoming the industry standard for local, sustainable, ethically sourced food and recognises many of the excellent food procurement practices already taking place within the University.

The University benefits from its very own farm which allows its restaurants to source lamb and beef with arguably the shortest supply chains and lowest food miles for meat sourced on such a large scale. The University’s own greenhouses supply the kitchens with fresh salad and herbs to accompany the one thousand plus hot meals served every day.

Jane Powell from Organic Centre Wales (right) and Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor at Aberystwyth University enjoying some of the locally sourced food provided in the University’s restaurants.
**Appointments**

**New appointments**

Professor Richard Beardsworth was appointed Chair in International Politics in September 2013. He was formerly Professor of International Theory at Florida International University (2012-2013) and Professor of Political Philosophy and International Relations at the American University of Paris (2005-2011).

Professor Mike Gooding has been appointed as Director of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences. Professor Gooding was previously Professor of Crop Science and Agronomy, and Head of the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development at the University of Reading.

Louise Jagger was appointed Director of Development and Alumni Relations in March 2014. An alumna of Bath and Aberystwyth Universities with over 25 years’ experience in fundraising within the UK, Louise has led major capital appeals, fundraising campaigns and regular giving programmes for a range of charities, including Scope, NCH and NSPCC.

Phil Maddison was appointed Director of Health, Safety and Environment in May 2014. Prior to joining the University, Phil worked in heavily regulated industries including government and public sectors in the Middle East and across the UK.

Professor Mustapha Kamal Pasha was appointed Chair in International Politics in October 2013, having been Sixth Century Chair and Head of International Relations at the University of Aberdeen since 2006. Prior to that, he taught at the School of International Service, American University, in Washington, DC.

Professor Gary Rawnsley was appointed as Professor of Public Diplomacy in 2013. He joined Aberystwyth from the Institute of Communications Studies at the University of Leeds, where he specialised in public diplomacy, soft power, propaganda and information warfare, with a special emphasis on China and Taiwan.

Gareth Lloyd Roberts was appointed Director of Aberystwyth Arts Centre in November 2013. Gareth was previously Producer at Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff, where he spent 9 years working in various roles, including Programming Officer and Programmer.

Professor Kevin Shingfield joined the University as chair in Nutritional Physiology at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, focusing on systems biology approaches to understanding biologically and economically important physiological responses in livestock and the broader impacts on the environment, product quality and human health.

Mark Taylor was appointed as Director of Estates Development. An alumnus of the University of Westminster with a BSc in Urban Estate Management and the University of South Wales with a Postgraduate Diploma in Management, Mark has some 30 years’ experience in the Estates sector.
Senior appointments

Professor Kate Bullen
Director of Ethics and Equality

Caryl Davies
Director of Student Support

Tim Davies
Director of Information Services

John Glasby
CEO of Aberystwyth University Students’ Union

Alwena Hughes Moakes
Director of Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs

Professor Colin McInnes
Director of Research, Impact and Excellence

Professor Sarah Prescott
Rendel Chair in English Language and Literature

Professor Michael Woods
Professor of Transformative Science

Personal Chairs

The following members of staff were awarded personal chairs in 2013-14:

Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones
Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

Professor Alun Hubbard
Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

Professor Luis Mur
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

Professor Martyn Powell
Department of History and Welsh History

Professor Malcolm Thomas
School of Education and Lifelong Learning

Heads of Academic Departments

The following appointments to positions of heads of academic department were made in 2013-14:

Professor Simon Cox
Department of Mathematics

Dr Nigel Holt
Department of Psychology

Dr Anwen Jones
Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

Dr Louise Marshall
Department of English and Creative Writing

Dr Bernard Tiddeman
Department of Computer Science

Professor John Williams
Department of Law and Criminology
Eleven Honorary Fellowships were presented during the Aberystwyth University graduation ceremonies in July. The title of fellow is awarded to honour distinguished people who have a close association with the University or who have made an outstanding contribution to professional or public life in Wales.

This year’s Fellows are:

D. Geraint Lewis, author and former Education and Children’s Librarian for Dyfed and Assistant Director of Education at Ceredigion County Council.

Renowned atmospheric physicist and Wales’ first Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor John Harries.

Prominent Welsh journalist, television presenter and currently the BBC’s Middle East Editor, Jeremy Bowen.

Cardiff-born venture capitalist and philanthropist, Sir Michael Moritz, chairman of Sequoia Capital in California’s Silicon Valley and former member of the board of directors of Google.

Welsh actor, Rhodri Meilir, who graduated from Aberystwyth University’s Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies in 2000.

Playwright, director and producer, Ed Thomas, who is founder member and creative director of TV production company Fiction Factory.

The son of two Aber alumni, Rhod Gilbert, who is best known for his comedy genius.

Professor Bonnie Buntain, Assistant Dean Professor of Public Health at the University of Calgary in Canada.

Emeritus Head of Applied Photosynthesis and Systems Modelling Laboratory at the International Rice Research Institute, Dr John Sheehy, an alumnus of Aberystwyth University.

West Wales farmer and entrepreneur, Brian Jones founder and managing director of Castell Howell Foods Ltd, an industrial partner of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness Kay Andrews is an alumna of Aberystwyth University, having graduated with a BA in International Politics in 1966.

Short video interviews with the new Fellows are available at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/graduation-2014/fellows
The total number of higher education student registrations with Aberystwyth University in 2013-14 was 11,170 (9,271 full-time equivalent), including 37 (17 full-time equivalent) students who studied on part-time franchised courses at Coleg Sir Gar, Carmarthenshire College. 182 of our students studied with partner institutions overseas under the ERASMUS programme. There were also 3,522 student registrations for FE level courses delivered both at Aberystwyth and at FE colleges across Wales.
Gwariant / Expenditure

£126.7M

- £5,461,000 Adrannau Academaidd
- £2,976,000 Gwasanaethau Academaidd
- £8,712,000 Grantiau a Chontractau Ymchwil
- £2,976,000 Gwasanaethau Academaidd
- £8,712,000 Grantiau a Chontractau Ymchwil
- £73,872,000 Costau Staff
- £73,872,000 Costau Staff
- £3,659,000 Neuaddau Preswyl, Arwyno a Chynadleddau
- £6,460,000 Adeiladau
- £8,261,000 Addysg Gyffredinol
- £8,261,000 Addysg Gyffredinol
- £2,796,000 Gweinyddu a Gwasanaethau Canolog
- £2,796,000 Gweinyddu a Gwasanaethau Canolog
- £1,900,000 Gwasanaethau Eraill a Ddparparwyd
- £1,673,000 Canolfan y Cefyddydau
- £8,989,000 Treulial Eraill
- £2,446,000 Dibrisiant

CYFANSWM / TOTAL = £126,770,000