

Aber NEWS

ISSUE 10 - Nov 2012

Aberystwyth...one of the best places in the world to be a student



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2009

New life for Old College

The University is inviting tenders for the completion of a feasibility study for the redevelopment of the Old College.

The study will also consider University properties at 1, 9 and 10 Laura Place, including the Joseph Parry Hall, and 1 and 2 Marine Terrace, which for many years housed the University's Medical Centre.

Amongst the ideas proposed is the development of a 'cultural quarter' based around the Old College, a Postgraduate Centre providing world-class teaching, learning and study spaces, an art gallery and lecturing and performance facilities.

The feasibility study represents an investment of £60,000, with half being funded by the Welsh Government's Aberystwyth Regeneration Area Fund and half by the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor April McMahon, said: "Research consistently shows that Aberystwyth University is recognised as one of the best locations to study for undergraduates."

"We want to build on that and develop a world class postgraduate centre. However, the Old College should have a community focus as well as an academic one. We want to provide a resource for residents and visitors as well as students and staff. Our vision is for state-of-the-art learning facilities, exhibition space, a University shop and a first point of contact for local businesses – truly bringing the town and gown together in a new cultural quarter."

The final feasibility study is expected to be presented to the University in March 2013.

4 Radiocarbon breakthrough



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10 The importance of active ageing



15 Human trafficking election



Aber NEWS is published by the
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The next edition of Aber NEWS will be available in **January 2013**.
Copy deadline for this edition is **Monday 3rd December**.

Support for new Institutes

The University Senate and Council have unanimously approved the plans for academic reorganisation, which will see the creation of seven Institutes across the University, with existing Departments continuing within them. Forming Institutes will ensure that the University has greater consistency across Departments, facilitate planning processes and provide excellent career development prospects for administrative staff.

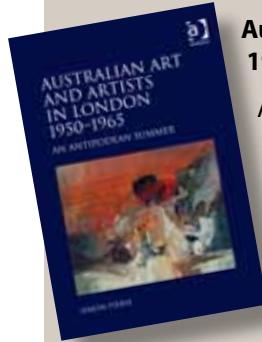
The University will now be moving into a period of planning how the new Institutes should work, and identifying what are the key elements required within the new structures, and colleagues will be invited to discuss how the new Institutes will interface with support areas. An essential part of the process will be the appointment of Directors and Managers to lead the new Institutes and these roles will be advertised internally during the coming weeks.

The Institute of Human Sciences, which encompasses Psychology and Sport and Exercise Science, is already up and running under the directorship of Dr Kate Bullen. You can read more on her appointment in Aber People on page 13.

The formation of the new Institutes sees the following Departments working together, from 1 August 2013:

1. IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences)
2. Psychology; Sport and Exercise Science (= Institute of Human Sciences)
3. IMAPS (Institute of Mathematics and Physics); Computer Science
4. IGES (Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences); International Politics; History and Welsh History
5. Law and Criminology; SMB (School of Management and Business); DIS (Information Studies).
6. Theatre, Film and Television Studies; English and Creative Writing; the School of Art; Welsh; the Arts Centre; European Languages; Music Centre
7. SELL (School of Education and Lifelong Learning); CDSAP (Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice); Graduate Centre; International English Centre, and student learning support.

Bookshelf



Australian Art and Artists in London, 1950-1965: An Antipodean Summer

A distinct vision of Australian identity by expatriate Australian artists is highlighted in this award-winning new book by Dr Simon Pierse, Lecturer in the School of Art. A culmination of over ten years of research focusing on British perceptions of Australian art and identity, the book received a coveted author's award from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Losing an Empire and Finding a Role: Britain, the USA, NATO and Nuclear Weapons, 1964-70

This book by Dr Kristan Stoddart, Lecturer in the Department of International Politics, revises several public misconceptions regarding Britain, the United States and NATO in the nuclear weapons field. Based on the latest declassified evidence collected both in the UK and the USA, Stoddart shows that despite losing its empire, Britain was finding a role – a role based on the defence of the NATO area at the expense of large scale extra-European commitments. Its primary method of achieving this was through nuclear weapons with an upgraded capability in Polaris.



www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre

SPORTS CENTRE

Fit & Well 2013

From **7th – 27th January** the Sports Centre will once again be hosting "Fit and Well", a month long programme of events providing an opportunity to discover ways to improve your health and fitness.



Everything from badminton to kettlebell training, fitness testing to weight loss programme – there will surely be something for everyone.

Enjoy a healthy 2013!

For further information please contact the Sports Centre:

Tel: 01970 622280
E-mail: sports@aber.ac.uk



VICE CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

As I write, the University's Council has just unanimously approved and endorsed our new Strategic Plan for 2012-17. We're moving forward into a new era for the University – and the Strategic Plan sets out the path we need to follow to meet our ambitious aims.

So, what are the best things about the new Strategic Plan?

First of all, and most importantly, I didn't write it; the Executive didn't write it; the Planning and Communications Departments didn't write it. Of course, we all had a hand in contributing ideas and suggesting wording. But so did you. The key ideas in the plan have come from the students, staff and Governing Body of the University, through the 'Shaping our Future' sessions, and subsequent e-mails, discussions and small group meetings. It's not a document put together by an individual or a small group who think they know best about the future direction of the University; instead, it's a real reflection of the energy, enthusiasm and commitment that are hallmarks of Aber.

Second, the Strategic Plan is all about people, because we're a people business. It says explicitly that we're building on today's talent to secure future success – 'our vision for Aberystwyth 2017 is possible because of the people who embody the existing strengths and values of Aberystwyth 2012'. And in my last *Aber News* column I talked about those values, for a University that is ambitious, innovative, people-centred, international, community-based, collaborative, open and responsible.

Finally, the Plan is arranged around six key aims. Aberystwyth is about creating opportunities; research with excellence that makes an impact; teaching that inspires; engaging the world; working in partnership; and investing in our future. For each of these aims, we have set a range of strategies and targets for 2017, some of which are very challenging. You asked us to be ambitious, and everyone who has contributed targets for the University has taken that to heart.

It doesn't matter whether you are a student or a member of staff, or what job you do in the University – there are ways you can help us to meet those important targets and make Aber a success. We want to see individuals and departments engaging with the Plan, and figuring out which aims and targets are your priorities. The Strategic Plan is a celebration of what we do well now, and a route-map to where we want to get to in the next five years. I urge you to read and discuss it; you can access it at www.aber.ac.uk/Strategicplan, and we will also be having some launch events where you can find out more.

Council on 5 November was a very positive and eventful meeting. Not only did we see the Strategic Plan being accepted, but Council also approved our new Financial Regulations, which are effective right now and can be found on the Finance Office's webpages; gave us the green light to develop our new Estates Strategy, which will be consulted on over the next few weeks; and agreed the move to seven new academic Institutes, an essential step if we are to deliver the new Strategic Plan. I'm delighted to be able to report all these positive steps. Now it's over to you.

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor

CISS Annual Lecture 2012

Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller of Northampton, Director General of MI5 (2002-7) and currently Chair of Council at Imperial College London, visited the University on 7 November in order to deliver the Annual Lecture of the Centre for Intelligence and International Security Studies (CISS).

During her lecture, Eliza Manningham-Buller provided a personal account of the issues which faced her as the head of the UK's Security Service and then generously

answered a range of questions from the audience.

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor, who hosted the lecture alongside University President Sir Emry Jones-Parry, commented: "The University was very pleased to welcome Eliza Manningham-Buller to the Department of International Politics. We were extremely grateful to her for sharing her experience and knowledge on the challenges which



President's second term

Sir Emry Jones Parry has been appointed to serve for a second term as President of the University.



Sir Emry, a former UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations, took up the post in January 2008 and will complete the five year tenure of office at the end of December. His appointment for a second term was approved at a meeting of the AU Council on 5 November.

Speaking afterwards, Sir Emry said: "I am delighted and honoured by the privilege, and looking forward to helping to lead the University through the next exciting period."

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor, said: "I am thrilled that Sir Emry's Presidency has been extended by a further five years; this was unanimously supported by the University's Council.

"Sir Emry has been a strong, visionary leader for our University, he is well respected by our students and staff and we are looking forward to working with him in further developing our University as a confident and ambitious leader of Higher Education in Wales."



L to R: Sir Emry Jones-Parry, Dr Jenny Mathers, Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller, Professor April McMahon, and Dr R Gerald Hughes.

faced her as a leader, and for such an engaging presentation."

NEWS

Radiocarbon breakthrough

Dr Henry Lamb from the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences (IGES) has been involved in a project which has enabled scientists to make significant improvements to the precision and accuracy of radiocarbon dating.

Widely used to measure the ages of archaeological sites, past climate events and changes to the environment, radiocarbon dating has until now only provided an accurate method for dating back as far as 12,000 years or so. Beyond this point, major changes in the climate at the end of the last ice age have made it much harder to get accurate measurements.

However, a series of cores – sections of mud – taken from the floor of Lake Suigetsu in Japan, and analysed by UK researchers including scientists from IGES, has provided an exquisitely preserved record of environmental change that extends back 70,000 years.

Dr Henry Lamb is one of four Principal Investigators on the



Dr Henry Lamb holding a metre long section of core taken from Lake Suigetsu. The cores are stored at 4°C in a large cold store at IGES.

project and has played a key role in analysing the sediment cores. Using novel methods with a high-tech X-ray core scanner, Dr Lamb and post-doctoral researcher Dr Mike Marshall undertook the painstaking work of counting and characterising the annual layers in the Lake Suigetsu cores, many of which were too fine to be distinguished by the naked eye.

IBERS launch the Advanced Training Partnership

IBERS launched their exciting new training programme, the Advanced Training Partnership (ATP), at Livestock 2012 in Birmingham's NEC on 4th September.

The ATP for Sustainable and Efficient Food Production is one of four training programmes being funded by BBSRC to work towards global food security. The partnership consists of IBERS, Bangor University and the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB).

The ATP aims to deliver high level training directly to the UK agriculture sector, focusing on the need for more sustainable, efficient food supplies in the future. As well as delivering IBERS' first ever course via distance learning, the ATP is offering students the chance to gain an MSc jointly validated by Aberystwyth and Bangor University, the first of its kind as part of the Strategic Alliance.

For more information see www.atp-pasture.org.uk

Psychological effects of cancer

Research conducted by the Department of Psychology into the psychological effects of penile cancer on masculinity has been used in the development of a new website.

The award-winning experiential website Healthtalkonline, (www.healthtalkonline.org) features a new section on the rarely discussed topic of penile cancer, of which 400-600 new cases are diagnosed in the UK each year.

The work has been led by Dr Kate Bullen, Head of the Department of Psychology. Over 70 men participated in the study which was funded by an AU doctoral studentship with the support of charitable donations from Welsh Freemasons.

Dr Bullen said: "The launch of the penile cancer section on the Healthtalkonline website is an important outcome of the work we have been contributing to in this difficult area. "Cancer is a challenging experience at any time, but particularly so when the cancer is unusual, exactly the case with penile cancer."

"We know from our research that men can find it difficult to talk about their feelings and so a website such as this is extremely useful as it enables men to feel more in control and less vulnerable at a difficult time in their lives."

The Psychology Department has several members of staff with an interest in health related gender issues and a recently completed PhD investigated the effect of penile cancer on masculinity.

WINTER CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR

26 October to 23 December 2012
2 to 6 January 2013



Open

10am – 8pm
Mon-Sat

12 – 5.30pm
Sunday

01970 622895

www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

NEWS

Missing diaries

Robert Meyrick, Head of the School of Art, is seeking a set of missing diaries which could provide a vital clue to the origin of a portrait that many believe to be an earlier version of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.

The diaries are those of British art connoisseur and collector Hugh Blaker. Robert Meyrick is considered the world's leading expert on Blaker and was invited to speak at the unveiling of the Isleworth Mona Lisa in Geneva in September.

Blaker had a reputation for recognising lost Old Masters, and found and bought the controversial Isleworth Mona Lisa in a nobleman's country house in Somerset in 1913. However, Blaker told no one the name of the country house or that of the seller.

Robert Meyrick believes Blaker may have put details in his diaries that would allow experts to trace where he found the portrait and how it had come to be in the Somerset family's possession. He believes the diaries could well provide the key to pushing back the provenance of this version of the Mona Lisa by at least 150 years.

Blaker's diaries are said to have been posted to Washington in the United States in the 1960s. However, they then disappeared and it seems that the address to which they were sent never existed.

In 2010, in response to a standing appeal on his website, Robert Meyrick was sent Blaker's diaries for the last five years of his life by a family who had found them years before in a junk shop in Gravesend in Kent. The search for Blaker's earlier diaries has attracted the attention of the world's media.

If the Isleworth Mona Lisa turns out to be authentic, this will conclude that Leonardo da Vinci painted two versions of the Mona Lisa – an earlier version and the later iconic version which is on view at the Louvre.



Robert Meyrick and the Isleworth Mona Lisa



5th – 19th January 2013

The Wardens proudly present their annual traditional family pantomime.

For tickets visit:

[www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/
family/aladdin](http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/family/aladdin)

Inaugural North Wales International Poetry Festival comes to Aberystwyth

The Department of English and Creative Writing welcomed a group of visiting European poets as part of the North Wales International Poetry Festival in early October.

This festival is designed to increase the profile of European poets and poetics in Wales, and to provide opportunities for collaborative work through translation. The Aberystwyth leg of the festival comprised three diverse sessions which explored ideas of space and physicality in poetics.

Operation Iceberg

Aberystwyth scientists have been part of a ground-breaking expedition to the Arctic to investigate the lifecycle of icebergs.



Glaciologist, Dr Alun Hubbard (Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences) and robotics expert, Dr Mark Neal (Department of Computer Science), alongside other researchers from AU and the University of St Andrews, were looking to understand the forces that make icebergs break off from their mother glaciers and find out what happens once they are afloat and on their epic ocean journey.

Understanding the mechanisms through which icebergs are created is important for making predictions about changes in the amount of ice entering the world's oceans, as a result of climate change.

The findings of the expedition at Store Glacier, West Greenland, were featured on BBC Two's *Operation Iceberg*.

Dr Hubbard will be amongst a group of researchers who will spend this winter "frozen-in" to the sea ice as it forms around the Store glacier. This will allow them to make some of the first winter in-situ measurements of the glacier and how it responds to the changing Arctic season.

Further information about Dr Hubbard's work is available on www.aber.ac.uk/greenland.

ABER Research



The Research Office marked its second anniversary in October. This coincided with the co-location of the whole Research Office team into two shared spaces with Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS), which will help the teams develop an even stronger relationship.

Reflecting on the past two years we have achieved much that has contributed to the research culture here at AU. This continues with new initiatives such as developing the next generation of research leaders by making use of opportunities like the 2013 Welsh Crucible, which is an open competition for early and mid-career academics to win a place on one of the best research leadership programmes going - more details will be announced before Christmas.

Initiatives such as the Welsh Crucible contribute to Aberystwyth's commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (available at www.vitae.ac.uk/CMS/files/upload/Vitae-Concordat-2011.pdf). The Concordat is an agreement between the funders and employers of researchers in the UK. It encompasses seven principles which aim to enhance the researcher workforce and thereby sustain research excellence, bringing benefits to the health, economy and well-being of the UK.

All those involved in managing and conducting research here at AU should be aware of and be implementing the Concordat's principles and requirements. Representatives of the researcher community are welcome to attend the Aberystwyth Research Concordat Group meetings to help steer the University's activities to further its implementation of the Concordat. Examples of initiatives from this group include developing a specialist induction session for new researchers and academics and an induction pack for new researchers. Also building on the success of the monthly Research Café, we are keen to receive ideas from the research community on other ways of bringing researchers together and how to effectively communicate with them. Details of our events can be found on the University's Research webpages (www.aber.ac.uk/research).

The Research Office supports all research staff and also students finishing their PhD, who may be seeking research funding. For more information please contact your discipline's Research Development Officer (details on the next page).

To join the Research Concordat Group, find out more about events or to share any ideas, please contact research@aber.ac.uk

Gary Reed, Head of the Research Office

British Academy visit

Dr Ken Emond, Head of Research Awards at the British Academy, visited Aberystwyth University on 12 October to provide an update on research funding opportunities with the British Academy.

Over the last ten years AU has successfully been awarded over 80 grants amounting to almost £500,000 from this prestigious and significant funding body. Recent success stories include Professor Patrick Sims Williams' Genome of the Welsh Language, and Professor Philipp

Schofield's Seals in a Local Context (SiLC). If you missed Dr Emond's presentation, a video will shortly be available via AberCast - details on the Research office website (www.aber.ac.uk/research).

The external deadline for the next British Academy Small Grants round is 10 April 2013. Further details can be found at www.britac.ac.uk. For assistance with your British Academy application please contact research@aber.ac.uk or your relevant Research Development Officer.

Research Café: New menu launched

Professor Martin Jones launched the new programme of research cafés on 10 October. Martin presented his vision for research at AU post-REF, including the strategy of the University, his view of how the new and emerging academic Institutes will contribute to the strategy and the importance of working in an interdisciplinary way. With over 70 people in the audience and a lively question and answer session, the new year of cafés has started with a buzz.

The next café will be on 12 December when there will be an opportunity to hear from Professor Peter Barry from the Department of English and Creative Writing on CONTEMPO – critical-creative research on poetry in the environment; cross-city writing and performance projects.

The aim of the café is for research groups to present their project and the challenges they face which may be overcome with assistance from colleagues in other disciplines. Please come along and help solve some research problems. Sign up by emailing research@aber.ac.uk.



L to R: Dr Guy Baron (recipient of a British Academy UK-Latin American grant), Professor April McMahon, Dr Ken Emond, and Dr Andrea Hammel (recipient of a British Academy small grant to research intergenerational trauma)

Science stars

On Thursday 27 September, Edwina Hart, Welsh Government Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science came to Aberystwyth to launch a new £50m fund to attract some of the world's greatest scientific minds to Wales.

'Stars Wales'/'Sêr Cymru' aims to enhance research excellence by attracting world-class science researchers and their teams to Wales for a minimum period of five years and to increase Wales' share of the UK Research Council's funding from the current 3.4% to 5%.

The campaign will support the establishment of a collaborative national research network in each of the areas of advanced engineering and materials, life sciences and health;

and low carbon, energy and environment. These are the three 'Grand Challenge' areas highlighted in the Government's 'Science for Wales' strategy which was launched earlier this year.

The Welsh Government is calling on universities across Wales to use this opportunity to become more ambitious and more collaborative in their approach to making funding bids in order to increase their volume of competitively-



L to R. Professor John Harries, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Welsh Government; Professor Wayne Powell; Welsh Government Minister Edwina Hart AM and Professor April McMahon.

awarded research.

For more on Wales' Science Strategy, visit: www.wales.gov.uk/sercymru

Does life begin at 40?

The University is currently participating in its highest ever number of ongoing research projects funded through the European Union's Framework Programme.

Ranging from Marie Curie fellowships, to European Research Council grants for excellent individual academics, through to collaborative projects with partner organisations across the globe, the 40 ongoing activities are particularly significant in enlivening trans-national academic mobility and enhancing the University's reputation beyond Wales and the UK.

The number of ongoing projects has more than doubled since July 2009, when the University first appointed Huw Merfyn Hughes to assist academics with the application process.

"Back then, when I started in post there were 16 ongoing projects," Huw reports, "and while some academics were familiar with the application process and regularly accessed FP funds, most were either unaware of the opportunities or were put-off from applying due to the rather unfair reputation the schemes have for being highly competitive and bureaucratic. I was tasked with demystifying the process and providing bespoke assistance to academics from across the University who wished to apply."

"Even though the number of ongoing projects ebbs and flows like the tide round Aber's harbour walls," added Huw, "I've no doubt that we'll be celebrating 50 ongoing projects pretty soon, on account of the high number of applications being worked on in advance of this autumn and winter's application deadlines."

Research support contacts

Name	Position	Email	Extension
Research Office			
Gary Reed	Head of Research Office	gar	1789
Hannah Payne	REF and Research Monitoring Officer	hep	8490
Dafydd Roberts	Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Research Support Officer	dir	8787
Jenny Deaville	Faculty of Social Sciences - Research Support Officer	jfj	1616
Joanne Walker	Faculty of Science - Research Support Officer (incl. IBERS responsive model)	jnw	2947
Huw Merfyn Hughes	European Funding Manager	hmh	8742
Anne Howells	European Development Officer	nsh	4127
IBERS			
Tim Williams	IBERS Research Fund Development Manager	tdw	8754
Vacant	IBERS Research Fund Development Manager		
Research Finance			
Peter Botwood	Central contact point	peb16	8485

Further Research Support can be found in the Research Grants Application Toolkit at www.aber.ac.uk/en/research

Improving our chances of success – demand management

As part of our response to the RCUK concerns around managing demand for their funding and the low success rates for many funders, we have put in place a number of initiatives to ensure that the quality of grant applications is as high as possible. These include:

- Support from the Research Development Officers (RDOs) – please get in touch at the earliest opportunity (highly recommend this is at least three weeks before the deadline).
- Internal peer review of the application – contact your Director of Research or RDO.
- An extra approval layer on the JeS system so that the RDOs can conduct a 'sanity check' on all RCUK applications.

Remember that to receive the best service from the Research Office you should contact us about your grant at least three weeks before the deadline. As an absolute minimum we must receive the full paperwork (application, pink form (RG1), FEC and evidence of peer review) at least five working days before the deadline.

Exchange



In this edition of 'Exchange' we're delighted to reveal the winner of the 2012 'Year in a Unit' competition, and to announce our exciting new 'InvEnterPrize' competition which I hope you'll encourage your students to enter. There are also moves afoot in our own offices. CCS and the Research Office will shortly be jointly occupying both the first floor and the lower ground floor of the Visualisation Centre.

As the University moves forward with its new Strategic Plan, now is a good time to think about how your research and teaching can be complemented by working with business and the community. We hear a lot of words and acronyms to describe this – technology transfer, knowledge transfer, business and community engagement, knowledge exchange, translation etc. – but it's all about how your work impacts on the world beyond academia. Could there be a commercial application for your research? Maybe you could deliver a collaborative project such as a PhD studentship with a company? Does your work develop a narrative which a member of the public could explore and understand more readily through using a mobile phone app? Is the material you teach relevant to companies? Could we run a short session based upon your work for company delegates as a CPD course? Have you invented something which could be patented? Do you have an idea which could be the foundation of a new company? Colleagues around the University are already winning funding for this kind of work, and CCS together with the Research Office can help you to do the same. We're always pleased to hear from you so don't hesitate to get in touch to discuss your ideas.

Liz Flint

Director, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services

Agri apps – update



farmGRAZE



horseRATION

We recently launched the first app from the 2011 'mobile apps challenge'. Since its release on the Google Play app store in July 2012, farmGRAZE has been downloaded over 700 times by users in the UK and globally including the USA, New Zealand, Australia and South Korea as well as several European countries. farmGRAZE was also used as a teaching tool during the Sustainable Grassland Workshop in September 2012, run by the Advanced Training Partnership for Sustainable and Efficient Food Production (www.atp-pasture.org.uk).

The second app from the apps competition is now nearing completion. horseRATION will be launched on iTunes in November 2012. horseRATION is aimed at avoiding obesity in horses and the health problems that go with it. This app calculates the amount of forage and concentrate feed for a horse's daily rations using information regarding behaviour, workload, breeding status, Body Condition Score, age, weight and height. We anticipate that users will also benefit from saving money on unnecessary feed purchases and potential vet's bills.

horseRATION, like farmGRAZE, is the output of applied research within IBERS and will be available for download via the mobileFARM website (www.mobilefarmapps.com). If you have ideas for agriculture or animal health apps, based on your research or expertise, please contact Dr Rhian Hayward, Technology Transfer Officer (rih@aber.ac.uk).

Rose Wood wins a Year in a Creative Unit

Emerging designer Rose Wood has been selected as the University's 2012 "Year in a Creative Unit" winner.

Chosen by a Dragon's Den-style panel, Rose will be using the award-winning Creative Unit, adjacent to the Arts Centre, as her base to develop her business designing and making high quality, luxurious, yet innovative jewellery.

Rose is excited about locating her expanding business at the University's Arts Centre as she sees this as a good opportunity for networking with other creative talent in an environment which will enable her business to blossom.

Rose's work is concerned with movement and touch and has a simple yet bold aesthetic. The pieces range from simple everyday jewellery to larger statement pieces, using leather, silver, textiles and paper. Another facet to her design work is large scale wearable kinetic textile pieces for exhibition, performance and commission.

Whilst at the Arts Centre Creative Unit, Rose will be supported by the University's Enterprise Manager, Tony Orme.



Jewellery by Rose Wood

COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Editorial Contact: Delyth Whitelaw, dtee@aber.ac.uk Ext: 8753

The hunt is on for Aber Uni's "InvEnterPreneur"

The InvEnterPrize student competition is now open!



The new and exciting InvEnterPrize student competition was launched during an inspirational enterprise event in October to an audience of over 40 staff, students and graduates. Successful business people, Layla Bennett, founder of Hawksdrift Falconry and the 2010 winner of Dragon's Den and Ben Giles, founder of Ultima Cleaning Ltd and the National Academy of Crime Scene Cleaners, shared their business-start up stories with a room full of entrepreneurially-minded students.

InvEnterPrize encourages students to be entrepreneurial and inventive and to submit their business start-up or product ideas for a chance to turn their business ideas into reality.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to "pitch" their business ideas to a panel of judges in a "Dragon's Den" style interview. The winning entry will receive a generous prize package offering support worth up to a maximum of £20,000 to start their business. In addition, all shortlisted finalists will receive expert advice from a number of the University's prominent alumni who have distinguished themselves in business and enterprise.

Further information about InvEnterPrize can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/inventerprise. Terms and conditions apply.

Working in partnership with Development and Alumni Relations, InvEnterprise is organised by Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS) with support from the Annual Fund.

As part of the InvEnterPrize competition, the Aberystwyth Enterprise Network will be hosting a range of Business Start-up Masterclasses open to students, graduates and staff during November and December 2012. Visit www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis for further information or contact Tony Orme, Enterprise Manager on awo@aber.ac.uk

Senior Staff on International Enterprise Educator's Training

Congratulations to Carolyn Parry (Acting Deputy Director, Careers Service) who has successfully completed the International Entrepreneurship Educators Programme (IEEP) and has now been awarded a fellowship of "Enterprise Educators UK", the leading body for Enterprise Education.

Carolyn was one of only seven representatives from Welsh institutions who received support from the Welsh Government to take part in the prestigious IEEP programme. The 18 month programme was run jointly by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Educators UK.

Aber Bangor Consultancy Ltd.

As you may know, the University has set up a joint venture company with Bangor University, as part of our Strategic Alliance. Aber Bangor Consultancy Ltd (ABC) will be the vehicle used by both universities to undertake consultancy transactions with effect from January 2013.

ABC Ltd aims to: provide a streamlined support mechanism for the delivery of support for consultancy by University staff; raise the University's profile; provide an opportunity to create and deliver impact from research activities; allow knowledge exchange with business and the wider community and contribute to the professional and personal development of staff.

The University recognises that consultancy work undertaken by staff can benefit both the individual and the University, and wishes to encourage knowledge exchange through more engagement in consultancy work.

During this autumn, CCS will undertake a consultation exercise with staff to determine how the University can best support staff in their consultancy endeavours. If you have any comments you wish to add to this consultation please contact Chris Heidt, Contracts and Operations Manager, CCS (cah@aber.ac.uk).

New staff

CCS would like to welcome two new members to the team:

Alan Davies joins CCS as High Performance Computing Wales (HPC Wales)



Alan Davies and Lesley Langstaff

Outreach Manager. HPC Wales is an innovative collaboration which gives businesses and researchers access to world-class, secure and easy to use high performance computing (HPC) technology. Alan manages relationships with the Welsh Government and the larger companies in Wales. He has a passion for using technology as an enabler for business change and economic growth.

Lesley Langstaff joins the WISE2 Programme as Wise Network Project Manager. WISE2 is a joint ERDF funded project with Bangor and Swansea which will carry out collaborative research and development with enterprises throughout the convergence region of Wales. Lesley was previously Project Co-ordinator on the Sustainable Learning Networks in Ireland and Wales (SLNIW) project in the School of Management and Business.

COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES

For information or support relating to knowledge exchange opportunities drop us a line, or call into our offices on the first floor of the Visualisation Centre.

CCS central enquiry service: ccservices@aber.ac.uk – ext 2385
- www.aber.ac.uk/ccs



Credit: Carol Garbiano

The importance of active ageing: good health adds life to years

The average life expectancy in Europe is now over 80 years. Dr Emily Oliver and Dr Joanne Hudson, from the Department of Sport and Exercise Science, discuss some of the key challenges this creates for individuals, families and wider society.



Dr Emily Oliver



Dr Joanne Hudson

The steady rise in the ageing population presents a diverse range of global and national challenges including pension and social care provisions, independence, and home-care in latter life stages. A key question is, how well positioned is Wales to cope with the health demands presented by an ageing population and, more critically, what can we do to help the Welsh population 'add life to their years'?

Medical professionals, healthcare providers, and government ministers have hotly debated the best ways of addressing these issues. There is a general consensus that exercise and physical activity represents one of the best methods for influencing well-being in the elderly. Studies that have observed large population groups over a number of years and those that have intervened with specific exercise programmes have both shown that engaging in physical activity has a huge number of benefits.

For example, exercising or being physically active helps maintain cardiovascular and muscular health, reduces the likelihood of mental illnesses such as depression, and means you are less likely to require hospital treatment. The list goes on. Exercising can also reduce the rate of cognitive decay, improve memory, assist with sleep patterns, and maintain positive mood states. Taking part in organised physical activity programmes helps us feel good about ourselves and to foster relationships with others.

All these are potential benefits for healthy individuals. When it comes to its use as a treatment for those suffering ill health,

physical activity really comes into its own. Shown to be more effective and cost-efficient than drug treatments for a range of conditions, it is now standard practice for GPs to prescribe exercise to a range of patients (e.g. those diagnosed with mild-to-moderate depression). In fact, emerging evidence suggests that even those who historically might have been advised to 'take it easy' are now much more likely to be encouraged to exercise through initiatives like the National Exercise Referral Scheme.

Wales provides a number of programmes and opportunities enabling the elderly to become more physically active, for example, free swimming for the over 60s. Other programmes are more specific, based on an identified need. For example, the 'Perfect Balancing Act' programme in Tywyn, Gwynedd, has provided residents with a year-long community based class focused on falls prevention. The scheme, with a range of participants in their 70s, 80s, and 90s, experienced benefits such as increased motivation for physical activity. For example, one participant noted that "it feels good to improve...I feel as fit as a fiddle after the classes. The programme is fulfilling all my wishes and I enjoy it; it gives me a purpose as often you feel like you don't want to do things as you get older".

Of course the benefits of exercise and physical activity have been known since ancient times. And yet, levels of participation in physical activity across the population and specifically amongst the elderly are disappointingly low. Despite the

local successes of intervention programmes, there is clearly a long way to go. In times of cuts to NHS provision and charitable funding, there are still significant gaps in our knowledge regarding the most effective ways of promoting physical activity. A greater understanding of this will help inform healthcare policy, reduce social and economic costs, and importantly increase patient quality of life.

We therefore suggest that three things are needed to ensure that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is successful at promoting physical activity amongst the elderly. Firstly, continued funding of high quality and innovative programmes and interventions. It is important to remember that merely providing opportunities is not enough. We also need to target psychological factors such as attitudes and motivation, which we know will improve uptake and engagement in physical activity. Secondly, everyone needs to start working more collaboratively (e.g. the NHS, universities, the general public). This is already happening in a number of places. For example, housed within the Department of Sport and Exercise Science here at AU, the Physical Activity in Ageing, Rehabilitation and Health research group brings together an interdisciplinary team including biomechanists, physiologists, and cognitive and behavioural psychologists who work closely with NHS clinicians, patients, and voluntary organisations. Ongoing projects include developing a better understanding of the role of physical activity in the prevention and management of diabetes, allowing independent living, maintenance of health through exercise, and reduction of pain and discomfort.

Finally, people need to get involved: in testing, in sharing ideas, in research, in encouraging others and in their local schemes. In one sense the barriers to physical activity are somewhat universal, and it may be patronising and counterproductive to segregate the elderly from mainstream provision and campaigns. However, it is clearly vital that we improve current activity rates, and ensure that longevity and quality of life go hand-in-hand.

STUDENT NEWS

As the National Union of Students celebrates its 90th birthday this year, Ben Meakin, President of the Student Union and Professor John Grattan,



Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience and International explain how the Union is an integral part of the Aberystwyth experience.

As much as a good library is at the core of a university, a vibrant student union is at the heart of an excellent student experience. This works best when it is based upon an open, honest and frank relationship, and around the same desire to do our best for our students.

The relationship between a university and its student union is constantly changing, largely dependent upon the personalities involved and the political climate at the time. Scenes of students campaigning outside University buildings, occupying rooms and challenging 'the system' are part of our collective memory (or collective imagination) of student life. Being on opposite sides of the fence, confronting one another has often been seen as the starting point for any conversation between union and uni. However, of late, the 'them' and 'us' are no longer so diametrically opposed: we often stand side by side.

Did the Dearing Report of 1997 signal a step change in how universities and unions work together by changing the playing field from one where students received grants, to one where students become paying customers? The University of course has always been of the opinion that it provides excellent services to students, whoever pays the bill. The students may view this differently.

Now, we work much more closely together, focused on delivering the best possible student experience. At Aberystwyth, the Student Union and the University have recently agreed a joint Student Charter, a public declaration of how both will support the students of Aberystwyth and enhance their learning. This signed agreement clearly sets out what students can expect from both their Student Union and their University - and what is expected of each individual student.

Supporting one another, whilst at the same time progressing our own agendas, can prove challenging at times. However, whilst the relationship between the Student Union and University goes from strength to strength, it's also in the best interests of both to be fiercely independent. A monthly meeting is held between the Executive and sabbatical officers, and the presence of the Union's elected representatives on the majority of the University's committees ensures that the student voice is heard during the decision making process.

So what do today's Aber students want from their Union and University? Obviously, they want the best education possible, delivered by world class, engaging and enthused lecturers. They want high quality support services, flexible learning spaces and access to state of the art resources. The advocacy and support provided to individual students by the Union officers is fundamental to the student experience and is something the University works hard to protect.

Quite understandably, at the end of their studies, students need graduate level employment. At Aber, the University is working to develop links with alumni and partner employers, and provide excellent opportunities worldwide. The Union provides direct access to employment through the Job Shop based in the Union building, and enables students to build their skills beyond the lecture theatre by getting involved in running clubs, societies or through student representation – a third of Aber students are actively involved in clubs and societies with the Union.

One thing is clear: at Aber, whilst Union and Uni don't always agree, we are both committed to the value of our symbiotic relationship. Whatever the weather, that ensures we're amongst the best student experiences in the UK.



HUMAN RESOURCES

The Future of Equality

The University has developed its new equality plan (Strategic Equality Plan) together with an action plan which is available on www.aber.ac.uk/equality

Who is it for?:

For our whole community of staff, students and visitors, as well as potential applicants (staff and students). Extensive consultation took place within our community and we hope the plan captures the spirit of respect and co-operation shown by all those who contributed to its inception.

So what does the plan say?:

The plan confirms our commitment to providing an environment where everyone is valued as an individual and where our students and staff can work, learn and develop their skills and knowledge in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

As well as meeting out legal requirements (The Equality Act 2010) the plan also aims to show that equality and diversity are integral to the way we conduct and deliver our activities; that we should all embrace and embed equality and diversity in everything we do and provide an inclusive and welcoming environment.

The plan also challenges discrimination, harassment and bullying and outlines our intent to achieve equality of opportunity for all.

What areas does it cover?:

We now have nine protected characteristics - Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage & Civil Partnership, Pregnancy & Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

For more information or to provide feedback: please contact Ms Olympia Petrou, Equalities Advisor on opp@aber.ac.uk or 01970 62 8598.

Athena SWAN



The University is currently applying for a Bronze Institutional Award of the Athena SWAN Charter. Athena SWAN principles support the advancement and promotion of women's careers in science, engineering and technology; in higher education and research.

A working group, represented by Dr Kate Bullen, Head of Psychology (Athena SWAN Champion); Gary Reed, Head of the Research Office; Olympia Petrou, Equalities Advisor; representatives from each of our six science departments and student representatives, have worked together to develop the University's submission which will soon be in the public domain.

The submission includes data on female/male staff ratios, a plan of action for forthcoming years and details of other gender equality work that has been taking place, e.g. pay banding and promotions.

New counselling services

The University's counselling services are now being delivered by a new provider.

The Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) offers both practical and emotional support to help manage any of life's challenges and difficulties, both great and small, whether personal or work related concerns. The service can support employees by providing telephone and face-to-face counselling as well as access to specialist advisors for practical assistance.

The EAP is available 24/7 every day of the year and is a confidential service which is provided free of charge to AU employees. Contact details for accessing this service are available on the HR website www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/

National Stress Awareness Day

To support National Stress Awareness Day on **Wednesday 7 November**, the University held a well-being day for staff and students which included activities such as heart rate and blood glucose checks. During the course of the day representatives from Mind Cymru, the Samaritans and TimetoChangeWales were also on hand in the Psychology Department to answer questions and provide individuals with information on the support available to anyone experiencing stress or mental health related problems.

Managing HR across boundaries

The Welsh Government, on behalf of the Welsh Public Services HR Heads of Profession Steering Group, has been awarded a Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) award under the 'Managing HR Across Boundaries' category.

Susan Chambers, Director of HR at AU, who has played an instrumental role in developing the work of the Steering Group, represented the HE/FE sectors at the CIPD Awards Dinner in London on 17 October.

The achievements of the Steering Group that were particularly commended include the HR Cymru website which supports collaboration across the Welsh Public Service, and the Employee Assistance Programme (see above).

The Steering Group fought off competition from other finalists such as Dell and BUPA to win the award.

ABER PEOPLE

Senior appointments

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN SCIENCES**Dr Kate Bullen**

has been appointed as Institute Director of the new Institute of Human Sciences, a grouping of the departments of Psychology and Sport and Exercise Science. The appointment is for a period of 4 years initially. Dr Bullen has been Head of the Department of Psychology since it was established in 2008.

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION STUDIES****Dr Allen Foster**

has been appointed Head of the Department of Information Studies. Dr Foster joined Aberystwyth in 2002 as a lecturer. His teaching and research interests span the study of information and its users, including information services and systems, information retrieval, information literacy, music librarianship, and information seeking and searching behaviour. The appointment is for a period of 5 years and Dr Foster took up the post on 1 September.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**Dr Jenny Mathers**

has been appointed Acting Head of the Department of International Politics. Dr Mathers joined the department in 1992, and teaches and researches in the areas of Russian politics and security, and gender and war. Dr Mathers will serve from 1 October 2012 to 31 July 2013.



Academic appointments

INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL SCIENCES

Dr Dylan Phillips joins IBERS as Teaching Fellow in the field of plant science, and will be involved in developing the first distance learning masters in IBERS under the banner of the Advanced Training Partnership (ATP). His research focuses on understanding the meiotic DNA repair pathways in cereals and grasses, with the aim of improving the efficiency of modern plant breeding programmes.



Appointed recently as the E-Learning Teaching Fellow for the IBERS ATP project, **Julia Jenkins** is a biology graduate of York University. Since 1993 she has been a member of the Open Learning Unit in the Department of Information Studies and supported and mentored DSA (Disabled Student Allowance) students as a member of the University's Student Support team.



Dr Neil MacKintosh has been appointed to the position of ATP Animal Science Teaching Fellow, based in IBERS. Neil will work in partnership with Bangor University and the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) to provide postgraduate level workshops and distance learning modules on current research in animal science for those linked to the UK's beef, sheep and dairy supply chains.

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Dr Nigel Holt has taken up a senior lectureship in the Department of Psychology. Nigel's research interests lie in the relationship between sound and cognitive performance and the perception of time with his interdisciplinary work focusing on psychology and engineering.



Dr Verena Pritchard has taken up a lecturing position, joining us from the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). Current research projects and interests include: neurodevelopmental outcomes of high-risk children; impact of cell phones and social networking sites on children; adolescents and family; cyber-bullying; executive function and inhibitory processes in attention and memory.



Dr Rachel Horsley joins the Department after eight years lecturing at Nottingham Trent University. Rachel specialises in teaching Biological Psychology and her research interests centre on associative learning and psychological dysfunction, particularly disorders with impulsive and compulsive components such as problem gambling.



Dr David Tod joins us from the Department of Sport and Exercise Science. David moved to Aberystwyth from Melbourne, Australia where he completed his PhD on psychologist service delivery expertise. David's research is focused on the interplay between self-perception, body image and health behaviour, particularly around muscularity in males.



Dr Tim Wells has joined the Department as a Psychology Technician. He is interested in the broad methodological and statistical approaches to research. In addition to offering day-to-day technical support in psychology, he will be responsible for maintaining and running the specialist equipment.

ABER PEOPLE

Appointments

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE



Professor Chris Bridle has joined the department as Professor of Human Behavioural Science, and is also the Director of Research for the newly formed Institute of Human Sciences. Chris is a Chartered Psychologist with expertise in clinical trials and evidence synthesis, and in the design and evaluation of behaviour change interventions.

Marco Arksteijn

has been appointed as new Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Biomechanics. His research interests include the effect of cycling technique on the physiology of endurance cycling, and the coordination of movement and the role of variability of movement, in particular in relation to muscle activity patterns.



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr Chuan Lu has been appointed as a Lecturer in Bioinformatics in the Department of Computer Science. Dr Lu's research interests are mainly in the areas of clinical decision support, bioinformatics, systems biology, machine learning and applied statistics.



Dr Georgios Gkoutos has joined the department as a Reader in Bioinformatics. Dr Gkoutos is a biochemist by training. His current research applies methods from biomedical knowledge representation, management and analysis, comparative phenomics, and translational research. The

primary application of this research is in the investigation of human disease.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND WELSH HISTORY

Dr Alastair Kocho-Williams was recently appointed as Senior Lecturer in Modern European History in the Department of History and Welsh History. Dr Kocho-Williams' research concerns Russian and Soviet foreign policy focusing on the diplomatic corps and the Communist International. His current work addresses Soviet attempts to destabilise British India in the interwar period.



Retirements

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION STUDIES



Dr Gayner Eyre, who was Head of the Department of Information Studies for seven years, retired from full-time academic work at the end of August. Gayner will continue to be associated with the department, leading a project between DIS and Emerald Publishers. The Department wishes to thank Gayner for her services and contribution throughout her long service. She has done much to carry the department forward and it has benefitted enormously from her leadership and dedication.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

There have been two retirements from the Department of Computer Science:



Mrs Margaret Anthony worked as a PhD secretary in the Department for 21 years before retiring in August 2012. A dedicated member of the department, Margaret always gave students the best care and attention.



Mr Jem Rowland started working in the Department in 1986. Jem's work related to embedded computer systems. His main research was in robotics, instrumentation, signal processing and machine learning for data interpretation, and much of his work involved collaboration with physicists and biologists.

The Department would like to thank Margaret and Jem for their many years of service and wish them both long and happy retirements.

Congratulations

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

Congratulations to **Dr Jo Wallace**, Lecturer in Sport & Exercise Physiology, on the birth of her daughter, Freya Sophie, on 1st October.

STUDENT WELCOME CENTRE

Sam Lumb, Student Advisor and member of the Residential Team, has been awarded an Assistant Chief Officer's Congratulations from Hampshire Constabulary for "selfless actions and outstanding professionalism following a road traffic collision".

On 14 March 2012 Sam was driving a minibus containing the University's Women's Football Team, when they came upon a seven car pile-up on the M27 flyover in Hampshire. As a trained Army medic with 3 Royal Welsh B company, Sam was the first medic on the scene, and gave medical assistance to those involved in the collision, including a very severely injured driver. Sam collected her award at a ceremony in Hampshire on Friday 2nd November.

Human trafficking election

Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz of the Department of Law and Criminology has been elected to the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). GRETA is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Convention. Professor Piotrowicz was nominated for the post by the UK Government and will serve on the group four years. A specialist in migration law and international humanitarian law, he is currently working mostly on legal issues arising out of trafficking in human beings.



UK Biodiversity Science Committee

Dr Peter Dennis, lecturer in IBERS, has been appointed as Secretary to the newly established UK Biodiversity Science Committee.

The UK BSC has been formed to engage with the science community to advance the promotion of biodiversity science as a contribution to national and international science programmes. The new Committee is supported by the Royal Society of London Global Environmental Research Committee which promotes and coordinates UK participation in global environmental research programmes.



Sean Morley memorial rugby match

Hundreds gathered to watch a memorial rugby match held to celebrate the life of Sean Morley, a third-year History and Politics student and keen rugby player, who tragically died in early September.

The memorial game, held at Vicarage Fields on 19 October, saw a close fought match between an Aberystwyth University rugby side and the Morley Select XV, eventually seeing the University side triumph over the Morley Select XV with a final score of 19-17.



Pre-match photograph of the teams, along with Sean's mother and step father, Kerry and Gareth Dean

Aber student secures book deal

David Towsey, PhD student from the Department of English and Creative Writing has signed a three-book deal for a trilogy of science fiction novels.

The deal with publishers Quercus was landed on the basis of David's first novel, *Your Brother's Blood*, described as a 'zombie western', which tells of a future community plagued by a disease that causes people to live on after death. The saga of 'The Walkin', as they are called, will be continued in two further novels.

Obituaries

Professor John Garnett (1936-2012)

Professor John Garnett, former Head of the Department of International Politics and Pro Vice-Chancellor at Aberystwyth was the ninth holder of the Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Politics (1981-1997). He was the first lecturer in strategic studies in a British university and the author or editor of works on international politics, nuclear strategy and British foreign policy.



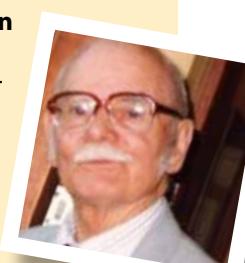
John was a member of the Foreign Office Advisory Panel on Arms Control and the British representative on the United Nations Advisory Board on Disarmament.

John will be remembered for his kindness and friendship towards colleagues, his contribution to the discipline and his influence on generations of students.

For the full obituary for Professor John Garnett, visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/alumni/obituaries/

Emeritus Professor Ian Parrott (1916-2012)

Emeritus Professor Ian Parrott, one of Aberystwyth's great musical personalities, held the Gregynog Chair of Music at Aberystwyth from 1950 until his retirement in 1983. English by birth, he developed a deep love of Wales. Immersing himself in the musical life of his adopted country, he helped found the Guild for the Promotion of Welsh Music in the 1950s.



In addition to his many compositions, Ian Parrott was an authority on British music, publishing several volumes. With his brilliant musical intellect and idiosyncratic teaching style, 'Prof' left a lasting impression on generations of music students who remember him with enormous affection.

For the full obituary for Emeritus Professor Ian Parrott, visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/alumni/obituaries/

WHAT'S ON

Aberystwyth Printmakers Exhibition

Monday 26 November 2012 – Friday 8 February 2013, School of Art

Aberystwyth Printmakers is a group of artists who employ a range of printing techniques in their work including etching, lithography, screenprinting, wood engraving, woodcut and linocut. 27 of the Aberystwyth Printmakers are exhibiting in the School of Art exhibition.

www.aberystwythprintmakers.org.uk



Gini Wade, lithograph

Fifty: Fifty 30 Years of Drawings and Prints by Paul Croft RE TMP

'Fifty: Fifty 30 Years of Drawings and Prints by Paul Croft RE TMP' is a major retrospective exhibition which opened at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in Machynlleth on 12 November 2012.

The exhibition, to celebrate the 50th birthday of Paul Croft, Head of Printmaking in the School of Art, comprises of over 100 drawings and prints spanning 30 years. It features several key works that show the development of a personal, visual language inspired in part by found objects, still life and a lifelong interest in the archaeological and etymological origin of letter forms, alphabets and lexicons.

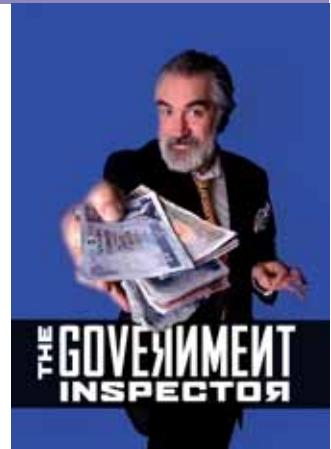
The exhibition will run until **12 January 2013**.



Arts Centre on tour

The Arts Centre, in co-production with leading Scottish theatre company Communicado, will be touring a production of *The Government Inspector* to theatres in Wales and Scotland in Spring 2013 for three months. This has been made possible thanks to funding support from Arts Council of Wales and Arts Council Scotland.

Written by Nikolai Gogol in 1835 and set in Tsarist Russia, *The Government Inspector* is a classic satire on human vanity. By turns hilarious and vicious in its exposé of corruption among those in power, this masterpiece seems made for the times we now live in.



The fast-paced, raucously entertaining black comedy features an electrifying cast and live Balkan-fused music including electric balalaikas and mouth organs. It is directed by Gerry Mulgrew, founder of Communicado, to an adaption by Adrian Mitchell, originally for the National Theatre. Gerry won a 2009-10 Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland for his previous production of the work.

The production will open at the Arts Centre with performances running from **22 February to 2 March 2013**. If you are interested in bringing a group, or for more information, please contact Louise Amery on lila@aber.ac.uk

Festive Music



The University Music Centre has two concerts lined up for the final weeks of term.

Philomusica, Aberystwyth's award winning University and community orchestra, will be at the Arts Centre on **Saturday 8 December** to perform Sibelius' powerful first symphony. Under its conductor, AU's Director

of Music Dr David Russell Hulme, the orchestra will also be performing Vaughan Williams' magical *Lark Ascending* with Aberystwyth-born violinist Christiana Mavron and the catchy and colourful *Tangazo* by the king of Argentinian 'tango nuevo', Astor Piazzolla. Paying tribute to former Gregynog Professor of Music, Ian Parrott, who died in September, there will also be a performance of his *El Alamein*, a reflection on the decisive World War II battle which he experienced first-hand.

On the following **Monday, 10 December**, the University Wind Band under conductor Aiden Hassan, joins forces with Choral Union and the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers for a Christmas celebration at Llanbadarn Church. There will be carols and seasonal music, of course, plus plenty of other music to lift the spirits.

Both concerts begin at 8.00pm. Further details can be found on the Music Centre website www.aber.ac.uk/en/music/ by e-mail music@aber.ac.uk and telephone on 01970 622685.

Christmas break

The University will close for Christmas on **Friday 21 December 2012** and re-open on **Wednesday 2 January 2013**.

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