



Aber^rNEWS

ISSUE 8 - July 2012

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

SPORT and EXERCISE SCIENCE

Going for gold

A new warm up technique that makes an athlete's blood more acidic could prove decisive in the race for gold at London 2012.

Dr Mark Burnley, a lecturer in Exercise Physiology at the Department of Sport and Exercise Science (SES), has been studying high intensity exercises known as "priming".

Along with researchers from the University of Brighton and Exeter, he has been studying how priming increases concentration of lactate in the blood, making the blood acidic and, ultimately, improving performance.

The work improves performance in any event that lasts from around two minutes up to about 30 minutes.

In an athletics stadium, this means all events from the 800 metres to the 10,000 metres could be improved by priming exercise. Many cycling and rowing events will also be improved by priming exercise.

"We have been studying priming exercise at Aberystwyth since the SES department was set up in 2002," said Dr Burnley.

"In collaboration with Professor Andy Jones from the University of Exeter and the first SES head of department, Professor Jonathan Doust, who now works at the University of Brighton, we have provided clear evidence of the effectiveness of high-intensity exercise in the preparation for sports performance."

This research was highlighted in a report showing the impact of universities' research and sport development on the Olympic and Paralympic Games and UK sports industry called *Supporting a UK success story: The impact of university research and sport development*.

Copies of the full report are available to download from www.universitiesweek.org.uk
 For further information, contact Dr Mark Burnley on 01970 628560 / mhb@aber.ac.uk



Dr Mark Burnley (left) carries out the priming warm-up technique on Gruff Lewis, who works at the University Sports Centre and is a semi-professional cyclist.

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COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

Flood prompts HR move

The serious floods recently experienced by parts of Aberystwyth and surrounding villages have resulted in the Department of Human Resources completing its planned move to the Science Park much earlier than anticipated.

Extensive flooding at Plas Gogerddan early on Saturday 9th June meant that a significant number of filing cabinets full of personnel information had to be urgently removed from the building under the supervision of the Mid and West Wales Fire Service from Hay on Wye.

Water on some of the main routes into Aberystwyth was also causing concern for students preparing to leave the University at the end of the summer term.

Arrangements were made by the Accommodation Office for those unable to travel to stay on, and accommodation was also



Water up to the windows at Plas Gogerddan

offered, via Ceredigion County Council, to local families who had been left homeless by the floods.

The University was also able to assist Ystwyth Medical Group with alternative accommodation after their surgery near Parc y Llyn was flooded on the Saturday afternoon. Within two days the group had relocated to the former Countryside Council for Wales offices on the Gogerddan campus.

Standing water on the Blaendolau playing fields may not have been such an unusual sight, however the extent of the flooding here took everyone by surprise.

Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student and Staff Services thanked everyone who had contributed to dealing with the effects of the floods. "From early on the Saturday when a member of the night security team alerted us to the floods at Gogerddan, the efforts of University staff were Herculean."

More than month on and few signs remain of the floods that attracted the attention of the world. However, away from the public gaze the cleaning continues, as does the work with the University's insurers.



Blaendolau under water

GEOGRAPHY and EARTH SCIENCES

Pollution study

Researchers at the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences have been collecting soil samples in the areas affected by the floods to ascertain whether land has been contaminated by pollution from old mine workings.

Led by Professor Mark Macklin, Director of the Centre of Catchment and Coastal Research, the team have been checking for traces of lead, zinc, cadmium and copper.

Professor Macklin and colleagues undertook a similar study in Yorkshire after the River Swale, whose catchment is similarly affected by historical mining, broke its banks in 2000. Land there was found to be polluted.

Professor Macklin has also called for more stringent guidelines for development on

floodplains, particularly in small and steep catchments like the Leri that have narrow valley floors which are vulnerable to flash flooding, as well as tidally-influenced rivers such as the lower Rheidol and Ystwyth.

"These floods are not unprecedented either in mid-Wales or similar upland areas of the UK", he said. "There were similar summer floods in the region in August 1973 and notably in July/August 1846 that caused a number of deaths and widespread destruction in mid Ceredigion especially in Llanon, Talsarn and Aberaeron."

"Modelling studies suggests that we may get more intensive summer rainfall in the future but it is interesting to note that evaluation of long-term geomorphologically based flood

records that extend back over 250 years or so, suggests that in the latter part of the last century and the first decades of the present century the incidence of extreme upland floods, such as those that affected mid-Wales in June 2012, are at an historical low."

"If modelling forecasts are correct, things can only get worse", he added.



Dr Simon Foulds taking samples on the banks of the Leri, above Talybont.

Vice-Chancellor's column



As I write this column, I am aware that it's almost the end of my first year at Aber – and what a fantastic year it's been.

We've welcomed a record number of students; have a number of new Heads of Departments in place; and are in the process of interviewing for a wide range of new academic posts. Between May and July, we are welcoming more than 80 prospective colleagues to Aber for interviews and presentations – and the calibre of applicants has been so high that in some areas we have offered more posts than we had originally intended. I look forward to sharing an update on our new colleagues in the autumn. We've also celebrated numerous achievements by our research staff, and opened three new buildings with P5, IBERS Gogerddan and IBERS Penglais.

Of course, we have also faced some challenges – but with your help, support and involvement, I'm pleased that we have made substantial headway in responding to these, and are now in a better position to develop our University for the future and, at the same time, safeguard our excellent student experience.

The biggest challenge for all universities in the next few years lies in standing out from the crowd, by being clear about what we stand for. Through the 'Shaping our Future' sessions, staff and students were extremely clear in your priorities for Aberystwyth: and among the top themes were valuing our people; developing a vibrant postgraduate population; and becoming more ambitious and confident, less cautious and careful. Based on this, I have no worries about the capacity of Aberystwyth to develop and publicise our identity and our positive values in the new world of Higher Education. The development of the Strategic Plan is coming along well and we anticipate having our plan ready for the Council meeting at the end of September. This will then provide clarity over our strategic direction and provide targets for us to work towards collectively.

Achieving those targets means working together well, in structures which allow managed risk-taking and devolution of budgets and decisions. The recent Academic Reorganisation meetings have been well attended, with excellent engagement from staff and students, and a steady stream of comments,

questions and suggestions. It is reassuring to hear that, on the whole, people aren't questioning the need to change and form larger institutes but are looking to the future and focusing on how this should happen. There are interesting suggestions being made about which departments should formalise their working arrangements and I look forward to continuing these discussions over the summer.

We had a superb weekend of sporting activities at the end of May – celebrating 10 years since the opening of the Department of Sport and Exercise Science, the Halfords Cycling Tour Series and the Olympic Torch. It was great to join students, members of staff and the local community, in glorious weather, celebrating Aber at its best. Who could have anticipated the difference a fortnight later, as the rain came down and parts of Aberystwyth were marooned by the floods? It was reassuring to learn that students and staff were as ready as ever to support each other during this frightening time. I'd like to commend the actions of our staff, in stepping up to help others so swiftly and effectively. It's been a pleasure to receive compliments from businesses and members of the local community on the actions, thoughtfulness, consideration and innovative ideas of our colleagues.

So, next stop, graduation. In many ways, this is the highlight of our university year, as we congratulate our graduands; meet their families, friends and supporters; and honour new Fellows. This year we are making some changes to the ceremonies, with the intention of preserving the tradition and character of the event, while recognising that students have asked for some aspects to be a little more personal. I hope to see many of you in this very important week, and to hear your thoughts on the changes.

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor

President urges visa review

AU President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, has put his name to a letter to Prime Minister David Cameron signed by nearly 70 UK university chancellors and chairs of council, urging the government to support the UK's universities in their efforts to recruit genuine international students.

They are backing calls for international university students to be removed from net migration statistics for policy purposes, bringing the UK into line with our major competitors, and urging the government to make a clear distinction between temporary and permanent migration.

"Aberystwyth University has a vibrant community of international students whose contribution is hugely valued both culturally and economically," said Sir Emyr. "As has been the case over the generations, many have gone on to be enthusiastic ambassadors for the University, Wales and the UK. Of course the Government should act to stop racketeering with pretend colleges. But it is for these reasons that the UK Government must make every effort to ensure that genuine international students, who wish to study in recognised universities in the UK, are not discouraged from coming here," he added.



BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

Major investment for IBERS

As well as being awarded a £13m investment towards their bioscience research, IBERS has also recently opened the new National Plant Phenomics Centre in Gogerddan and research facilities on Penglais campus.

The £13m investment provided by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), will help the UK to meet challenges such as sustainably feeding the growing world population, finding alternatives to dwindling fossil fuels and supporting an ageing society to remain healthy for longer.

Located in Gogerddan, the new £6.8m National Phenomics Centre will help develop new plant and crop varieties to help tackle the global challenges of climate change, food security and replacing oil based products.



R to L. Education and Skills Minister Leighton Andrews AM opens the new IBERS facilities on Penglais in the company of Professor April McMahon and Professor Wayne Powell.

Representing an investment of £5.6m, the Penglais facility will house the Bioinformatics



When completed, the phenomics greenhouse will be able to hold up to 850 individually potted plants on over 300 metres of conveyor belts.

and Spatial Modelling laboratories and will also be a hub for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Professor Wayne Powell, Director of IBERS said:

“The investment recognises the excellent research that is being done here at IBERS to tackle some of the pressing issues faced by the world today, climate change, food and water security, and the need to replace fossil fuels.

“Researchers based in the UK and internationally have the very latest technology at their disposal to develop new crop varieties that can thrive in challenging conditions and make a significant contribution to future food production.”

For more information, go to www.aber.ac.uk/en/ibers/ or www.phenomics.org.uk/

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Fellows honoured by University

Eight Fellows, including the actor Michael Sheen and *The One Show* presenter Alex Jones, are to be honoured by Aberystwyth University this year.

The title is awarded to those who have made an outstanding contribution to professional or public life in Wales or have a close association with the University.

Those who will be honoured at this year’s graduation ceremonies, which take place from Tuesday 10 until Friday 13 July, are Professor Michael Clarke, Sir David Lloyd Jones, Rev. John Gwilym Jones, Caitlin Moran, and Dr Jan Jaroslav Pinkava.

Michael Sheen, Alex Jones and Mark Price are unable to attend the ceremonies, and alternative dates are being arranged for them to be presented with their fellowships.

For more information, go to:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/graduation/order-ceremonies/



Michael Sheen in National Theatre Wales production, The Passion in Port Talbot. Image: Geraint Lewis/National Theatre Wales

COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY

The app-lication of science



Following the successful ‘Mobile Apps Challenge’ last year, the University will be launching its first commercial app at the Royal Welsh Show this year.

The mobileFARM brand will eventually consist of a number of apps which aim to support farmers and animal owners to work more efficiently to save money.

One of the apps to be revealed at the Show is farmGRAZE, which will help farmers manage livestock grazing efficiently and save on feed and fertiliser.

Another app which will soon feature under the mobileFARM umbrella is horseRATION, which will offer a quick, independent and accurate recommendation for a horse’s diet.

Dr Rhian Hayward from Commercialisation and Consultancy Services explains, “This is the start of a new venture for Aberystwyth University in commercial apps for android and iPhones.

“mobileFARM is specifically aimed to promote the apps developed in the area of agriculture and animal health.

“Universities are in a strong position to realise the commercial value in their technologies and expertise via the apps market.”

For further information regarding mobileFARM visit:

www.mobilefarmapps.com

LAW and CRIMINOLOGY

Guilty verdict at mock trial

The Department of Law and Criminology has been working with local school pupils to prepare and hold a mock trial.

Working with law lecturer Mick John-Hopkins, pupils from Penglais school attended a series of Saturday workshops to prepare for the trial and the University's Old College Council Chamber provided a suitably grand venue for the hearing.

The Penglais pupils made up the legal teams whilst undergraduate law students Robert Donaldson, Charlotte Garbett, Liam Hunter, Sofiya Kartalova played the roles of the witnesses, the accused and the defendant, Carol Dieb, who was charged with burglary.



Penglais pupils and staff join staff and students in the preparations.

There were also prominent roles for Penglais teachers with Head Teacher, Mr Haydn Davey JP, Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Matthew Brown joining the Head of the Department of Law and Criminology, Professor Noel Cox, on the Magistrates bench.

IN BRIEF

Celebrating the work of Welsh publishers

The Centre for Education Publishing (CAA), part of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, is marking 30 years of publishing this year. CAA, which specialises in the production of resources to enhance the development of Welsh as a second language and to encourage so-called 'reluctant readers', was



Professor M. Wynn Thomas, the Welsh Books Council's chairman, presenting the award to Lynwen Rees Jones, CAA's director

recently awarded the prize for children's bestseller for *Patagonia* by Sioned V Hughes at the Publishing Trade Awards which also marked the 50th anniversary of the Welsh Books Council.

Kilimanjaro climb

Eighteen Aberystwyth students will be swapping the Ceredigion coastline for a climb up Mount Kilimanjaro during August. The group hope to complete the climb in six days and raise over £44,000 for the charity Childreach which helps children in some of the poorest regions of the world.

Team member and physics student Stephen Browett said, "I've never done anything quite like this before, but I'm really looking forward to the challenge and the whole experience. Before we attempt the climb, we will visit a school in Tanzania and see for ourselves what can be done with donations such as ours. After the climb, a few of us will stay behind for a week or so to explore the area."

Follow the group on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/#!/groups/112249342175800/

Celtic connection

Students and lecturers of Theatre, Film and TV are set to be the first beneficiaries of a new Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed by Aberystwyth University and Enniscorthy Vocational College in County Wexford, Ireland. The three year agreement will see staff at the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies collaborate with colleagues at Enniscorthy on curriculum development and postgraduate training opportunities.

Top marks from YouthSight

Aberystwyth is the best university in the UK for interest taken in students during the application process, according to the 2012 YouthSight Higher Expectations Report. The findings are based on the latest version of Higher Expectations, a study into the undergraduate student decision making process published by YouthSight (previously OpinionPanel Research).

Walk the World

Cape Verde, off the west coast of Africa, was the final destination for this year's Walk the World. Set a challenge to cover as many miles as possible in 60 days, 322 members of staff logged every step to take the final total to 36,098 miles. Participants were provided with regular e-mail updates during the journey with virtual visits to Sweden, Russia, China, Singapore, Hawaii, America, Antarctica and Argentina. You can still log your steps by going to <https://walk.aber.ac.uk/walk/login.jsp>

With the summer recess upon us, you are no doubt looking forward to a stretch of research activity, which is a good opportunity to remind you of the support that is available from the Research Office.

Grant Application Toolkit

As well as the three Research Development Officers and the European Development Officers, who are your first point of contact for research funding and costing (details on p.7), there are a wealth of online resources under the Research link from the University home page. These include the Research Toolkit which provides pre-award support such as:

- A guide to AU's Grant Application process and contacts.
- Sources of funding (internal and external), including the useful PIVOT funding database which details a breadth of opportunities – especially important in today's constrained funding landscape – bitesize lunchtime training sessions coming soon!
- Copies of past successful grant applications for a variety of funders including RCUK, Leverhulme and European.
- Success rates by funder.
- Research ethics information.
- Project Costing guidance.
- Impact guidance and Project Management information including example statements for grant applications.

Other information available includes details about REF, a link to the Research Activity Database and a list of upcoming Research Events.

Improving post award support

There are some new developments from the Research Office. To support post-award:

- New monthly expenditure and budget statements for PIs from June
- A "start-up" meeting with Research Finance and accompanying project initiation file for new projects
- Training for PIs on the universities post award management processes from September
- An online post award toolkit is in the planning stage
- A Graduate Intern, Peter Botwood, has recently started in the Research Grants Office to support these post award initiatives. All enquiries to this service can now be made via rfostaff@aber.ac.uk or x8485

Research Café – new menu!

In terms of networking, the Research Café will be starting up again in September with a 'new menu'. The Research Cafes will have a more focused approach which will provide academics and researchers with an opportunity to create cross-University and cross-disciplinary links. The aim is to identify synergies between research themes and create opportunities to develop inter-disciplinary research proposals with the support of the Research Development Officers.

The focus of the 'new' Research Cafes will be on a different Research Group

each month, providing a 20 minute presentation on their current research themes and ideas and identifying areas for cross-disciplinary collaboration. So if you want to find out what research is going on across the University and identify possible collaborators, then come along. The Cafes will be advertised on the Research webpages and via the weekly email.

If you would like your Research Group/Centre to be the focus of a Research Cafe, then please get in touch with your RDO.



Gary Reed - Head of Research Office

Inter and trans disciplinary

Linked to the Research café, we are also looking to run a variety of events, for example themed workshops, mini sandpits, around cross cutting themes from the Science Strategy for Wales, the RCUK Research Priorities and the upcoming Horizon 2020 European Research Funding. If you have an interest in one of these areas, we'd be very pleased to hear from you, and will provide the support to run an event to bring together researchers at Aberystwyth and other Universities.

Congratulations are due to IBERS, who have already held a number of evening research sharing sessions with IMAPS, Sports and Exercise Science and Computer Science. Already connections have been made as a result of these evenings.

2012-13 will be the year of trans disciplinaryity – I look forward to seeing you there!

Large funding calls

We are anticipating that ESRC will soon launch a call for outline applications to their Centres and Large grants programme with a deadline in October. Last year calls were for between £2 and £5 million (100 percent FEC) over a 5 year period. We are aiming for at least one bid from AU into this scheme, if you would like to know more please contact us, likewise with any other upcoming calls such as the Leverhulme Research programme.

To flower or not to flower

An unusual strain of plant that never flowers has enabled scientists to isolate a gene that is essential for the formation of the branches on which flowers form.

Writing in *Nature Communications*, an international team of scientists which includes Professor Noel Ellis of IBERS, outline how they studied a mutant pea plant, *Pisum sativum*, to identify the gene that leads to formation of flowering branches on plants.

By comparing it with flowering plants, the researchers were able, after many years of painstaking research, to identify a gene that controls the development of these branches on plants.

Professor Ellis, who is an expert on legumes - plants such as peas and clover - believes this work puts in place the methods, principles and expertise needed to use genetics for the development of more productive and environmentally beneficial legumes.

Department of Defense

Researchers from the American Department of Defense (DoD) visited the Institute of Mathematics and Physics (IMAPS), Computer Science and Sport and Exercise Science during April as part of a tour of Welsh and English Universities.

They were particularly interested in the materials research happening in IMAPS and the human performance work in Sports and Exercise Science, and work is ongoing to develop the relationship with a view to securing funding to support collaboration between AU and the DoD.

If anyone else is interested in collaborating with the DoD then please email the Research Office (research@aber.ac.uk) and we can put you in touch.

Over €5 billion of European research funding available

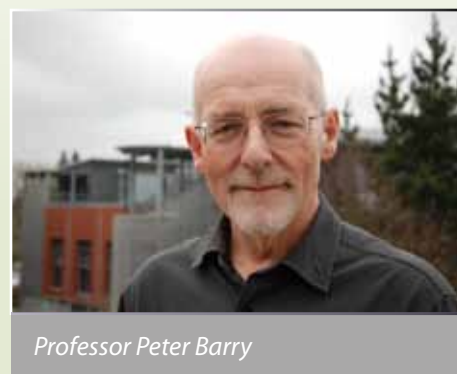
The EU is expected to announce €5 billion of collaborative research funding opportunities on 10th July. Details about a series of presentations aimed at helping researchers interested in applying can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/en/research/support/events/fp7-summer-programme/

Leverhulme grant awarded

Professor Peter Barry from the Department of English & Creative Writing has been awarded a £232,042 Leverhulme Research Project Grant to lead the 'Devolved Voices' project which begins in September and will run for three years.

The project will focus on the development of Welsh poetry in English since 1997, and will pay particular attention to the work of poets who have achieved prominence and recognition since Wales's devolution vote.

Professor Barry, who is an expert on modern and contemporary poetry and on literary theory, said, "We are delighted to have this exciting opportunity to consider the energy, achievements and challenges of contemporary Welsh poetry in English. We are extremely grateful to the Leverhulme Trust for their generous support."



Professor Peter Barry

The project plans to produce a wide range of publications, placing contemporary Welsh poetry in English in its wider British poetic context, considering the specific question of poetic production within the context of Wales's devolutionary journey, and providing detailed studies of major figures within the field. The project will also launch a video-rich website which will provide an important record of discussions with poets themselves, of poets reading their own work, and of interviews with other notable players on the contemporary English-language poetry scene in Wales.

Welsh Economics Colloquium hosted by SMB

The School of Management and Business hosted a Welsh Economics Colloquium at Gregynog Hall, near Newtown, Powys on May 8th-10th. This was the latest in a long series of conferences traditionally held at Gregynog since the mid 1960s, and the School's hosting of this year's event is particularly apt as 2012 marks the centenary of Economics at Aberystwyth.

As well as attendees from the main HE institutions in Wales, the delegate list also contained academics from other UK universities as well as North America, together with representatives from the policy making and practitioner sectors.

The programme consisted of 20 presentations covering a broad range of topics within economics, and the colloquium also provided an important opportunity for young researchers to present and discuss their research with more senior economists.

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

Exchange



In this insert of 'EXCHANGE' we are pleased to reveal news about the exciting new InvEnterPrize competition. Open to students across the University, this promises to be a business competition with a difference offering a prestigious prize package. We look forward to individuals and teams from across the University taking up this challenge in the new academic year. If you have suggestions for

opportunities to get students from your department involved with the competition, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Liz Flint

Director, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services

A welcome boost for West Wales

A £12m initiative to help businesses in West Wales and the Valleys work in a more sustainable way has been given an EU boost.

The WISE Network (Welsh Institute for Sustainable Environments) project, led by Aberystwyth University in partnership with Bangor and Swansea Universities, will support companies to undertake research and development activities to develop 'greener' products and drive business growth.

The scheme will support a range of businesses offering expertise in areas such as developing renewable-based materials for use in products and improving resource efficiency of services, helping to reduce their ecological footprint.

The project is backed with £6.6m from the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government with the remainder of the funding from the universities involved.

Through the project, a range of activities are likely to get underway such as helping companies to make their manufacturing processes, products and packaging more efficient and cost-effective and increasing their use of renewable materials to produce commercial goods and services.

Welcoming the funding announcement, Professor Jamie Newbold, Director of WISE Network said:

"We are delighted that EU funding has been made available to support this work, and we look forward to developing and extending relationships with businesses in the Convergence region. The partner Universities are highly enthusiastic about collaborating with local companies so that they can access the best University expertise to support the sustainable development of their business, and we look forward to exchanging our knowledge with them."

For further information on the WISE Network contact

Liz Flint - ejf@aber.ac.uk



Sefydliad Amgylcheddau Cynaliadwy Cymru
Welsh Institute for Sustainable Environments

InvEnterPrize

InvEnterPrize is a new and exciting student business competition coming soon to Aberystwyth University.

If you have an idea for a new product or service which you could turn into a successful venture, this is a fantastic opportunity not to be missed!

"InvEnterPrize is a real and practical opportunity for students to work on genuinely entrepreneurial ideas and see them come to fruition" explained Dr James Hudson, Technology Transfer Manager.

Entries will be encouraged from individuals or teams with inventions, business start-up ideas and other ambitious plans. The competition will be open to students studying at Aberystwyth during 2012/13 and will be officially launched at the start of the new academic year.

The winning entry will receive a generous prize package including support and investment worth up to a maximum of £20,000 to start the business. In addition, all shortlisted finalists will receive expert advice from a panel of successful entrepreneurial alumni.

As part of the InvEnterPrize competition, Aberystwyth's Enterprise Network will be hosting a range of workshops and inspirational presentations open to students interested in developing their entrepreneurial skills and preparing their entry.

To keep up to date with competition announcements, sign up for updates at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/inventerprize

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

Competition terms and conditions will apply; full details will be available following the launch in October 2012.

COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES

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

In the spirit of collaboration



Fourteen staff from five departments across the University have successfully secured funding to initiate knowledge exchange links with external organisations. Supported by the Strategic Insight Programme (SIP) these fully funded short term placements will be undertaken by colleagues over the summer months. The placements, which have been developed in conjunction with the partner organisations, provide an excellent opportunity to spend time at the business, develop skills and knowledge, and foster new knowledge exchange links on a mutually beneficial basis.

Building on the success of the initial call, CCS have recently opened up a second round of opportunities for SIP placements– further information at:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/ccs/staff-students

The Strategic Insight Programme (SIP) is a pan Wales initiative supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

Year in a Creative Unit competition

Launched on the 9th May, the fourth 'Year in a Creative Unit' Competition offers twelve months rent free studio space in one of the Award winning Creative Units at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

Open to new or early stage creative businesses, the shortlisted entries will face a 'Dragons Den' style panel in July, with the winner joining the creative community on campus from September.

www.aber.ac.uk/year-in-a-creative-unit



From left to right: Alan Hewson, Director, Aberystwyth Arts Centre; Ruth Emily Davey, 2011 Competition Winner; Tony Orme, Enterprise Manager, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS)

Opportunity spotting at the Business Network

Spotting opportunities and developing an entrepreneurial culture within an organisation was the theme of the Aberystwyth University Business Network event held on Monday 26th March.



From left to right: Professor Noel Cox, Christopher Nott, Professor April McMahon and Tony Orme.

The keynote address was provided by Aberystwyth alumnus Mr Christopher Nott (Senior Partner, Capital Law LLP) to a mixed audience of over fifty business representatives and University staff.

As part of his visit to the University, Christopher met with members of the Department of Law and Criminology and gave a lecture to students from the department entitled, 'What it takes to be a Commercial Solicitor'.

www.aber.ac.uk/network

Business Start-up Week

Aberystwyth's Summer Business Start-up Week once again provided an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurs to explore the practical aspects of starting a new venture. Held on campus from 28th May -1st June, workshops included digital marketing, financial management and networking together with opportunities to hear first-hand from local businesses who shared their start-up experiences.

www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis



Collaborative Industrial Research Project (CIRP) funding

If you have a technology based, industrially focused research idea the CCS team would like to hear from you! Through the Welsh Government's Academic Expertise for Business (A4B) Programme, funding is available on a competitive basis to support consortia that include industrial partners within the convergence area of Wales. Large company partners and those from outside Wales are also welcome alongside convergence-based companies. Academics interested in discussing project ideas are encouraged to contact CCS at the earliest opportunity for further details of the open funding call.

The Academic Expertise for Business (A4B) programme is managed by the Welsh Government and supported by EU convergence funding.

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

Putin 2.0

Dr Jennifer Mathers, a Senior Lecturer specialising in Russian politics and security at the Department of International Politics, considers what the future holds for Russia following the re-election of Vladimir Putin to the presidency.



Dr Jennifer Mathers

Follow Dr Mathers on Twitter @jgmaber

On 7 May 2012, Vladimir Putin was sworn in as Russia's president, returning for a six-year term of office. Putin is eligible to serve for two consecutive terms and so could be a fixture in the Kremlin until 2024, but it would be a mistake to assume that his second presidency will simply be a re-run of the first or that it will last for the next twelve years. The informal opposition to Putin's return to power, which has been visible in recent months, has the potential to send Russian politics in new directions.

So far the driving force behind the anti-Putin protests has been Russia's fast-growing middle class who were outraged by President Dmitri Medvedev's announcement that he and Putin would effectively swap places. This removed even the illusion of popular choice from the presidential elections and has politicised a generation of Russians.

Evidence of extensive election fraud in the Duma (parliamentary) elections in December 2011 was the catalyst for turning outrage into action. The stage management of elections to obtain the desired result has been an acknowledged feature of political life in Russia since the Soviet period, but this time smartphone cameras and social networking websites meant ordinary citizens were able to view the workings of Russia's managed democracy for themselves.

As soon as the polls closed, YouTube was flooded with recordings revealing how the vote had been inflated for United Russia (Putin's party). Some were filmed describing being bribed or intimidated into carousel voting, others explained that they had been shown how to stuff ballot boxes. Election monitors filmed the discovery of ballots hidden in polling stations and already filled out in favour of United Russia.

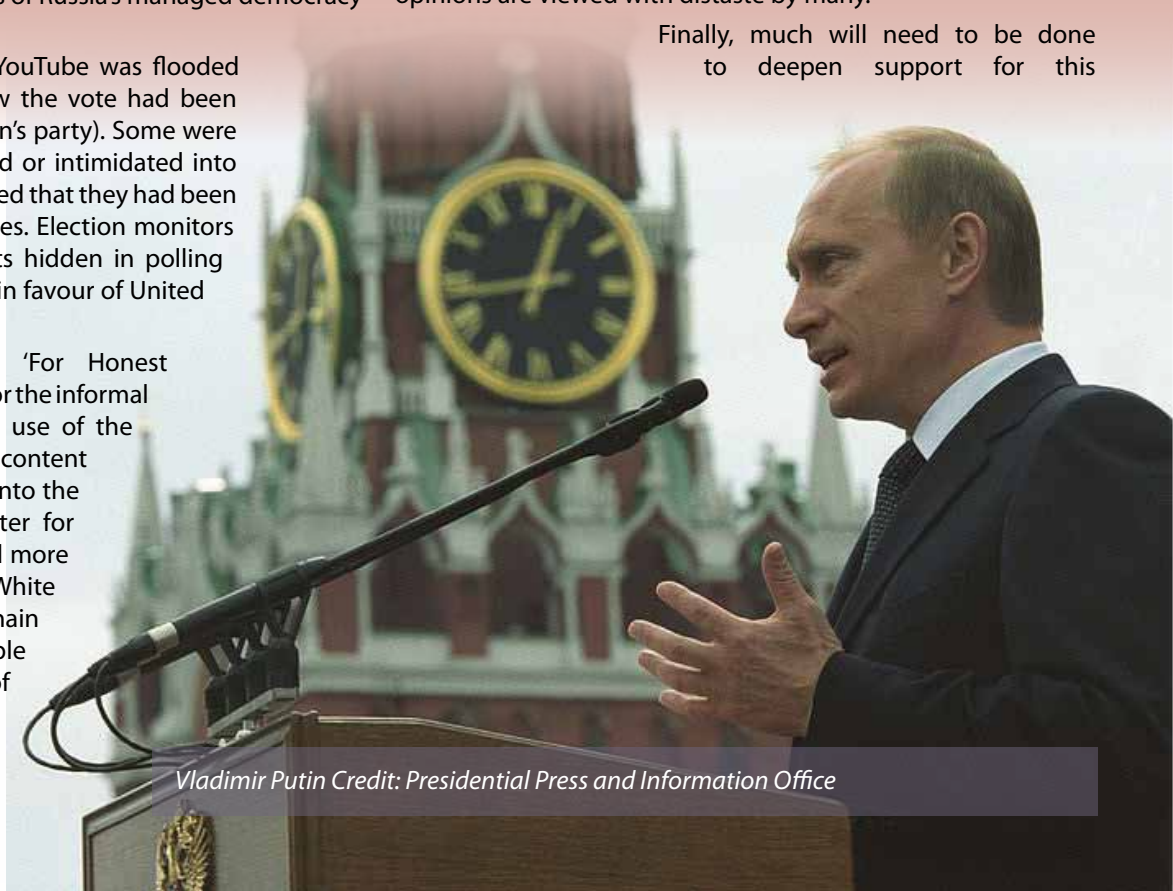
The Moscow based group 'For Honest Elections' has become a focus for the informal opposition, making extensive use of the internet to harness popular discontent and bring tens of thousands onto the streets in the depths of winter for traditional rallies, marches and more quirky events, such as the White Ring Protest – a human chain comprised of 30,000 people who lined the pavements of Moscow's inner ring road, wearing the white ribbons that have become symbols of the movement.

Another creative approach to political protest was displayed in the Siberian city of Barnaul, where activists unable to secure a permit for a rally staged a protest comprised entirely of teddy bears, dolls and action figures holding tiny placards that echoed the slogans of the movement.

Last winter witnessed the most open political debates in Russia for a generation, together with the return of biting political satire, but the strength and durability of Russia's informal opposition will be tested in the coming months. Dissatisfaction with the system of centralised, top-down rule created during Putin's first presidency ranges across the political spectrum.

Communists and nationalists joined the protests, as well as those who favour Russia developing in a more liberal democratic direction, and those with no particular affiliation. At the moment, these groups can only agree on their opposition to Putin. It remains to be seen whether such disparate ideologies can be united. The movement lacks an undisputed leader. Perhaps the strongest contender thus far is Alexei Navalny, an American-educated lawyer and anti-corruption campaigner. But Navalny is also a controversial figure, whose nationalist opinions are viewed with distaste by many.

Finally, much will need to be done to deepen support for this



Vladimir Putin Credit: Presidential Press and Information Office

SPORT and EXERCISE SCIENCE

A decade of Sport and Exercise Science

Gerald Davies CBE and Fellow of Aberystwyth University, one of the greatest wing three-quarters ever to grace a rugby pitch, and former Scarlets and Wales flanker, Dafydd Jones, were the guests of honour at a gala dinner to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Department of Sport and Exercise Science on Saturday 26 May.

Returning nine years after opening the Department's purpose built Carwyn James building, named after the Aberystwyth graduate and coach of the famously victorious 1971 Lions tour of New Zealand, Gerald Davies paid tribute to the work of the Department and the University.

Addressing an audience of current and former staff and students, members of the local sporting community and research partners from the NHS, he spoke of the importance of sport as part of a university education and of its role in maintaining a civilised society.

Giving what was described by the head of Sport and Exercise Science, Dr Joanne Hudson, as "the alternative Gregynog Lecture", Aberystwyth born Dafydd Jones spoke of how rugby had changed over the years.

Taking questions from the audience, Jones reflected on the ever increasing physicality of the modern game, the introduction of science based training regimes that include the use of cryogenic chambers, and of having to retire early after undergoing surgery to rebuild his right shoulder on three separate occasions.

"The focus of the evening may have been on sport," said Dr Joanne Hudson, "but it is important to acknowledge the contribution colleagues are making in areas such as health and how exercise plays such an important role in improving people's everyday lives – from living with diabetes to improving balance and avoiding falls in elderly people."

Amongst those in attendance were Professor Jo Doust, the Department's first Head of Department, and Mrs Penny Barrett, whose late husband, Professor John Barrett, played such an important role as Acting Head during the Department's formative years.



L to R: Gerald Davies CBE, Dr Joanne Hudson, Professor April McMahon and Dafydd Jones.

movement if it is to thrive. Putin is genuinely popular among many Russians, especially those who live in smaller industrial towns and rural areas. These are parts of Russia that ambitious young people seek to escape, where employment often depends upon the distribution of state resources by officials on the lower rungs of a political ladder that reaches all the way to the Kremlin.

The sections of Russian society that regard Putin as a much-needed source of political stability and economic prosperity will need to be persuaded that there is a viable alternative on offer that will leave them, at least, no worse off than they currently are.

There is no question that Putin's political system is deeply entrenched. Built over many years, it is based on patronage networks that will not be demolished easily or quickly. But Putin would be unwise to underestimate this movement.

Hundreds of opposition candidates were successful in recent municipal elections, winning seats on local councils and the position of mayor in the sizeable cities of Tolyatti and Yaroslavl. Another round of local and regional elections in mid-October offers them the chance to gain credibility in the eyes of voters, and become a significant force in Russian politics.



December protest
Credit: Зураб Завахадзе

UNIVERSITY NEWS

New children's nursery

The University's new purpose built day nursery on Penglais Hill is now open.

Registered with Mudiad Meithrin and the Wales Primary Play Association, Penglais Nursery is open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and has 73 places available for children up to 8 years of age. It also incorporates the baby unit which until recently was located in Rosser Hall.

Nursery Manager Eleri Morris said, "We are delighted to be here and look forward to making this wonderful building our

new home. Because we have more rooms available to us and space, which includes an outdoor play area, we will be able to accommodate more children which is a positive step forward for us."

To know more about the services offered by Penglais Nursery go to www.aber.ac.uk/en/childcare/ or contact 01970 622233 / elm@aber.ac.uk

GUILD OF STUDENTS

It's been a challenging year for the Guild, but as a team we've achieved so much this year to not only help support and enhance the student experience, but also to start moving the Guild in a new and exciting direction.

We wrote a document titled "The Aber Experience Plan" which sets out our vision for the Guild's future, realising that in an ever changing HE landscape, we need to change as a students' union as well.

This is currently being followed with a strategic plan which will play a huge part in driving us forward over the next three years with the goal of becoming the best Union in the UK!

To engage our students in the strategic conversation, we launched our first full survey in nearly a decade, reaching 21% of the student body and getting their opinion on what they think the Guild should be doing. Two lucky respondents won a brand new iPad.

Whilst on the topic of surveys, we also managed to get the university to donate a pound for every respondent to this year's National Student Satisfaction Survey, which led to £1456 being donated to our student support hardship fund.

This year we also launched our first Student Led Teaching Awards, with students voting in eight categories to nominate the lecturers and support staff that they thought provided a great contribution to their time in Aberystwyth.

We also helped lobby local authorities to allow the old crown building to be developed into 51 new student flats, which is a



huge achievement as it will free up space in the overcrowded housing situation that exists in Aberystwyth at the moment.

Over the next few months the Guild will see some major changes, the first being our move back to being 'Aberystwyth University Students' Union'. This will act as a catalyst to a long list of strategic changes we plan to make

over the summer which also includes updating the building, a new website and the 'Student Assembly' democratic model (a move away from General Meetings).

Sadly it's the time of year where we will be losing some members of the Guild Team as we begin the handover period, but this year we have seen some excellent work from Tammy Hawkins (Welsh Affairs & UMCA), Tom Burmeister (Student Support) and Alun Minify (Activities).

By **Ben Meakin**, President, Guild of Students

The new sabbatical officers elected for the year ahead are:

Position	Name
President	Ben Meakin
Activities Officer	Ioan Rhys Evans
Welsh Affairs and UMCA President	Carys Thomas
Student Support Officer	Laura Dickens
Education Officer	Jess Leigh

Student-led Teaching Awards

The Department of International Politics scooped the Department of The Year award at the very first Student-led Teaching Awards which were held by the Aberystwyth Guild of Students on Thursday 24th May.

Hosted by the Guild's Education Officer Jess Leigh and Professor John Grattan, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning, Teaching and Employability, the evening was a celebration of teaching excellence as well as the contribution of support staff and student representatives.

In all over 200 nominations were received from students.

Event organiser Jess Leigh said: "The event was big success due to the buy-in of staff and students. It was an opportunity for students to thank and reward staff for the work they have done with them and for them."

And the winners are....

Award
Most Creative/Innovative Teaching Award
Technology-Enhanced Learning Award
Support Staff of the Year
Course Rep of the Year
Personal Tutor of the Year
Employability Links
Staff Student Consultative Committee Development Award
Department of the Year



Dr James Vaughan receives the Department of the Year award on behalf of the Department of International Politics.

Winner
Professor Alex Maltman (IGES)
Dr Hazel Davey (IBERS)
David Price and Phil Jones (School of Art)
Gemma Western (School of Art)
Dr Jayne Archer (English and Creative Writing)
Carolyn Parry (Careers Service)
Sport and Exercise Science Undergraduate SSCC
International Politics

Further details on winners and runners up are available online at:

www.aberguild.co.uk/en/your-union/news/1-latest-news/591-student-led-teaching-awards

INFORMATION SERVICES

E-book pilot study

The number of academic e-books has increased significantly over the last few years, and this has led to changes in the ways libraries buy and manage materials.

Several universities have started experimenting with a process called Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA), in which e-book content is made available in the library catalogue but the library only purchases what patrons use.

This method is currently the subject of a pilot study. The data gathered will form the basis of the Information Service's decision whether to make PDA a permanent part of the library's acquisitions process.

Julie Hart, Head of Library Services, says "PDA allows library users to find and identify desired books prior to the library's purchase of them, and for the library to pay only for what its patrons find and actually use.

"We chose to target specific subject areas, principally to make the trial more manageable. Subjects were chosen because they either had a high number of distance learners, or comments from the annual IS student survey revealed dissatisfaction with the number or range of books available in AU libraries for those areas.

"We are two months into the trial and have purchased 198 e-books. The usage has been encouraging. Since the pilot began, each PDA e-book has been used on average 3.51 times, compared with 2.30 times for traditionally purchased e-books.

"In May 2011 there were 152 e-book uses; this number rose dramatically to 1,367 for May 2012. PDA e-books now make up 37% of our tendered supplier e-book holdings, and in May accounted for 40% of e-book usage.

"We shall continue to monitor the usage of PDA e-books after the pilot ends, and make an informed decision then whether to select this method of acquisition in future if it works for Aberystwyth."



Julie Hart

MANAGEMENT and BUSINESS

Navy leadership

The first handbook on leadership within the Royal Navy to be published in nearly 50 years has been produced by Professor Andrew St George, MBA Teaching Fellow at the University's School of Management and Business.



Professor Andrew St George

Three years in the writing with complete access to the Royal Navy at all levels, *Royal Navy Way of Leadership* has been described by publishers Random House as "the definitive book on leadership in business and in life from one of the UK's foremost leadership practitioners."

15,000 copies of the book have been issued by the Royal Navy to all its officers, senior managers (senior rates), and all its national and international training establishments.

The book represents the largest piece of research on Royal Navy leadership ever done. "Everything in the book is here because it works, tested over thousands of hours of hard training, rigorous assessment and absolute measurement," said Andrew.

"The book's messages are deceptively simple. In order to succeed we must have: the clarity of intent; the strategy; the resources; a contingency plan; an emotional investment. These tenets stand in all walks of business and personal life: they are from Nelson's order of battle at Trafalgar."

WELSH

Head of Welsh



Professor Aled Gruffydd Jones has been appointed Head of the Department of Welsh.

The appointment is for a period of up to three years.

Professor Jones succeeds Professor Patrick Sims-Williams.

Professor Jones will remain in his current role of Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor, but will relinquish certain areas of his portfolio, namely Research, Enterprise and International.

In May he was appointed Vice-President of the National Library of Wales and is a member of the History Panel for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

ENGLISH and CREATIVE WRITING

Witch Fever at Hay Festival

The voices and fears of a Suffolk village, convulsed by the witchcraft hunts of the mid 1640s, provided the chilling backdrop to a reading by Damian Walford Davies of his new collection of poems. *'Witch'* was featured on the Digital Stage at this year's Hay Festival, one of the UK's leading artistic and intellectual events.

The post event reception was hosted and sponsored by Aberystwyth University, at which Aled Gruffydd Jones, Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor spoke of the importance of supporting creative endeavor, which is, he said, at the very heart of the University's mission.



Professor Aled Gruffydd Jones, Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor at the Hay Festival 2012 (left) and Professor Damian Walford Davies, Head of the Department of English and Creative Writing

ABER PEOPLE

Olympic torch lights up Aber

On Sunday 27th May, Aberystwyth welcomed the Olympic Torch to the town, before a crowd of 8000 people at the University's Vicarage Playing Fields.

As it entered the field, the torch was held aloft by 16 year old Kyle Thomson and was carried onto the stage to a rapturous response.

Monday morning saw the torch in Aberystwyth town, taking in Constitution hill, down the Prom, past the Old College and then winding its way to the National Library, before departing up Penglais Hill towards Bow Street and on to Bangor.

Two students and two members of staff were nominated to be torch bearers on the Ceredigion leg of the mammoth journey around Britain, leading to London 2012.

Susanna Ditton, a second year student at the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences (IGES), was nominated because of her inspirational story. As a youngster, she overcame spinal problems and bullying and more recently, spent time in Africa which included six months volunteering and teaching in an underprivileged school in Kenya. The 21-year-old is a keen cross-country runner and a member of the University's Harriers Running Club.

Bridget James, a Lifeguard and Fitness Instructor at the Sports Centre, was nominated by her running club, Aberystwyth Athletic Club. Bridget and her husband set up Apél Elain in 2011 after their daughter, who suffers from Congenital Heart Disease and Deletion Syndrome, had spent five months in hospital in 2010. The appeal supports four charities that were instrumental in providing quality of care for the family. Bridget is also a keen runner, swimmer and gym enthusiast as well as a level two



Professor Qiang Shen

UK Athletics Coach and Spinning Instructor.

19 year old Shon Rowcliffe, a first year student at the Department of Television, Theatre and Film Studies (TFTS), carried the torch through the village of Brynhoffnant near Cardigan. Originally from Pencader in Carmarthenshire, Shon has Noonan's syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes abnormal development of multiple parts of the body and affects at least one in 2,500 children.

Professor Qiang Shen, Head of the Department of Computer Science, carried the Olympic Torch through Penparcau and dedicated his leg of the torch relay to the memory of the father of modern computing, Alan Turing. Speaking after his run, Professor Shen said: "2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alan Turing, the founder of computer science and artificial intelligence and a figurehead for the code breaking efforts of WWII. It was a great honour to be selected to carry the Olympic Torch and to dedicate my participation in his memory."



Bridget James outside the National Library

COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Have you got news for us?

If you have any personal success stories for AberNEWS please send them to communications@aber.ac.uk

ABER PEOPLE

Appointments

New Vice-Chancellor office

There have been six new appointments to positions within the Vice-Chancellor's office, which is responsible for tasks ranging from the provision of administrative support to managing projects and policy.

Alwena Hughes Moakes Policy and Executive Officer, manages the Vice-Chancellor's office and drafts policy papers and reports on behalf of the University Executive.

Nerys Hywel

Executive Personal Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Catrin Hughes and Professor Aled Jones.

Charles Lloyd Harvey Executive Personal Assistant to Professor Martin Jones and Ms Rebecca Davies.

Debbie Pryor Executive Personal Assistant to the Director of Planning and Professor John Grattan, and providing administrative support to the Planning Office and Vice Chancellor's Office.

Sara Jones has been appointed as the new Diary Secretary in the Vice Chancellor's Office.

Rhiannon Davies has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor's Office Receptionist.

Institute of Mathematics and Physics.

Professor Andrew Evans

has been appointed Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Physics. Professor Evans, who has worked at the University since 1997, specialises in carbon-based materials (organic molecules and diamond) and their characterisation using light, electrons, x-rays and synchrotron radiation.

Department of Sport and Exercise Science

Dr Joanne Hudson has been appointed Head of the Department of Sport and Exercise Science. Joanne has taught in sport & exercise science since 1996 and has acted as sport psychology consultant to athletes from a range of sports, including those at international standard.

Deputy Dean of Science

Dr Martin Wilding, a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics, has been appointed Deputy Dean of Science. Dr Wilding researches into the structure and structure-related properties of glass, poorly crystalline materials and liquids, especially under extremes of temperature and pressure.

Retirements

Llinos retires after 40 years service

Retirement sometimes means sitting back and putting your feet up, but not for **Llinos Hunt** who retired last month after 40 years service for the University.

In that time, Llinos has worked alongside six Vice-Chancellors - the first one being Sir Goronwy Daniel. Llinos, who was the PA to the Director of Human Resources, will now be filling her days song writing, painting and learning Breton.

We all wish Llinos and June very long, busy and happy retirements.

Mrs June Baxter, secretary to the Department of English and Creative Writing, retired on 30 June 2012 after 34 years service.

On leaving school in 1963 June started work in the Old College, and apart from a break of 13 years to raise her sons, has worked at the University ever since.

Her welcoming smile and warm, friendly personality will be much missed by her colleagues and students.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Gruffudd Antur**, a second year student at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics, on winning the Chair competition at the 2012 Urdd Eisteddfod in Eryri. The task for the competitors for the Chair this year was to compose a poem of no longer than 100 lines in either strict or free verse on the theme of "Cylchoedd" (Circles). In it, Gruffudd discusses the circles of Welsh political and social life. In their adjudication the judges, Rhys Iorwerth and Ifan Prys, described Gruffudd as a "masterful and skilled poet."

WHAT'S ON

SCHOOL of ART

Christopher Williams exhibition

Robert Meyrick, Head of the School of Art, will coordinate the biggest ever exhibition of the work of Maesteg artist Christopher Williams (1873–1934) this summer. The exhibition, held at the National Library of Wales from 7 July–22 September, looks back on Williams' extraordinary career.

Christopher Williams is best known for his imposing biblical and mythological subjects, such as his scenes from the Mabinogion: Ceridwen (1910) – on display at the National Library this summer – Branwen (1915) and Blodeuwedd (1930).

According to Robert Meyrick, "Christopher Williams was a very highly regarded artist in his day. In 1911 he was commissioned by King George V to paint the Investiture of Edward, Prince of Wales, at Caernarfon Castle. During the First World War, he painted the Welsh Charge at Mametz Wood. He also painted five portraits of David Lloyd George.



Christopher Williams beside a portrait of Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George



Holidays - Emily and Gwyn at Barmouth, 1917

"Although he built his reputation on commissioned portraits of politicians, academics, and men of the cloth, it's the spontaneous paintings he made of the Welsh coast, some of which have never been seen before, that give us an insight into the artist's personality and his love of Wales."

Lloyd George described Christopher Williams as "one of the most gifted artists Wales has produced."

Drawing from previously untapped archives, private and public collections, this retrospective is the most comprehensive exhibition to date showcasing the artist's impressive body of work.

THEATRE, FILM and TELEVISION STUDIES

Coriolan/us

A modern day version of Shakespeare's tragedy Coriolan/us is being staged in an aircraft hangar in the Vale of Glamorgan during the second and third week of August as part of the World Shakespeare Festival.



Professor Mike Pearson (left) and Mike Brooks

The National Theatre Wales' production is being co-directed by Mike Pearson and Mike Brookes from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies.

Based on the life of the legendary Roman leader Caius Marcius Coriolanus and inspired by today's era of 24-hour news, CCTV, and political instability and upheaval, the production will feature a 'theatre machine' built in Hangar 858, at RAF St Athan.

Coriolan/us is a co-production for the World Shakespeare Festival, which is produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company for the London 2012 Festival.

Performance dates are 8th-11th and 15th-18th August.

Further information is available at nationaltheatrewales.org/whatson/performance/ntw21.

HISTORY and WELSH HISTORY

Medieval seals

An exhibition showcasing the research of Aberystwyth and Bangor universities into medieval seals in Wales from 1200-1550 is currently being hosted by the National Library of Wales.



Seals in context: Medieval Wales and Welsh Marches, is based on an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project that has recorded around 3,500 seals in order to explore aspects of medieval society and economy, politics,

religion and expressions of identity in new ways.

The exhibition features the seals of well known figures such as Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales in the early 13th century, and the lead seal of the Papal Bulla of Pope Innocent III, also of the early 13th century. Also featured are the seals of ordinary people; townsmen and women and peasants, with their myriad of enticing motifs: hares riding hounds, grotesque figures, hunting scenes and so on.

The project is led by Professor Phillipp Schofield from the Department of History and Welsh History. The exhibition runs until the end of September.