

# Aber<sup>r</sup>NEWS

ISSUE 14 - August 2013

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



## £35m innovation campus

The University has announced plans for an investment of £35m in the development of a new UK Innovation and Research Campus at Gogerddan. The new campus will be known as the Aberystwyth Innovation and Diffusion Campus (AIDC).

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) will invest up to £14.5m to help establish the world leading Aberystwyth Innovation and Diffusion Campus for food and renewable energy and will be a key partner in delivering this ground-breaking project. Contributions from other stakeholders, including the University, are expected to bring the total investment in this project to over £35m.

Of the total amount invested, up to £2.5m is earmarked to develop the Pwllpeiran Upland Research Centre near Aberystwyth (subject to the final lease being agreed with Welsh Government), a unique facility which will concentrate on enhancing and improving upland agriculture through research based innovations, training and development.

The Aberystwyth Innovation and Diffusion Campus will include a commercially focused training centre, and will enable numerous departments within the University to work with IBERS to develop the bio-economy.

New infrastructure and facilities will be developed to attract companies and researchers interested in creating commercially viable new products, based on modern approaches to plant breeding.

Work on the new Aberystwyth Innovation and Diffusion Campus is expected to commence in 2014 and be completed by March 2015.

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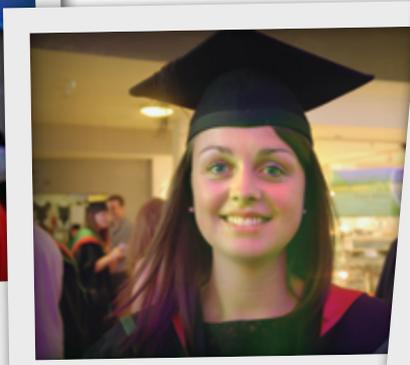
The next edition of Aber<sup>NEWS</sup> will be  
available in **September 2013**.  
Copy deadline for this edition is  
**Wednesday 30th August**.

# Graduation 2013

Just a few of the people and stories from this year's graduation. There is a fuller picture at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/graduation-2013/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/graduation-2013/)



Alexandros Giagos graduated with a PhD in Computer Science, having already gained his BSc and his masters here. Alexandros has secured a research associate position within the Department of Computer Science.



Siân Elen Jones graduated in Law and Welsh, and received two departmental awards - the Sir William Mars-Jones and Calcott Pryce Awards.



John Rowlands, 77, who already has a Civil Engineering and Transport and Environmental Planning degree, graduated with an MPhil in History.



Huw Owen, Research Officer at Canolfan Mercator, graduated with an MPhil.



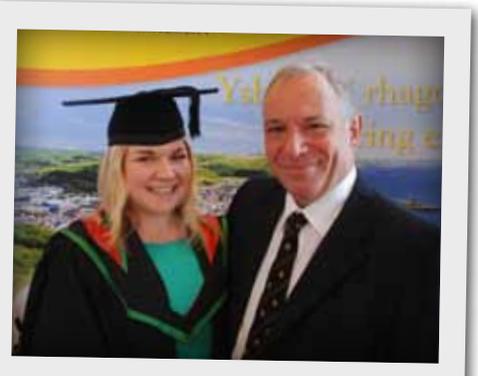
Cei Whitehouse, member of administrative staff in the History and Welsh History Department, received his MA in Medieval History.



Solveig Andvig from Norway graduated in Astrophysics.



Jack Evershed, a 54 year old sheep farmer from Clarach, graduated with a Masters in Business Administration, having studied the course on a part-time basis over four years.



Rachel Adamson who graduated in French and Spanish, photographed with her father, John, who graduated from AU in French 30 years ago.

## VICE CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

As I write, it's the Monday after Graduation Week, and graduation is over for another year. I say this with a little bit of relief (because you don't half get sore feet after 4 full days of graduation ceremonies, and shaking 2,700 hands is harder work than you might think), but also some regret, because graduation is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the University year. It isn't just that graduation is a genuinely celebratory occasion, and that we as University staff get to share the day and celebrate the achievements of our graduates with their friends, families and supporters. It isn't just that the Arts Centre and indeed the whole of the Penglais campus are busy and the town is full of extremely cheery families. Most of all, what I enjoy is the palpable sense of everyone pulling together to be sure the University looks and is presented at its very best.

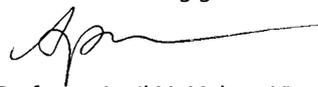
Picking out highlights is not easy, though we have to start with the weather! Tempting though it was to complain about the heat during graduation week, it was hugely rewarding to see our visitors and graduates strolling around the campus in the sun, getting to wear their summer frocks without the addition of Glastonbury Festival wellies, and with departments having their drinks receptions outdoors. I didn't even know the sides of our marquee came down until this year – I fear we didn't need to find this out last time, as it was more of a refuge from the elements. Many thanks and congratulations to everyone who got and kept the campus looking so good in what was a very challenging week.

We had a wonderful crop of Fellows this year – invidious to pick out just one, but it was a tremendous pleasure to hear Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones from Theatre, Film and Television Studies presenting Ian Jones of S4C, and hearing his response. For the very first time, we held a special ceremony for the PGCE students in SELL, who have not previously had the opportunity to come to graduation, on the Tuesday evening. This was a small, almost intimate ceremony, with a different atmosphere from the much bigger, daytime events, and was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by graduates, supporters, and those colleagues who attended. We remembered two students who died before they could take their degrees, and did so not with a moment's silence, but through the applause we would have given had they and their families been present. And Glenys Williams, our inimitable Chief Marshall, once again led a marvellous team of graduation volunteers, and took 9 sets of slightly nervous graduands through their pre-ceremony rehearsals with consistency, panache and good humour.

When I consider why we do graduation so well at Aber, – and there were lots of positive comments through the week which encourage me to believe this is the case – I think it comes down to the mixture between formality and fun on the one hand, and the individual and the community on the other. Yes, our graduation ceremonies are appropriately formal, because this is a genuine rite of passage, and we take that seriously. But there is also room for some humour, the personal touch, and a recognition that families and friends have a right to enjoy the day and for us to help them do so. And we are celebrating as the Aber family, staff and graduates together, as well as recognising that behind that Great Hall full of the same gowns

and hoods there are a host of individual stories of success, sometimes with harder times and sacrifices along the way. Our Comms team spent the week publicising some of those individual stories, and there was a tremendous response from our graduates from previous years, getting in touch to tell us what graduation and their time at Aber meant to them. All of this was reflected in the warm rounds of applause the graduands give their families and supporters at the beginning, and the spontaneous cheers and applause from graduates and supporters for you, the staff of the University, at the end.

A heartfelt thank you to all those colleagues who, as ever, mucked in and helped during the week, going beyond expectations to make Graduation 2013 such a success. And now back to sorting out everything that didn't quite happen through the week! It was a rare treat for me to be able to focus on one thing for a whole week. But not a lot of ironing got done.



Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor



## Fellows

Ten new Fellows were honoured at the 2013 Graduation Ceremonies: His Honour Judge Niclas Parry, Circuit Judge on the Welsh Circuit; screenwriter and director, Sharon Maguire; writer, composer, and silent film accompanist, Neil Brand; broadcaster, presenter and political blogger, Betsan Powys; acclaimed academic and Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Professor Douglas Kell; prominent academic and broadcaster, Dr Elaine Storkey; Dr Emyr Roberts, the first Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales; Chief Executive of S4C, Ian Jones; Richard Lynch, one of Wales' most respected actors; and Gwyneth Lewis, Wales's first National Poet from 2005-06.



Betsan Powys being received as Fellow by the University's Vice-President, Mrs Elizabeth France CBE

NEWS

## Official seal of approval for Psychology

The Department of Psychology has been awarded national accreditation by the British Psychological Society, the internationally recognised UK learned society responsible for ensuring standards of quality within the subject.

The announcement was made following a successful accreditation visit on 19 June by the British Psychological Society.



Aberystwyth Psychology Students who made a major contribution to securing the department's British Psychological Society accreditation. Credit: Gareth Hall.

## IBERS Photographic Competition

On 29 May the winners of the 2013 IBERS photographic competition were awarded their prizes by IBERS Director Professor Wayne Powell.

Over 250 entries were received from IBERS students and staff in five categories; 'My IBERS', 'On the Farm', 'Seasons and Landscape', 'Student Life' and 'Wildlife and Environment'.

The standard was very high and judging the winners a difficult but enjoyable task. The winning images can be seen on the IBERS web page - <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/ibers/events/2013/photo-comp/>. They will be displayed prominently on the walls in the new IBERS building on Penglais and will be used in a range of marketing materials for the institute. At the prize giving each winner briefly talked about their photograph and how they had taken it.

In giving out the prizes Professor Powell congratulated the winners on their fantastic photographs and thanked everybody who had entered.



Professor Wayne Powell with some of the prize winners. L to R: Ellen Coverdale, Jason Fenimore, Iain Chalmers, Ashley Radford, Professor Wayne Powell, Stephanie Carter, Thomas Spector, Victoria Hedges, Nikoleta Ivanova and Dave Whitworth.

## Henri Helynt

As part of the Bedwen Lyfrau Dyffryn Aeron 2013 book festival, which was held in Theatr Felinfach on 4 May, CAA (Cyhoeddwr Adnoddau Addysg / Educational Resource Publisher), an educational publishing agency within the University, organised a drama workshop to promote the popular *Henri Helynt* reading book series.

The workshop was led by Dwynwen Lloyd Llywelyn, Head of Theatre and Campus at Felinfach, and the children who attended thoroughly enjoyed the chance to be mischievous and cunning, just like their hero, Henri.

The *Henri Helynt* stories are a set of fun reading books for 7-10 year olds, adapted by Elin Meek and Siân Lewis from Francesca Simon's *Horrid Henry* series. CAA published six new titles in March this year.



Some of the children who attended the drama workshop with Dwynwen Lloyd Llywelyn, Head of Theatre and Campus, and Delyth Ifan (CAA), series editor.

## UNESCO Colloquium

The Department of International Politics was delighted to host and co-organise a one day Colloquium on 6 June entitled 'Supporting UNESCO Effectiveness and Reform: How Can Wales Contribute'.

This prestigious event was held under the auspices of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, in association with Aberystwyth University and the Learned Society of Wales.

The keynote address was given First Minister, Rt Hon Carwyn Jones. Professor Gretchen Kalonji (Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO) was among a number of high level speakers and delegates discussing the current and future relationship between Wales and UNESCO.



L to R: Professor April McMahon, Professor Gretchen Kalonji (Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO), Professor W John Morgan (Chairman, UK National Commission for UNESCO), Rt Hon Carwyn Jones (First Minister) and Sir John Cadogan (President, Learned Society of Wales).

## NEWS

## Young mathematicians crack Dr Who challenge

Pupils from Ysgol Penglais and Ysgol Y Preseli took the honours at this year's Maths Challenge hosted by the University.

Joseff Jones and James Thomas from Penglais shared the top prize with Hannah Page-Harries from Ysgol Preseli for the category for pupils in year 8 and below, and Penglais pupil Jasmine Shao was the overall winner of the Senior Challenge.

The prizes for the overall winners and individual school winners were presented by Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Jones, at a special awards evening held at the University on Tuesday 4 June to mark Maths Challenge '13.

348 young people from 16 schools in Ceredigion, Powys, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire took part in this year's event which featured a series of mathematical challenges set on the theme of Dr Who, to mark the programme's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Now in its third year, Maths Challenge '13 was organised by the University's Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion. It is based on an idea originally developed by Liverpool University as part of the 'More Maths Grads' project.

### Safest place to study

Aberystwyth University has been ranked as the safest University in Wales and England to study following a report published on 22 July by the Complete University Guide.

Compiled from official police data, the ranking gives the clearest picture possible of the crime rates for almost 120 universities in England and Wales.

Aberystwyth has the lowest incidence of student-relevant crime within three miles of campus.

More information can be found on this report on The Complete University Guide website: [www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/)



### Welsh History Month

During May, Welsh History Month, run by WalesOnline in association with Cadw, published articles by prominent Welsh historians and academics, each exploring a single question: what is the most significant object in the history of Wales?

Several academics from the Department of History and Welsh History contributed articles.

Dr Elizabeth New contributed an article on the medieval seal of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (d. 1240), prince of Gwynedd, and the ways in which seals provide a glimpse into the lives of medieval men and women in Wales:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-seal-llywelyn-3409649>

Dr David Ceri Jones wrote about William Williams Pantycelyn's hymn, 'Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah', and the idea of Wales as a land of religious revivals:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-welsh-hymnbook-3836894>

Dr Steven Thompson made the case for the artificial limb, emphasising the fundamental role it has had in the modern history of the Welsh people and how it has conditioned the life experiences of so many members of the nation:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-carving-out-3863319>

Professor Iwan Rhys Morus argued the case for a radio transmitter, highlighting the way in which the transmitter disturbed and transformed the cultural landscape of Wales in ways unimaginable by its inventors:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-radio-transmitter-3865914#comments>

Dr Ben Curtis argued the case for the miner's lamp, stating that there are few objects which so completely represent an industry that played such a central role in the creation and shaping of modern South Wales:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-miners-lamp-3565590>

Dr Paul O'Leary's article made the case for the Lonsdale belt, emphasising the central position that boxing played in the leisure time of working-class men in 20th century Wales and what it reveals about changing attitudes to the body during that period:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-lonsdale-belt-4007230>

Dr Robin Barlow, from the University's Admissions and Recruitment Office also contributed a piece. Robin's article focused on The 'Brethyn Llwyd' uniform of the Welsh Army Corps, the brainchild of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George who had wanted to see a distinctly Welsh army in the field, with Welsh-speaking officers and its own distinctive uniform:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/nostalgia/welsh-history-month-brethyn-llwyd-3663605>

Lucy O'Donnell, Cadw's Assistant Director, Public Engagement and Governance said: "I hope this series has inspired people to get out and explore the historic sites on their doorstep and discover the fascinating stories of Wales's rich history. There's no better way to get a sense of place."

# ABER Research



In the last edition I promoted the roles of the Research Development Officers (RDOs) and how they will engage with the new institute structure. In this edition I'm updating on the Research Finance operation within the Research Office.

## Research Finance Highlights:

The Research Office has continued to develop its 'cradle to grave' service following the integration of Research Finance in January 2011.

In collaboration with academic staff we have streamlined and clarified university-wide application processes. (Flow charts etc. available at <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/research/support/toolkit/applying-for-your-grant/#d.en.115264>)

We have now cemented the link between pre- and post-award by developing a Project Implementation Management File (PIMF). This holds all the management information principal investigators and their project support staff need to ensure they don't fall foul of any terms and requirements for funded projects. It is a wealth of resources and, on notice of award, a PIMF session takes place between the Principal Investigator (PI), Research Finance and relevant RDO. It has already proved to be a welcome and effective handover from pre- to post-award.

We have introduced a well-received lunch-time course '**Top Tips for Managing Your Research Project**'. This is **compulsory for all existing and new PIs**. The session provides an overview of the expectations of the funder, the Research Councils UK in particular, and the roles and responsibilities of the PI and the Research Office in relation to smooth project management, paying particular attention to the Concordat for the Development of Researchers.

We now produce new monthly grant expenditure reports and statements against budget, and hold quarterly review meetings with PIs to review expenditure and identify and mis-codings, which have been very well received.

In terms of new systems and processes, our RCUK Assurance grading significantly improved in 12 months from partial to satisfactory with clear evidence noted of progress towards full assurance. The RCUK team were surprised and pleased at how quickly we had implemented the changes needed.

## Who to contact:

The staff in the office are structured around funder specialisms as shown in the table below. This approach is required as each funder requires specialist knowledge. Therefore the first point of contact for the Institutes will still be Peter Botwood, Research Finance Administrator, Extension 8485 or [rfo@aber.ac.uk](mailto:rfo@aber.ac.uk).

**Gary Reed**

## Update

On 8 July Gary Reed was appointed as Director of the Department of Research, Business and Innovation.

With effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> August the newly formed Department of Research, Business and Innovation combined the services formerly provided by Commercialisation and Consultancy Services and the Research Office. We look forward to sharing our vision for the department in forthcoming editions of Aber News and will keep colleagues up to date with news and information about the department over coming months. In the interim, please feel free to use existing contact details to speak with a member of our team.



L to R: Peter Botwood, Martin Tranter, Nansi Williams, Emyr Reynolds, Gwawr Edwards, Gary Reed, Vanessa Westbury.

Peter Botwood	Research Finance Administrator / FIRST POINT OF CONTACT	EXT. 8485 <a href="mailto:rfo@aber.ac.uk">rfo@aber.ac.uk</a>
Emyr Reynolds	Research Finance Manager	<a href="mailto:ehr@aber.ac.uk">ehr@aber.ac.uk</a>
Vanessa Westbury	Research Finance Officer (RCUK)	<a href="mailto:vww@aber.ac.uk">vww@aber.ac.uk</a>
Nansi Williams	Research Finance Officer (EU Funding)	<a href="mailto:nww@aber.ac.uk">nww@aber.ac.uk</a>
Gwawr Edwards	Research Finance Officer (Charities and Industry)	<a href="mailto:gce@aber.ac.uk">gce@aber.ac.uk</a>
Martin Tranter	TrAC and Finance Systems	<a href="mailto:myt@aber.ac.uk">myt@aber.ac.uk</a>

The IBERS finance team are also co-located with Research Finance and can be contacted through the Research Finance first point of contact [rfo@aber.ac.uk](mailto:rfo@aber.ac.uk).

## PIMF your project – one year old

The Research Office's PIMF initiative is now 1 year old! The PIMF (Project Initiation and Management File) is the focus of a short research project 'start up' meeting between the Principal Investigator, Research Finance Officer and the Research Development Officer. The meeting clarifies roles and responsibilities in running the grant and answers any queries at the outset.

To assess how the initiative is being received we recently conducted a review with academic staff who have received a PIMF meeting and the response was overwhelmingly positive: *"Great service, I felt much more comfortable after the PIMF meeting"* (Lecturer). *"Having a face to face meeting was useful. It helped me to make the connection between the person emailing or telephoning when I have queries"* (Prof).

We also gained a national view on the PIMF initiative at the annual ARMA conference (Association of Research Managers and Administrators) in June. Gary Reed and Jenny Deaville from the Research Office led a well received workshop and presented the PIMF initiative as an example of good practice for ensuring a smooth transition between pre and post award research support.

### Contacting us:

The first points of contact are: - [research@aber.ac.uk](mailto:research@aber.ac.uk) for the Research Office;  
- [rfo@aber.ac.uk](mailto:rfo@aber.ac.uk) for Research Finance.

The new Institute first points of contact are:

Art, Arts Centre, English and Creative Writing, EuroLangs, Music Centre, TFTS, Welsh	Dafydd Roberts <a href="mailto:dir@aber.ac.uk">dir@aber.ac.uk</a>	Arts and Humanities discipline focus
SELL, CDSAP, Graduate Centre, International English Centre, Student Learning Centre		
IGES, History and Welsh History and InterPol	Jennifer Deaville <a href="mailto:jfd@aber.ac.uk">jfd@aber.ac.uk</a>	Social Sciences discipline focus
DIS, Law and Criminology and SMB		
Comp Sci and IMAPS	Joanne Walker <a href="mailto:jnw@aber.ac.uk">jnw@aber.ac.uk</a>	Sciences discipline focus
Psychology and SES		
IBERS*	Helen Lloyd <a href="mailto:hll@aber.ac.uk">hll@aber.ac.uk</a>	IBERS Research Officer – first point of contact for IBERS Research Development team

\*IBERS has its own Research Development team who work closely with the Research Office and whose services can be accessed via the IBERS Research Officer, Helen Lloyd, [hll@aber.ac.uk](mailto:hll@aber.ac.uk)

Researchers are always welcome to also contact the RDO for their own discipline, i.e. Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences or Sciences, and anyone across AU with an interest in European Research or Structural Funding opportunities are welcome to contact [europa@aber.ac.uk](mailto:europa@aber.ac.uk) directly.

## Chinese Delegation

The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) welcomed a delegation from some of China's leading agricultural research institutes on Wednesday 24 July.

The 25-strong delegation was led by Mr Hao Peng, Division Chief of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, and included representatives from major agricultural research centres including the Beijing Dairy Cattle Centre, Tianjin Institute of Animal Husbandry Medicine, Jiangsu Institute of Poultry Science and Huazhong Agricultural University.

During the day long visit members of the delegation visited research facilities at IBERS Gogerddan, including the farms and the recently opened £6.8m National Plant Phenomics Centre.

Presentations were provided by IBERS staff led by the Director Professor Wayne Powell, Professor Nigel Scollan, Dr Pippa Moore and Dr Mike Rose. These focused on livestock research and teaching, and aquatic, behavioural and evolutionary biology.

The visitors learned of the major strengths in Aberystwyth on pastoral agriculture with world-leading expertise in plant genetics and breeding, ruminant agriculture and microbiology along with major activities in industrial biotechnology.

Professor John Doonan, Mr Alan Gay and Dr Matt Hegarty presented the work of the National Plant Phenomics Centre and the Translational Genomics Laboratory. The visitors learned how investment in these new facilities in Aberystwyth will help to further enhance delivery of improved forage and cereal varieties to the industry.

Professor Nigel Scollan, said: "This was an excellent opportunity for leading scientists from China to learn at first-hand about the

outstanding research and teaching in IBERS and the exciting developments recently announced with the development of a new Innovation and Diffusion Campus for food and renewable energy at Gogerddan.

"The development of strong international research and teaching relationships is essential to help address the large challenges in the world today related to food, energy and water against a backdrop of large increases in our global population and increasing variability in our climate. We are delighted to welcome international delegations to Aberystwyth, which help to build on our existing linkages and to map out new opportunities."



Mr Hao Peng, Division Chief of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, presents a gift on behalf of the delegation to Professor Wayne Powell, Director of IBERS.

# Exchange

## farmMED app launched

Commercialisation and Consultancy Services continues to grow the University's mobile applications portfolio with the launch of the 'farmMED' app for iPhone.

farmMED is designed to make life easier for farmers to maintain their livestock medicine records accurately while on the move. It is a mobile solution for the farming community to satisfy the regulations they must abide by for recording what medicines they give their animals, when they administer them and what withdrawal period may apply. A 'mobile medicine book' is an essential addition to the farmer's tool kit, as it means that important pieces of paper won't get ruined in the rain or in a farmer's pocket.

The concept for farmMED was identified during the *Mobile Apps Challenge*, run by the Technology Transfer team in CCS across the University campus. The app is the idea of Dr Nerys Llewelyn-Jones (Department of Law and Criminology). Nerys worked with the Technology Transfer team in CCS to develop the specification for farmMED before exclusively licensing it from the University into her law practice – Agri Advisor, based in Carmarthenshire. Agri Advisor, an SME in the convergence area of Wales, works with the farming community to provide legal advice and training to support farmers in their compliance with legal requirements.

farmMED represents an additional way for farmers to reduce paperwork and to adopt a common sense, real time approach to record keeping.

Further information about the farmMED app is available from: [www.mobilefarmapps.com](http://www.mobilefarmapps.com) or Dr Rhian Hayward, [rih@aber.ac.uk](mailto:rih@aber.ac.uk).



## WISE move

The launch of the second phase of the WISE Network, a collaborative project between Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea universities, was recently held at the Senedd in Cardiff.

The WISE Network enables businesses across the region to take full advantage of the growth in the green economy. By working in partnership with university research and development experts and making use of their facilities, the project aims to better equip businesses to develop sustainable products, processes and services, and to become more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

The WISE Network aims to create a culture of confident businesses that use research and innovation as an essential component in their future development. To date WISE has successfully collaborated with almost 500 companies through phase 1, and is currently working with 20 new companies and many more in the pipeline.

Speaking at the launch of the latest phase in the Senedd, Edwina Hart, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport said: "I am very pleased to launch the next phase of the WISE Network programme. Supporting growth in this key sector is vital. This is an excellent example of the continued collaboration between industry and academia in Wales."

Finance Minister, Jane Hutt, said: "Ensuring that we become a truly sustainable nation is a key goal in our Programme for Government. I am delighted we have been able to invest European funding through the Welsh Government to back this ambition to boost the green economy."

Professor Jamie Newbold, WISE Network Director said: "The WISE Network responds directly to the needs of businesses, resulting in the development of a wide range of innovative products and services. Many of Wales' businesses are SMEs and would not normally be in a position to have their own R&D departments, and the joint expertise of our three universities offers a valuable and accessible resource. We aim to provide advice and assistance to allow commercial partners to help develop the Green Economy in Wales by developing sustainable products, processes and services."

For the full story, including facts and figures about the success of the project to date, please visit: <http://jump.aber.ac.uk/?tptl>



Vice-Chancellors Professor Richard Davies (Swansea), Professor John Hughes (Bangor) and Professor April McMahon (Aberystwyth) with Edwina Hart, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, and Professor Jamie Newbold, WISE Network Director.

## Business Start-up 'Bootcamp' a Success

The University's annual Business Start-up Week was held on campus from 3-7 June, bringing together staff, students, graduates and external guests.

Run as an intense 'boot-camp' style event, the week comprised a series of ten workshops and presentations, designed to allow those with good ideas for new enterprises to develop these ideas into viable new businesses.

Sessions focused on the key skills required to develop a viable business plan including: market research, marketing and digital marketing; finance, pricing and supplier development; operations and Intellectual Property. The workshops were complemented by presentations from local entrepreneurs providing case studies on their business start-up journey, including an Aber graduate who started a new enterprise following his Sport and Exercise Science degree.

Li-Ming Tan who attended a number of workshops during the week commented that, "Business Start-up Week has opened my eyes to the necessary steps to start my business and has had a profound impact on my confidence to give it a go!"

Attendee Glyn Jenkins summed up the week as offering, "clear and straight-forward advice essential to making a good start in business".

## Aberystwyth University welcomes the Mid Wales Economic Forum

On 19 June the University played host to the quarterly meeting of one of the most important regional economic bodies in the area, the Mid Wales Economic Forum.

In addition to welcoming the forum onto campus, CCS used the opportunity to brief attendees from regional councils and organisations representing industry sectors (both public and private), on Aberystwyth's Knowledge Exchange activities. A particular focus was given to skills development and Continuing Professional Development opportunities through the CADARN skills centre.

Forum Chairman James Harrison, Head of Asset Management Services for Towler Shaw Roberts LLP, spoke on behalf of those present to thank the University for hosting a meeting that was "very successful and very well organised". He further commented that the Forum was "very impressed with the venue and hope that the University may consider inviting us back sometime in the future".



*Some of our Business Start-up Week attendees being presented with certificates by Rebecca Herbett from Antur Business and Tony Orme, Aberystwyth University's Enterprise Manager.*

The week also gave the forty delegates a great opportunity to network and to learn about on-going support for their new enterprises, both from the University and from our business support partners, including Antur Business and Menter a Busnes.

"The majority of workshops during the week were oversubscribed, just one indicator of the appetite for such activities here at Aberystwyth,"

explained Tony Orme, Enterprise Manager. "Following the success of Business Start-up Week we are currently looking ahead to the new academic year and planning an exciting programme of events and opportunities for those with an interest in developing their entrepreneurial skills, or looking to start-up a new venture."

[www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis](http://www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis)

## Sparking Impact Awards

Congratulations to the first cohort of projects that have been awarded funding through the BBSRC Sparking Impact Fund. Following an excellent response to the initial call with applications received for over £173k, the panel identified nine projects with commercial potential that would benefit from funding to support and progress these early stage ideas. In this initial phase, Sparking Impact funds have been allocated to:

Dr Athole Marshall & Dr Tim Langdon;  
 Dr Joe Gallagher  
 Dr Arwyn Edwards, Dr Luis Mur & Dr Andrew Mitchell;  
 Dr Mike Morris;  
 Professor Karl Hoffman;  
 Dr Ana Winters, Trisha Toop & Dr Joe Gallagher;  
 Dr Sharon Huws & Dr Joe Gallagher;  
 Dr Neil MacKintosh, Dr Russell Morphey & Professor Peter Brophy;  
 Dr Maurice Bosch.

A rolling funding call is now open for applications up to £2000 with a further call to be announced in the autumn. Further information and eligibility criteria can be found at: <http://jump.aber.ac.uk/?cdgr>

### 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](mailto:ccservices@aber.ac.uk) – ext 2385 - [www.aber.ac.uk/ccs](http://www.aber.ac.uk/ccs)

# Enhancement of IT facilities for students

The University has been investing heavily in providing the most up-to-date IT facilities for students. Here are some highlights of our programme which will be ready for September 2013.

## All student computer rooms equipped with new PCs

All student computer rooms will be equipped with brand new PCs ready for the start of the academic year in September 2013. As part of a major investment in enhancing IT facilities for students, 769 new computers are being deployed across computer rooms on Penglais and Llanbadarn campuses, in the town and to learning spaces in student halls of residences.

These computers feature the latest Core i3 64-bit processors, 22-inch wide screen monitors, running Microsoft Windows 7, Microsoft Office, and a suite of over 200 of the latest applications. Many of these computers are in 24-hour rooms including the learning suites in student halls of residences.

## Campus-wide Wi-Fi

Responding to the growing use of mobile devices by students (smart phones and tablets), a major expansion of the University's Wi-Fi network will be completed over the summer including Penbryn, Cwrt Mawr, Trefloyne, Rosser and Brynderw halls of residence. This will mean that all University-owned halls and academic buildings will have Wi-Fi coverage by September 2013. All student halls are also fitted with wired network connections.

## New student email service

In an exciting new development, student email and groupware services will be provided through Microsoft Office 365 from July 2013. This will offer a range of services above and beyond traditional email to all Aberystwyth students:

- Email including 25 GB of storage space per user, business-class email, and shared calendars
- File storage and sharing. SkyDrive Pro gives users 7 GB of personal storage. Easily share documents with others through Office or SharePoint
- Office web apps allowing students to create and edit Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote Office files via a web browser
- Shared document workspaces using SharePoint
- Web conferencing. Work on group projects and conduct meetings over the web with HD video conferencing, screen sharing, and instant messaging

All this will be available from phones and tablets as well as laptops and desktop computers.

## Printing

The University is expanding its recently installed "follow-me print solution". This allows students to collect their print outs from across campus in academic buildings, libraries and halls of residence. The service also provides photocopying and free scanning. Using the latest energy saving multi-function devices, duplex output and recycled paper the service is also reducing the environmental impact of printing. Furthermore, Aberystwyth is offering one of the cheapest University student print services in the UK:

- A4 mono reduced from 5p to 3p
- A4 colour reduced from 30p to 6p
- A3 mono reduced from 10p to 4p
- A3 colour reduced from 60p to 7p

## Teaching Room Refurbishments

The University is in the process of refurbishing and redecorating 13 teaching rooms in the Hugh Owen Building which will be ready by September 2013 and will include:

- An improved teaching technology system which is stored in a height adjustable lectern and will consist of a much faster teaching PC, an interactive PC monitor, Blu-Ray player, document camera, web camera, microphones, ceiling mounted loud speakers and a control unit
- Energy efficient Lutron lighting with four pre-set scenes and manual override to enable staff and students to adjust the lighting to their needs
- Phased array hearing induction loops which comply with the Equality Act (formerly DDA)
- Different types of furniture enabling a variety of teaching styles
- New carpets, ceilings and window coverings for blackout
- New writing and projection surfaces will be fitted to allow an individual to write on the surface which will double-up also as a projection screen
- Wireless coverage with adequate wireless access points.

Nigel Thomas, the University's Learning Spaces Design and Development Manager explains, "These rooms were built back in the 70s and were simply not suitable for the changes in teaching and learning that have developed of the last four decades.

"As well as new technology, we've also changed the furniture and layout in some rooms to offer a choice of teaching styles including collaborative learning. There has also been the introduction of colour into the rooms to add some vibrancy."

## High-flying charity



Following a month of voting by students and staff, the Wales Air Ambulance has been announced as the Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year for 2013/14.

Now in its second year, the Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year appeal seeks to raise vital funds for a worthy cause.

Wales Air Ambulance is an all-Wales charity providing crucial emergency air cover for those who face life-threatening illness or injuries. Since its launch on St David's Day 2001, the Wales Air Ambulance has carried out over 17,000 missions.

Relying entirely on public support for its funding, Wales Air Ambulance needs to raise £6 million every year to operate the service, with each mission on average costing £1,500.

Nominations for the Charity of the Year were sought from University students and staff. A list of 77 nominated charities was whittled down to a shortlist of five by sabbatical officers of the Students' Union and the University's Executive. The shortlist was then voted on by staff and students, and over 1,300 votes were cast.

The Charity of the Year appeal, which provides a focus for fundraising activities at the University, began with a Wales Air Ambulance stall at the Arts Centre during Graduation Week.

The aim of Wales Air Ambulance is to reach, treat and transport patients with the greatest speed possible to the most appropriate hospital for their needs. A pilot can have the helicopter airborne within 3 minutes of receiving an emergency call and the aircraft can travel at 150mph, over 2 miles per minute, and can reach anywhere in Wales within 20 minutes.

For more information on Wales Air Ambulance, visit [www.walesairambulance.com](http://www.walesairambulance.com).



L to R: Lisa Hughes Evans from Wales Air Ambulance, Vice Chancellor Professor April McMahon and Janet Sanders from Estates who completed a 25 mile section of the Cerddwn Ymlaen 200 mile sponsored walk in aid of the charity on 17 July.

HUMAN RESOURCES

## Gay by Degree

Aberystwyth is one of the best universities in the UK for supporting gay, lesbian and bisexual students according to the latest version of Stonewall's Gay by Degree University Guide 2014.

With a score of 9 out of 10, Aberystwyth is one of 21 universities named as Stonewall Diversity Champions. The average university score is 4.5.

Aberystwyth received Stonewall's tick of approval for its anti-homophobic bullying policy and mandatory training, explicit welfare support and information for LGBT students, LGBT society and events, consultation and specific care for LGBT students, LGBT staff network and engagement with the wider community.

The 2014 edition of the guide has been produced in consultation with NUS LGBT Campaign. Further information is available at [www.gaybydegree.org.uk](http://www.gaybydegree.org.uk).

## Linguistic skills

Staff are reminded that it is possible to update your Welsh language skills level on the self service staff record, at: <https://staffrecord.aber.ac.uk/en/login>. It is important that the University maintains as accurate a picture as possible, and therefore it would be helpful if you could take a moment to update your record.

## New Student Charter launched

The University and the Students' Union recently announced the publication of the new Student Charter.

The new Charter presents a clear, single-page outline of the mutual roles and responsibilities of the University, Students' Union and of individual students.

The development of the new Charter has been encouraged and supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), which has strived for all HE institutions to jointly agree a charter with their Student Unions.

The Student Charter is available at: <http://www.abersu.co.uk/asset/News/6013/17347-Student-Charter-posters.pdf>



L to R: Grace Burton, Incoming Education Officer at AUSU, Sam Reynolds Student Representation and Experience Co-ordinator AUSU, Professor John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience and International, Jamie Barker, Marketing and Communications Manager AUSU, and Jess Leigh, outgoing Education Officer AUSU.

## Pensions - Auto Enrolment - Important information

### How does it affect me?

We wrote to all staff in May 2013 explaining what auto enrolment entails and how it could affect you. If you have not received a letter, it is important that you contact a member of the HR team who will arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

We will be writing to those staff who are not members of one of the University pension schemes again in August to advise them specifically of the impact of auto enrolment on them.

### What is auto-enrolment?

To encourage more people to save towards their retirement, new legislation (The Pensions Act 2008) will require the University to automatically enrol staff into a pension scheme if they are not already in one. The legislation is being phased in over the coming years with the largest employers needing to comply from October 2012. The University will be covered by the new requirement from May 2013 (this is known as our 'staging date').

### What does this mean for employees?

- The University deferred the implementation of auto enrolment for all its employees until 1 August 2013 (this is known as the 'deferred date')
- The University must prepare for all relevant employees to be enrolled in a qualifying pension scheme
- For all employees who are currently active members of one of the University's pension schemes there will be no change and no action will be required
- For some other employee groups who do not currently pay into a pension scheme (including casuals and temporary staff), the University will be required, by law, to enrol them into a scheme.

The law does not require every employed person to be automatically enrolled into a pension scheme – it depends on age and earnings. For employees who are not enrolled automatically, the University has to provide the opportunity to opt in to a scheme.

Any member of staff, once enrolled, may elect to opt out of the scheme. Every three years, the University will be required to re-enrol all eligible staff who, at that time, are not members of a pension scheme, even if they have previously opted out.

### Where can I find further information?

For staff wishing to know more about the Pensions Act 2008 or auto-enrolment more generally there is plenty of information on the following websites:

- [Department for Work and Pensions](#)
- [The Pensions Regulator](#)
- [Pensions Advisory Service](#)

There will be more information about auto enrolment on the [HR Website](#) in the coming months but in the meantime, if you have any questions about auto enrolment please contact Beth Head ([myh@aber.ac.uk](mailto:myh@aber.ac.uk)) or Jean Glennie ([jlgl@aber.ac.uk](mailto:jlgl@aber.ac.uk)) in the Payroll Office.

## ABER PEOPLE

## Appointments

### Pro Vice-Chancellor - Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement

**Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan** has been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for the Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement.

Dr Morgan is currently Head of Policy Support for Ceredigion County Council and will take up his new post in early September.



Originally from Ceredigion, he graduated in History and has a Diploma in Librarianship from Aberystwyth University, an MA in Early Celtic Studies and a doctorate in Historiography from Cardiff University.

As a member of the University's Executive, Dr Morgan will be responsible for developing and articulating the University's strategy in respect of Welsh language and culture, promoting the use of the language and advising on ways in which Welsh culture and language can be further embedded into the academic life of the University.

### Pro Vice-Chancellor - Research and Quality Assurance

**Professor Chris Thomas** has been appointed to the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for Research and Quality Assurance.



As a member of the University's Executive, Chris will play a key role in providing leadership for the robust delivery of academic quality processes. He will also be responsible for the development and articulation of the University's strategy in respect of research, and lead the University preparations for the REF and its approach to impact.

Chris currently holds the Chair in Ecological Modelling in CIRRE (Centre for Integrated Research in the Rural Environment) and is the former Director of International Development at IBERS. In his new role he will also be Professor of Zoology in IBERS.

### Research, Business and Innovation

**Gary Reed** has been appointed to the role of Director of Research, Business and Innovation. Gary joined the University in 2007 as Business Development Manager and was most recently the Head of the Research Office.



## Academic Heads of Department

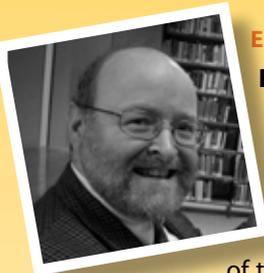
### ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

**Dr Elisabeth Salter** holds a PhD from Kent University and her research interests and publications are concerned with the uses of text in medieval and early modern England and Wales, and more generally with cultural creativity in a transhistorical context. She has acted as Department Director of Learning and Teaching for a number of years.



### EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

**Professor David Trotter** has been appointed for a further term as Head of European Languages. Professor Trotter is a specialist in the history of French, and Director of the Anglo-Norman Dictionary project, funded by the AHRC since 2001. He has been Head of Department since 1993, and was concurrently Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1996-2000. He is a member of the Peer Review College, a Strategic Reviewer for the AHRC, and was recently elected as President of the *Société de Linguistique Romane* for 2013-16.



### GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES

**Professor Rhys Jones** has been appointed as Head of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. Rhys is an alumnus of the Department having completed his first degree and his PhD at Aber. He joined the University staff as a lecturer in 1995 and is now Professor of Political Geography.



### WELSH

**Dr Cathryn Charnell-White** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Welsh. Cathryn is currently Research Fellow at the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, and is a graduate and former member of staff of the Department.



### SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS

**Professor Steven McGuire** was previously a senior lecturer in international business at the University of Bath, and in 2009 he was a visiting professor at the College of Europe. His research interests lie in areas of international political economy, international business and corporate political activity.



### INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**Dr Jenny Mathers**, who was Acting Head of the Department of International Politics, has been confirmed in the post. Dr Mathers is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College in the United States and Somerville College, Oxford University. Dr Mathers joined the Department of International Politics in 1992. Her teaching and research span two broad areas: Russian politics and security; and gender and war.



## An introduction to the Planning Office

Based at the Visualisation Centre, Planning, Governance and Business information contributes towards a wide range of the University's functions including:

- Co-ordinating the University's forward planning activities, predominantly through the Planning Round.
- Developing and monitoring Key Performance Indicators for the Strategic Plan.
- Submission of major statutory data to regulatory bodies.
- Development, support and continual improvement of the University's business information systems.
- Monitoring and analysis of the external environment, including the University's league table performance.
- Co-ordinating and reporting the University's risk management processes.
- Supporting the business of the University's main governance committees.

This work is undertaken by a small but growing team:



### Lucy Hodson – Director of Planning

Lucy is a member of the University Executive, and is responsible for keeping that group informed on developments affecting the University's forward planning activities and scenario planning, as well as providing management information to facilitate good decision making. Lucy is currently

Chair of the UK-wide group, the Higher Education Strategic Planners Association; and also Chairs the Welsh Stakeholder Group for the Student Loans Company.

### Sarah Taylor – Head of Strategy Development

An Aberystwyth graduate, Sarah joined the Planning Office in 2000. Her role primarily focuses on the development of University strategy, including the Strategic Plan and Fee Plans. She also has a responsibility for HEFCW and Welsh Government consultation and funding returns, and for the University's Planning Round and risk management procedures.



### Steve Walsh – Head of Data Analysis and Reporting

Having previously worked in the Welsh Agricultural College and IRS (now IBERS) Steve returned to work at Aberystwyth University in 2011, initially in IGES and then the Planning Office. Since March this year he has been Head of Data Analysis and Reporting working on

statutory returns to HESA and providing data for strategic planning.



### Jan Howard – Data Analysis Officer

Jan spent 14 years teaching Mathematics and Computer Science and then moved on to local government, working on housing and population projections. He joined Aberystwyth University in 2006 as a Data Analyst to provide information for marketing

undergraduate courses, and is now more fully involved with both undergraduate and postgraduate admissions and student numbers planning.

### Geraint Pugh – University Secretary

An Aberystwyth graduate, Geraint joined the Planning Office as University Secretary in February. His role primarily focuses on clerking the University's main decision-making committees – including the Council, Senate and Finance and Strategy Committee – as well as having an oversight over the whole governance committee structure.



### Helen Wyn Davies – Administrative Assistant

Helen joined the University in March 1997 working in the Academic Office. She then moved to the Graduation Office in October 2000 where she remained until February 2013 when she joined the Planning Office on secondment as an Administrative Assistant to the University

Secretary. As well as helping to prepare for meetings of the University's main committees, Helen also provides administrative support to the Planning Office.



### Laurence Dupont – Head of Business Information Systems

Laurence leads the Business Information Systems team which is responsible for developing and maintaining the University's corporate information systems, including AStRA, Cyborg and Scientia Syllabus Plus. Although based at the Hugh Owen Library, Laurence and his team are members of the Planning Office.



Please feel free to call by the Planning Office the next time you're at the Visualisation Centre should you want more information on our work.

## Appointments

### Aberystwyth Arts Centre



**Louise Amery** has been seconded to act as Director of the Arts Centre at Aberystwyth University, following the retirement of Alan Hewson. Louise has been working as Deputy Director since 2001, having joined the Centre originally as Marketing Manager in 1993.

### International Office and Institute of Geography, History and Politics

**Professor Gary Rawnsley** has been appointed as Professor of Public Diplomacy in a joint appointment between the International Office and the Institute of Geography, History and Politics, from 1 September.



Professor Rawnsley joins Aberystwyth from the Institute of Communications Studies at the University of Leeds, where he specialises in public diplomacy, soft power, propaganda and information warfare, with a special emphasis on China and Taiwan.

A key part of his role here will be devoted to helping the departments in the institute raise their profile internationally and, in particular, attracting international students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

### Department of Law and Criminology



**Sarah Wydall** has joined the University as a lecturer in Criminology. Prior to coming to Aberystwyth, Sarah worked as a Research Assistant in the Sociology department at Surrey University. Her research focuses on gendered harms. Sarah is currently examining victim-perpetrator dynamics in domestic violence relations.

**Ffion Llewelyn** has joined the department as a Welsh medium lecturer in Law. Funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, the post is intended to develop the Department's Welsh medium provision. Ffion graduated from the Department in 2009 and again in 2012, and has been a postgraduate tutor during her PhD studies.



**Jarrett Blaustein** has been appointed to a Lectureship in Criminology. He completed his PhD at the University of Edinburgh in April and his research focuses on international police development assistance in the Western Balkans and sociological analysis of international criminal justice policy transfers.

## Aberystwyth University Students' Union

**John Glasby** has taken up the position of CEO, after previously being appointed Commercial Services Director in 2012. John is an economics graduate from Essex University, and was previously Head of Food & Beverage and Retail Divisions for Bluestone Resorts Ltd.



**Jamie Barker** has been appointed as Marketing & Communications Manager. Jamie is responsible for marketing both the commercial and charitable activities of the Students' Union, in addition to engaging the student community. Jamie holds a Marketing Masters

from Aberystwyth, and joins after spending three years working within the Recruitment & Marketing department at the University.

**Andrew Morwood** has joined as Membership Services Manager. Andrew is responsible for the smooth running of the advice, academic representation, campaigning and elections activities here in Aberystwyth. Andrew was previously the Membership Engagement Coordinator at Leeds Met Students' Union, and holds a Masters in Events Management.



**Todd Penfold** has recently joined as Events Manager. Todd is an Aberystwyth graduate, holding a degree in Marketing. Todd is responsible for implementing a new fresh range of events for the Students' Union.

### CAA (Cyhoeddwr Adnoddau Addysg/ Educational Resource Publisher)

**Julie Richards** joins CAA as the Marketing and PR Officer. With a background in PR and media, Julie has worked for National Museum Wales, Artes Mundi, the Western Mail and Y Lolfa. Working alongside the specialist editorial and design team, her work will involve promoting the agency and its publications to Wales and beyond.

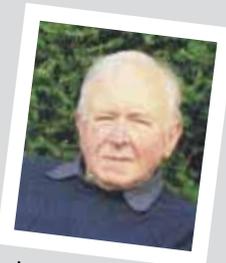
An English graduate from Nottingham University, **Lowri Pearson** is the new administrator for CAA. Since leaving University, Lowri has worked for several community charities, including Canolfan Owain Glyndwr Centre and Cymdeithas Aberaeron Society. Her role in CAA will primarily involve being the first point of contact between CAA and the public, and ensuring the smooth running of the agency.

ABER PEOPLE

**Obituaries**

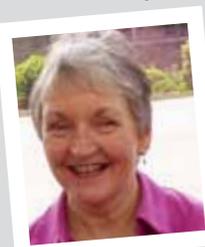
**Dr John Trethewey (1932-2013)**

Dr John Trethewey was a Lecturer in the French Department, and subsequently the Department of European Languages, from 1970 until his early retirement



in 1993, after which he continued to teach part-time for some years. John graduated in French from the then University College of Wales Aberystwyth in 1963, and went on to undertake his PhD here in Aberystwyth. After teaching at the University of Liverpool, he returned to Aberystwyth in 1970, and remained here for the rest of his career. A specialist in seventeenth-century theatre and seventeenth-century French literature, John was also a keen walker and jazz aficionado, and a popular and witty lecturer.

**Iona Jones (1942-2013)**



Mrs Iona Jones worked as a secretary in the Drama Department, and later in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, from 1992 until

her retirement in 2004. During her time as departmental secretary, Iona witnessed the transformation of the relatively small Department of Drama housed in 1 Laura Place to the large and bustling Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies in its new home in the Parry-Williams Building on Penglais. She worked tirelessly and loyally for TFTS for 12 years and will be sadly missed by staff and former students, all of whom will have very fond recollections of her care and support for the well-being of all.

**Retirements**

**Academic Office**

**Dr Ian Salmon** has retired, almost exactly 30 years after joining the University. Working in the Academic Office since 1983, Ian developed an extensive knowledge of the rules, regulations and procedures of the University. His expertise, wise judgement and gentle nature will be much missed by colleagues in the Office and across the University, who wish him a long and contented retirement.



joined the department in 1989, and has a long and distinguished record of service to the department, having held the positions of technician and departmental finance administrator. Lorraine will be much missed and we wish her the best for the future.

**Geography and Earth Sciences**

**Lorraine Morrison** will be retiring during the summer as technician responsible for the Palaeoecology Laboratory.

**Residential Services**

**Dilys Jones**, Secretary, has retired after 24 years with Residential Services. Dilys joined the department in 1989 and spent 19 years in Pantycelyn, and the past 5 years working at the Seafront Halls of Residence.



Dilys' efforts to assist her fellow colleagues and residents alike have been exemplary, and her knowledge will be sorely missed.

**Eirina Roberts**, Domestic Assistant, has retired after 26 years with Residential Services, working in a number of Halls of Residences throughout her career. Eirina's fantastic level of service was acknowledged at a recent award ceremony with Vice Chancellor April McMahon. Eirina's colleagues wish her all the very best for her retirement.



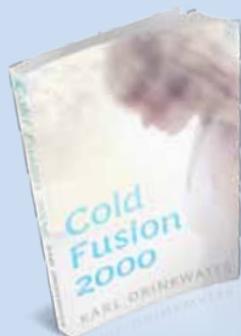
**Student accommodation petition**

Photographed are officers of Aberystwyth Student Union, presenting a petition on the steps of the Senedd to members of the National Assembly's Petitions Committee, calling on them to urge the Welsh Government to address private sector student housing standards, following the Aberystwyth Housing Survey Report 2012.



**Bookshelf**

**Cold Fusion 2000**



Everyone knows librarians love books, and some of the university librarians love writing them too. **Karl Drinkwater**, the Psychology Department's librarian, is one of them. His most recent novel, *Cold Fusion 2000*, focuses on how the past affects us, and the difficulties some people have in moving on. At its heart it's a love story seen through the lens of a physics- and poetry-obsessed super-geek. "I'm lucky to have two jobs and love them both," said Karl. "Being a librarian, helping students, teaching about information literacy and working with an exciting department is a rewarding role. Then I switch to a different type of creativity when I leave the campus at the end of the day."

Novel details: <http://tinyurl.com/cf2knoel>

Trailer: <http://tinyurl.com/cf2ktrailer>

Author interview: <http://tinyurl.com/kdinterview>

## ABER PEOPLE

## Congressional internship opportunity for law graduate



**Chris Miller**, who graduated from the Department of Law and Criminology this summer, is spending two months as an intern at the United States Capitol in Washington DC, the meeting place of the US Congress.

The Internship was arranged by the English Speaking Union (ESU), a worldwide organisation which works with young people, helping them to gain the skills and confidence in communications to reach their full

potential. The ESU pursues its aims in a non-sectarian and non-political manner.

Each year UK graduates apply for one of the ESU's political exchange programmes, and are interviewed for the chance to go to the United States and do an internship in the office of a Senator, Congressman or a lobby group which operates in Washington DC. Placements are made on a non-partisan basis, so each intern has a unique experience of the federal legislative process.

Chris is spending June to August working in the office of Congressman Thomas E Petri, a Republican from the state of Wisconsin, who has been in Congress since 1979. Chris's day-to-day responsibilities involve a range of administrative duties including dealing with telephone enquiries from constituents and taking groups on private tours of the Capitol Complex, as well as having the opportunity to attend lectures by key American speakers, attend networking events and receptions, and watch Congress in session.

Making the most of this unique opportunity, Chris said: "In addition to my internship, I have attended events organised by the British American Business Association and the British Embassy. My links with Aberystwyth have also led to an invitation to meet with the Welsh Government's representatives at the Embassy later this month."

"The weekends allow interns to explore the rest of DC and immerse themselves in the experience of living in the capital city of the US. Personally, I have used my weekends to visit some of the museums in the city and attend a few baseball matches."

## Aber to Amsterdam

After a gruelling 733 miles, across 6 countries, in just 5 days, a group of local cyclists have successfully cycled from Aberystwyth to Amsterdam, raising in excess of £28,000 in the process.

The team of 9 cyclists and 3 support drivers included 3 members of University staff - **Tom Bates** (Campus Services), **Dafydd Davies** (Design, Web & Printing) and **Adrian Harvey** (Institute of Management, Law and Information Science), plus **Paul Rowlands**, son of Professor Diane Rowlands (Law & Criminology).

The money raised will go to 4 charities - Ty Hafan, Macmillan, Great Western Air Ambulance and Wales Air Ambulance, the latter, of course, being the Vice Chancellor's new Charity of the Year.

To read daily blogs from the trip, or to donate, visit [www.abertoamsterdam.co.uk](http://www.abertoamsterdam.co.uk)



Marketing Manager, Dr Russell Davies, presenting the team with their riding jerseys donated by the University



Lea Adams. (C) Emyr Young

## Urdd Scholarship

**Lea Adams**, who graduated in Printmaking from the School of Art in 2012, won the 2013 Art, Design and Technology Scholarship at the Urdd Eisteddfod.

The scholarship, worth £2,000, is awarded to the most promising work by an individual between the age of 18 and 25 years old. Lea is currently working on a collection of work studying different characters in the family and the community.

To read Lea's blog about her art visit: <http://laa9.wordpress.com/>

## Legal fundraising

Photograph shows Legal Practice Course (LPC) students from the Department of Law and Criminology - **Lowri Owen, Megan Payne, Brittany Hassell, Alexandria Jones** and **Nerys Thomas** - who completed the Race for Life on 12 May, raising an impressive £1,185 for Cancer Research UK.

The LPC students also organised bake sales in March and April, raising £300 for Comic Relief, £282 for Cancer Research UK and £50 for the Great Legal Bake which raises money for Reaching Justice Wales.



## Students' drama company at the National Eisteddfod

A drama company of Aberystwyth University students won their place in the final round of the competition to perform a One Act Play at the National Eisteddfod this year.

Following an excellent performance in the preliminary round at the Emily Davies Studio, Parry-Williams Building, Cwmni'r Frenigen Mercator, from the Mercator Institute and the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, made their way to Denbighshire to perform on the Maes itself.

There, under the guidance of their director Dr Roger Owen from TFTS, Gwion James, Sian Owens, Carys Jones and Lucy Andrews staged the play *Carnifal*, a Welsh translation by Jan Piette (a former Lecturer in Breton at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth) of the original Breton drama *Meurlarjez* by the famous writer Roparz Hemon.

The play is set in a Manse in Snowdonia in the early years of the twentieth century. The treatment is satirical and raises interesting questions which the production exploits to the utmost, being visually inventive and full of energetic and lively performances. The original Breton play was first published in 1938, and the translation was published in the second edition of the Welsh language literary magazine, *Taliesin*, in 1962.

The play was re-discovered by researchers working at the Mercator Institute on a new project funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to create an online Catalogue of Translations into Welsh that will serve the academic needs of researchers, lecturers and students in the Arts, the Humanities and the Social Sciences. The project has already uncovered a wealth of material translated into Welsh, material that provides valuable insights into the ideas of some of the world's most influential and celebrated writers and thinkers.



### WHAT'S ON

## Jeremy Moore: Wales at Water's Edge

Until Saturday 7 September

Gallery 2, Aberystwyth Arts Centre

Jeremy Moore is a photographer specialising in Welsh landscape and wildlife. The project took two years to complete and was linked to the opening of the Wales Coastal footpath, which stretches from Chepstow to the Dee estuary. It aimed to illuminate Wales and 'Welshness' through the prism of its coastline. The exhibition includes images of the stunning coastal landscapes that Wales is rightly renowned for, but also conventionally unpromising man-made subject matter; industrial locations such as power plants, factories and bridges. The project might thus be seen as a social and natural history of the Welsh coastline.



## Keramik Conversations

Ceramics Gallery, Aberystwyth Arts Centre - until Sunday 22 September

From Vallauris to Fat Lava: An exhibition curated by Gérard Mermoz

Keramik Conversations presents a selection of popular ceramics made in France and Germany in workshops and small factories in the post war period (1945–1975). The producers adopted an experimental approach to form and decoration through the use of bright new glazes often bubbling over the surface to create the lava-like effect. The exhibition presents 'conversations' between pieces with occasional visitors from the permanent collection.



<http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/exhibitions/keramik-conversations>