



# Aber<sup>r</sup>NEWS

ISSUE 9 - Sep / Oct 2012

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



2 03 is the magic number



5 Special collections



7 Healthier beef from fatter grass



10 What is the future we want? Rio +20



12 Welsh space mission



## Come fly with me

It is an exciting time for IBERS researchers as the Dyfi ospreys have embarked on their epic 3,500 mile migration from west Wales to west Africa.

The work to re-establish an osprey population on the Dyfi Estuary is being undertaken by the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and researchers at IBERS are supporting the project with solar powered tracking devices that make it possible to study the birds' annual migration to west Africa.

With GPS data available every 48 hours the team are able to conduct an almost real-time migration study. It is hoped that the data recorded will ultimately contribute to the conservation and recovery of the species.

This year, the Dyfi ospreys spent just over five months in Wales, laying three eggs amidst the worst summer weather on record, and successfully raising one male chick which fledged in July. The GPS-tagged male chick, which embarked on his epic migration at just 97 days old, is named Ceulan after the nearby river which burst its banks during the flooding in early June and which flows into the Dyfi river where the ospreys fish.

Ceulan left the Dyfi nest early on Monday 3rd September, and roosted a few miles south-west of Exeter that night, having covered over 140 miles on his first day. On Tuesday he crossed the English Channel, traversed Brittany, and undertook a 12 hour overnight flight over the Bay of Biscay, reaching Porto in Portugal by the afternoon of Wednesday 5th September.

*Continued...page 2*

Aber<sup>NEWS</sup> is published by the  
**Department of Communications and Public Affairs**, Aberystwyth University. **Tel:** 01970 621763  
**E-mail:** [communications@aber.ac.uk](mailto:communications@aber.ac.uk)

The next edition of Aber<sup>NEWS</sup> will be available in **November 2012**.  
Copy deadline for this edition is **1st October 2012**.

NEWS

# 03 is the magic number



Ready to roll, the new 03 bus.

A new bus route linking the town, the University and the National Library has been launched in time for the beginning of the new academic year.

The new 03 Mid Wales Travel service circulates between town, the National Library and Penglais Campus every 20 minutes between 07.40 and 19.40, on weekdays during term-time. The evening service between 20.20 and 22.20 is hourly with the last bus leaving the Arts Centre at 22.33.

On weekends and out of term, the service will be hourly between 07.45 and 22.45.

After stopping at the National Library, the service calls at the University's Sports Centre and the Arts Centre before returning to town via the National Library.

As well as providing a better service between town and campus for students, staff and the general public, it is hoped that the new route, which has been made possible thanks to a £192,750 grant from the Aberystwyth Regeneration Fund, will reduce the number of cars on campus.

A single ticket will cost £1 and children travel for 50p. An annual pass is available to AU staff and students from the Students Union Shop for £65.

The annual pass offers free unlimited travel on Mid Wales Travel services within Aberystwyth, including the new 03 service and from Aberystwyth to Gogerddan. Discounts are also available on other services provided by the company between Aberystwyth and surrounding villages.

Those with a Ceredigion Concessionary Travel Pass will be able to use the service for free.

Further information about the service and the timetable are available online at:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/bus/new-bus/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/bus/new-bus/).

...Continued from page 1

Early on Saturday morning, Ceulan left Portuguese airspace, headed south over the Atlantic ocean, and landed 12 hours later in Africa. Just one week after leaving his nest on the Dyfi Estuary, Ceulan had crossed Morocco and reached Mauritania.

"He is now well into the dry, arid African desert. What a contrast from the green hills and wet summer he grew up with in Wales. He is likely to be flying in very hot and very dry conditions with 10 hours of intense sunshine a day" explains Vicky King, a full-time Research Project Coordinator at IBERS, and regular volunteer with the Dyfi Osprey Project. "In a week he has covered approximately 2,000 miles. If Ceulan keeps going at his current rate he is likely to make one of the fastest ever recorded UK to Africa migrations."

Of the three chicks that the Dyfi osprey pair raised in 2011, reliable GPS location data is still being received from one, the eldest male, named Einion. As male ospreys typically return to their natal area it is hoped that Einion will survive his second year in Africa and return to Wales to nest in April 2013. His GPS tracker will allow IBERS researchers to follow the return migration of a Welsh-born osprey for the very first time.

Two IBERS students have already embarked on research projects; one looking at juvenile osprey migration routes; the second investigating how environmental conditions influence osprey prey choice. DNA and genetic analysis is another research area currently under development.

Staff and students wishing to follow the osprey migration can do so via Dyfi Osprey Project's official website at [www.dyfiospreyproject.com/tracker](http://www.dyfiospreyproject.com/tracker).

## One way traffic

The one way system around the lower part of Penglais Campus has been changed. Details are available online [www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/campus-roads/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/campus-roads/)

## New parking arrangements

There have also been some changes to parking on Penglais Campus, with car park S1 (Hafan) being designated for staff only, and a new pay and display area being introduced near the Sports Cage. A map of parking areas is available at [www.aber.ac.uk/residential/en/houseservices/parking%20map%2008-2012-1.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/residential/en/houseservices/parking%20map%2008-2012-1.pdf).

## Parking permit

A new 3 year parking permit is being introduced across all campuses from the beginning of the new academic year. Permits will now be required for parking on all campuses, including Penglais, Gogerddan, Llanbadarn, the School of Art and the Old College. Details are available online at [www.aber.ac.uk/residential/en/houseservices/parking.shtml](http://www.aber.ac.uk/residential/en/houseservices/parking.shtml).

## VICE CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

Passing August 1st and the anniversary of my appointment suggests a look back over the past year; but I would much prefer also to look forward! I'd like to reflect on one general issue and ask, as ever, for your help and suggestions.

A major goal for our University this year has been involving colleagues and students more in planning and setting priorities. A year ago, we were preparing for my first open meetings with staff, which were 'getting to know you' sessions, but also represented the first steps in setting our future agenda. Through the year we've tried out different meeting formats. Some have addressed specific issues where we needed to share information. Others, like the 'Shaping our Future' sessions which established the contents of our new Strategic Plan, have been much more interactive (and fun!)

Two colleagues - but only two - have asked me why they have to help make decisions when that's my job. Of course, the Executive and the Governing Body will make decisions, and don't shy away from doing so, but we much prefer decision-making to reflect prior consultation and involvement. I've been very cheered by the many positive comments indicating that colleagues do have a greater sense of involvement and ownership of our future strategy. That's our aim; and the comments left on the 'graffiti wall' at the Strategic Plan sessions suggest we are succeeding. (Actually, although we won't be acting on this immediately, it was when I saw the suggestion that we should open a campus on the Moon that I realised people were definitely entering into the spirit of the thing.)

Without coming over too theoretical and encroaching on the territory of the School of Management and Business, it seems appropriate to refer to a model developed by consultants at McKinsey in the 1970s as a framework for considering how organisations become more effective. The model is about the 7 Ss - Strategy, Structure, Systems, Staff, Style, Skills and Shared Values, and we're working on them all. First, we've involved our

Staff in developing our Strategy. Next, we have to make sure our Structure and Systems are right. We're doing that by revising our committee structure and bringing more transparency to decision-making; and also through the processes of academic reorganisation on the one hand, and restructuring or bringing together our support departments on the other. This means the right people with the right Skills will be working in the right places, to allow us to implement the Shared Values we have identified through our Strategic Plan. I'm proud to announce that those shared values, which have emerged through the 'Shaping our Future' sessions, envisage a University that is ambitious, innovative, people-centred, international, community-based, collaborative, open and responsible.

The S I haven't mentioned explicitly is Style - but that's what this whole column is about. The emerging Aber Style is to be as inclusive as we can be, consult as widely as is practicable, and then make decisions, informed by our shared values. That isn't going to change - through the past year, I believe we've established that style quite firmly. But I do need your help in figuring out how it should work in 'business as usual' mode. We won't be developing a new Strategic Plan next year; we'll all be involved in delivering it. So what is the right format, and the right frequency, for open meetings? What kind of topics would you like to discuss, and who would you like to be involved? Please let us know by contacting [vice-chancellor@aber.ac.uk](mailto:vice-chancellor@aber.ac.uk), and we'll set the agenda together for those discussions over the coming year.

**Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor**

## Beacon of Hope

Ceredigion hospice care provider, Beacon of Hope, will be the Vice Chancellor's nominated charity for 2012/13.

Established in 2000, Beacon of Hope Hospice Care aims to optimise the quality of life for those who have advanced, incurable and progressive illness, and their families, from diagnosis through death and bereavement.

Reflecting on the Charity's philosophy, Elizabeth Murphy, Chair and Founder of Beacon of Hope, commented: "Our aim is to make the end of life a celebration of the human spirit, not a tragedy to be lamented."

The announcement was made by Professor April McMahon during the first of this year's graduation ceremonies. As the nominated charity, Beacon of Hope had a stand at graduation where they provided information about the services they offer.



*L to R: Rachel Rowlands MBE, Patron of Beacon of Hope, Elizabeth Murphy MBE, Chair and Founder of Beacon of Hope, Professor April McMahon, Carys Stevens, Director of Services at Beacon of Hope and Mr Alan Axford, Voluntary Medical Advisor to the Beacon of Hope mark the announcement that the Beacon of Hope is the Vice-Chancellor's Charity for 2012/13.*

# Graduation 2012

This year's graduation ceremonies were celebrated in time honoured fashion as undergraduates and postgraduates alike returned to Aber from all corners of the world.

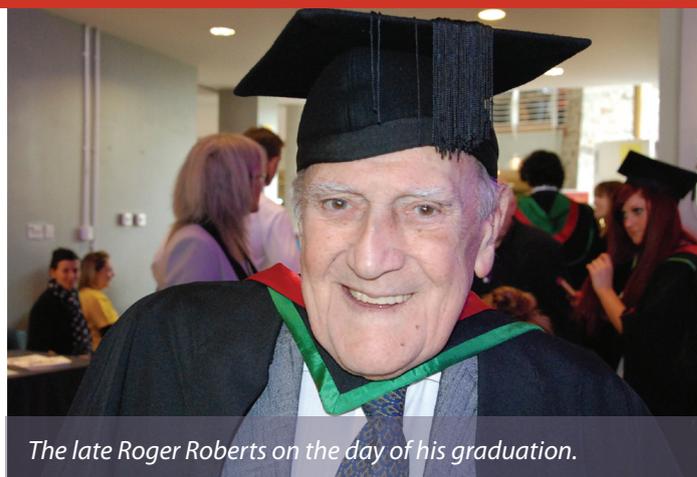
Eight new Fellows were presented from the world of theatre, film, television, commerce, academia, literature, and the law.

There were new innovations. The Elizabethan Madrigal Singers entertained and those who were graduating were presented individually to the Vice-Chancellor. For the very first time, Fellows were invited to address the audience and acceptance speeches by the three Fellows who were unable to attend were shown on large screens.

However it was the oldest of this year's graduates, 82 year old Roger Roberts, who caught everyone's imagination. Despite not enjoying the best of health Mr Roberts was presented with a Bachelor of Economics and Social Sciences by the Vice-Chancellor to rapturous applause on Tuesday afternoon.

Roger's achievement was reported by many, including the BBC and the *Irish Independent*. Sadly, within only three days it was announced that he had passed away.

Speaking to *Wales on Sunday*, which dedicated two pages to his memory, his widow Mrs Rita Roberts said: "He was so happy to have finished his degree, and was enjoying all the attention he



The late Roger Roberts on the day of his graduation.

was getting, the stories in the newspapers. I think in the end he was just able to finally relax and let go."

Professor Michael Foley, head of the Department of International Politics where Roger studied, said: "Although he had some health issues over the last two years, he continued to produce academic work of great quality. His graduation this year was an achievement that earned him great respect and the admiration of everyone within the Department.

"It also showed that age need not confine personal ambition and that it is never too late to strike out in new directions," he added.

# Summer learning

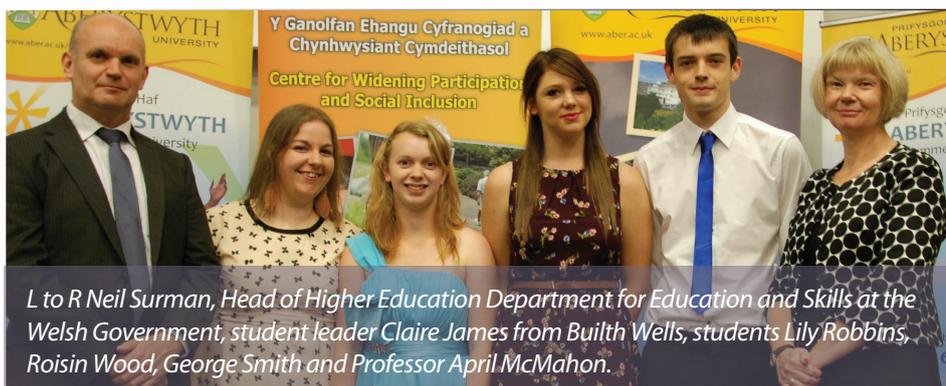
At the end of August, 74 young students attended a graduation ceremony with a difference. They were celebrating the completion of a six week residential course better known as the Aberystwyth Summer University.

Organised by the University's Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion, the aim is to inspire young people from less privileged backgrounds and challenge the assumption that higher education is not for them.

It's an opportunity for young people to study subjects of their own choosing, be taught by academics in the departments, and enjoy an experience that mirrors university life as realistically as possible.

They also learn to adjust to being away from home, cope with the pressures of academic work and develop time management skills so that they can also enjoy a programme of sports and social activities.

The 'graduates' of 2012 were joined by their families, friends and tutors to celebrate their achievements with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor April McMahon, Neil Surman, Head of Higher Education at the Department for Education and Skills at the Welsh Government, and the Mayor of Aberystwyth, Dylan Lewis, in attendance.



L to R Neil Surman, Head of Higher Education Department for Education and Skills at the Welsh Government, student leader Claire James from Builth Wells, students Lily Robbins, Roisin Wood, George Smith and Professor April McMahon.

# Fellows

This year's Fellows were the Welsh stage and screen actor, **Michael Sheen**, former TFTS student, and presenter on *The One Show*, **Alex Jones**, Director of the Royal United Services Institute and AU International Politics graduate, **Professor Michael Clarke**, Managing Director of Waitrose, **Mark Price**, Oscar winning film director, and Aberystwyth Computer Science graduate, **Dr Jan Pinkava**, the former Archdruid of Wales, and Aber graduate, the **Rev. John Gwilym Jones**, broadcaster, TV critic and leading *Times* columnist, **Caitlin Moran**, and the Presiding Judge of Wales, **Sir David Lloyd Jones**.



Vice President Elizabeth France presenting a Fellowship to Caitlin Moran

## NEWS

## AU Book Fest 2012 - The Novel in Me

It's said that everyone has a novel in them somewhere. With this in mind and building on the success of last year's first ever AU Book Festival, the 2012 event on **10 December** will feature a Flash Fiction Competition as well as giving you the opportunity to hear and meet local authors, publishers and book sellers.

This year we are also collaborating with Ceredigion Public Libraries, so a range of BookFest events will begin in October. Ceredigion Public Libraries have special events for Mental Health Week that continue through October and November, culminating in the Festival itself.

Look out for the BookFest 2012 posters and publicity this autumn!

## Special collections

Over the past century the University has been fortunate to receive a number of important bequests from various sources which have served both to enrich the library collection and to support teaching and scholarship.



Professor Fergus Johnston

In the earliest years, George Powell of Nanteos gave and bequeathed many books, manuscripts and *objets d'art* to the College between 1879 and 1882. These items formed the core of the original library and include several rare treasures such as the Warburton edition of Shakespeare, published in 1747, which was used by Samuel Johnson in the preparation of his English Dictionary. Sir John Rhys, first Professor of Welsh at Oxford, left his collection of some 2000 books to the University when he died in 1915 and these items are recognisable by their very distinctive coloured book plates.

The displays in Thomas Parry Library until Christmas, concentrate on two more recent bequests to the University. John Challinor was on the staff of the Geology Department from 1919, retiring as a Senior Lecturer in 1960. He died in August 1990 at the age of 95 and bequeathed his extensive collection of books relating to geology, botany and topography.



Forbes, James. *Illustrations to Oriental Memoirs* / by James Forbes. London: R. Bentley, 1835.

The collection includes many valuable books published during the 18th and 19th centuries, a large proportion are of antiquarian interest and many are key works in the history of geology.

Professor Fergus Johnston was on the staff of the History Department from 1934 until his retirement in 1967. He donated some 1500 books relating to history and military studies to the library in 1986 and the remainder of his collection was passed to us by his widow after his death in 1991. The collection is particularly strong in military affairs from the 19th century, including the Napoleonic Wars. Many of these items are now much sought after by book collectors and command extremely high prices.

Bill Hines, Information Services

## Authors - we need your help!

We're looking for home-grown AU authors to take part in the 2012 Book Festival. If you have a published book, (academic, non-fiction, or fiction) and would like to take part on the 10 December 2012, please get in touch with [is-comms@aber.ac.uk](mailto:is-comms@aber.ac.uk) for more information.



## Aber Card replacement

The University is currently introducing new style Aber Cards for all students and staff.

The new cards are proximity cards which means they can be read without having to be inserted or swiped in a card reader. This functionality is needed for updated systems being introduced for door locks in some residential and academic buildings, and for updates to printing and photocopying services taking place in January 2013. The new cards also work with existing systems such as the purchase of food in hospitality outlets; library borrowing, including the use of self-issue machines; access to 24 hour computer rooms; and the current printing and photocopying service.

Members of staff will be emailed when their new Aber Card has been printed, and the card will be available for collection from the Hugh Owen Library. Your current card will continue to work until the new card has been printed, and any credit and data will be transferred to the new Aber Card.

# ABER Research

In July, Professor Martin Jones was appointed as PVC Research, Enterprise and Engagement. The Research Office looks forward to working with him in this crucial period leading up to REF.



**Gary Reed - Head of Research Office**

## The Future is PURE

The rumours are true, at the start of the new academic year the University will be taking possession of a new Current Research Information System (CRIS) called PURE, from Atira.

This system, which will be taking over functionality from the Research Activity Database (RAD), will allow staff to view all of their current research activity in one space. In the first instance this will include: all publications information currently stored in the RAD, the University repository CADAIR and the IBERS Publications Database; details of other research activity and indicators of esteem previously stored within the RAD; and details of current student supervision. In the near future, it will also link with Agresso Business World (ABW) to provide expenditure and statements of accounts on research grants.

PURE will also be used to manage the University's REF submission, with a dedicated module available that mirrors the requirements of the REF submission system. The system offers a robust management dashboard and reporting functionality, including the production of CVs for webpages and research funding applications.

PURE will be available to all academic and academic support staff and a programme of user training will be rolled out over the coming months. More details will be made available soon.

For any enquiries, please contact the Research Monitoring Team at [research@aber.ac.uk](mailto:research@aber.ac.uk).

## IBERS Funding success

Whilst we have seen a number of excellent grants funded across the University over the past few months, special recognition should be given to Professor Wayne Powell and his IBERS colleagues for securing five BBSRC Institute Strategic Programme Grants (ISPGs) worth a total of £22M over 5 years in Energy and Biorefining, Rumen Systems Biology, Phenomics National Capability and Crop Genetics & Genomics & Germoplasm, and an Institute Development Grant.

## Project 'start up' (PIMF) meetings

As part of strengthening our post-award support, from this summer we will organise project 'start up' meetings for all newly awarded research projects. The meeting, between the Principal Investigator (PI) and/or the Project Administrator, the relevant Research Finance Officer and Research

Development Officer, is an opportunity to discuss all issues relevant to getting the project up and running and to clarify the reporting and administrative aspects of the award. We have developed a Project Initiation and Management File (PIMF), including a checklist to help guide the meeting and for the PI's use afterwards

as a central project file. Linked to this, we have worked with HR to develop standard templates for researcher job descriptions for HERA Grades 6-9, these are available on the Research Toolkit through the Research Office webpages. ([www.aber.ac.uk/en/research/support/toolkit/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/research/support/toolkit/))

## ESRC Festival of Social Science

ESRC are holding their 10th Festival of Social Science this year, 3rd-10th November, and the University has been successful in gaining funding to hold an event aimed at school children. On 6th November we will be welcoming 30 Year 12 pupils to AU to participate in an interactive



**The tenth annual ESRC Festival of Social Science • 3 to 10 November 2012**

'Climate Change Summit' which will engage them in thinking about the role of social science in understanding climate change. Teams will represent a nation state, negotiating bloc or another non-state actor in a debate while another team will provide social media coverage of the Summit. Through participating in the mock debate, and media coverage, the pupils will gain an insight into the forthcoming climate negotiations in Qatar in November-December 2012.

For more information about the ESRC Festival of Social Science see:

[www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/index.aspx](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/index.aspx)

## AHRC Large Calls Autumn 2012

Large grants calls under the following themes are expected this autumn: Science in Culture, Digital Transformations, and Translating Cultures.

These themed large grant calls are intended to support proposals of a scale and ambition beyond that of a standard AHRC grant, and should display significant transformative potential within the relevant thematic area. Funding is likely to be in the region of £1m - £2m over periods of up to five years to achieve a 'step change', with between 2 and 4 large grants expected to be funded under each of the 3 themes.

A two stage outline to full proposal process is planned. The launch of the call, including specification for each of the three themes and applications process, is expected in September. For more information visit:

[www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Pages/Theme-Large-Grants.aspx](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Pages/Theme-Large-Grants.aspx)

### British Academy funder visit

**Friday 12th October, 11-12.30,  
Medrus Mawr**

From its small development grants through to its mid-career and senior fellowships and beyond, the British Academy is a key funder for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences researchers.

Head of Research Awards, Dr Ken Emond will be visiting AU on Friday 12th October to talk about their funding schemes and how best to pitch your application. A general presentation with opportunities for questions from the floor will take place at Medrus Mawr between 11.00-12.30.

To book a book please register at [https://stafftraining.bis.aber.ac.uk/sd/list\\_courses.php](https://stafftraining.bis.aber.ac.uk/sd/list_courses.php)

Dr Emond will also be providing one-to-one advice on grant applications through bookable surgeries. To book a slot please email [research@aber.ac.uk](mailto:research@aber.ac.uk)

### Law and Criminology

Professor Chris Harding of the Department of Law and Criminology has received a Leverhulme Trust award, worth £87,743. The project is on Explaining and Understanding Cartel Collusion and will run for two years.

## Lost world

IGES scientists, Professors Mark Macklin and Geoff Duller and PhD student Julie Durcan, have been instrumental in discovering the reason behind the collapse of an ancient Indian urban civilization and the disappearance of a legendary sacred river.

The Harappan or Indus civilization rose about 4,500 years ago and flourished for 600 years. It stretched from what is known today as Pakistan to eastern Afghanistan and boasted indoor plumbing, planned cities and a rich intellectual life.

Previous scholars hypothesized that strife or invasion led to its demise, while others suggested environmental factors may have been to blame. Writing in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, this latest study argues that it was caused by climate change.

The Harappans relied on a dependable cycle of monsoons to feed the river systems and did not create an irrigation system to support crops. As time passed the monsoons gradually became more infrequent and the rivers dried up causing crop failure. There was no longer any surplus to support traders, artists and scholars and people began to abandon the cities, moving toward the Ganges basin, where rains were more dependable. The urban centres fractured into small villages and towns.

The researchers found the geologic remnants of the Hindu's legendary sacred Sarasvati river in the desert surrounding the modern-day Ghaggar-Hakra valley. It was not fed by water from the Himalayas, as had been assumed, but by the annual monsoon, and as the climate changed, the weak rains could no longer sustain the river, and it vanished.



Photograph taken in 1860 of the ancient city of Sukkur which lies in the heart of the Indus Valley, the location of the ancient Harappa civilisation.

### Healthier beef from fatter grass

Scientists from IBERS have begun research in co-operation with Celtic Pride Ltd into identifying and understanding the variation in fat content and fatty acid composition of grass, along with assessing the current impact of a forage-based production system on fat composition of beef.

Fat is a vital macronutrient within the human diet and is essential to sustain life. Yet humans are not consuming adequate amounts of beneficial fats such as omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, hence we need to examine ways in which we can remedy this. One route to increasing beneficial fats in the diet is forage-fed beef, since grass contains a high amount of beneficial omega-3 fatty acid.

Sarah Morgan, a PhD student who studied for her degree at IBERS, will be spending three years working closely with Celtic Pride, funded through the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) scheme.

### Research support contacts

Name	Position	Email	Extension
<b>Research Office</b>			
Gary Reed	Head of Research Office	gar	1789
Hannah Payne	REF and Research Monitoring Officer	hep	8490
Dafydd Roberts	<b>Faculty of Arts and Humanities</b> - Research Support Officer	dir	8787
Jenny Deaville	<b>Faculty of Social Sciences</b> - Research Support Officer	jfj	1616
Joanne Walker	<b>Faculty of Science</b> - Research Support Officer (incl. IBERS responsive model)	jnw	2947
Huw Merfyn Hughes	European Funding Manager	hnh	8742
Anne Howells	European Development Officer	nsh	4127
<b>IBERS</b>			
Tim Williams	IBERS Research Fund Development Manager	tdw	8754
Vacant	IBERS Research Fund Development Manager		
<b>Research Finance</b>			
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](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/research)

# Exchange



In this edition of 'Exchange' we're delighted to update you on some of the new developments in CCS. I'm particularly pleased to be welcoming several new externally-funded staff to CCS, who will be working with us to deliver some of the projects we've won funding for.

The projects CCS runs directly support the University's key priorities, in particular:

- Improving research success
- Increasing PG recruitment
- Retaining and enhancing excellence in student experience; and
- Increasing graduate employability

Funding for collaborative research is one of the key ways CCS supports academics in attaining the University's strategic aim of improving research success. CCS has been successful in attracting funding for applied research including Welsh Government projects and the £12m WISE Network project, and for commercialisation of research through mechanisms such as the Research Council Follow-on Funds.

CCS also develops relationships with companies large and small. For example, we've developed a strong relationship with aerospace company EADS, which has already resulted in a number of fully-funded PhDs and contract research projects.

The Knowledge Exchange Skills Scholarships (KESS) and Access to Masters (ATM) schemes managed by CCS are directly supporting the University's drive to increase postgraduate numbers. KESS and ATM also include skills development training for all students enrolled on these schemes, contributing to the postgraduate student experience and post-graduation employability.

An often-overlooked aspect of employability is the development of an entrepreneurial mindset. CCS's Enterprise team works with students and graduates to support their development of relevant skills. We work closely with the Careers Service to improve support both for students who are interested in setting up a business and for all of those who would benefit from developing entrepreneurial attitudes and behaviours, which map well onto the attitudes and behaviours employers seek.

**Liz Flint** Director, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services

## 'It's all about love'

The Aberystwyth University Business Network held one of its most successful network evenings to date back in July, when Andrew St George was invited to address over 60 staff and business people on the subject 'It's all about Love! Leadership and Management in Organisations', drawing lessons of good practice from his work analysing management techniques in the Royal Navy.

We are also delighted to announce that an opportunity has arisen for an Aberystwyth University law student following the success of Chris Nott's (Senior Partner, Capital Law LLP) keynote address at the Business Network held in March 2012. Angharad Lewis was successful in winning a place at a mock employment tribunal which is run by Capital Law LLP to offer law students the opportunity to experience classroom theory applied to 'real life' settings.



L to R Professor April McMahon, Dr Andrew St George, Mr Tony Orme & Mrs Liz Flint.

## Aberystwyth University Challenge Fund (ACF) Investment in Codiki Limited

Since 2010, the Technology Transfer Team in CCS has been taking steps to commercially exploit University expertise and intellectual property through the development of smart phone apps. Successes to date are Cwrs Mynediad created by Professor Chris Price and Dr Neil Taylor in Computer Science, Face Transformer by Bernie Tiddeman in Computer Science and farmGRAZE by the Grassland Development Team in IBERS.

Apps are an exciting technology transfer opportunity as they have the potential to not only generate revenue from app sales, but also to showcase University expertise to the expanding smart phone user community.

Effectively exploiting app concepts requires resources to specify ("wire frame"), code and market the app product. This is something that is well suited to collaboration with the private sector as there is a natural synergy between the University expertise delivered

through the app and the competitive marketing strategies used by apps companies.

In light of this, CCS has been working alongside Welshpool based entrepreneur, Andy Hughes, to build an investable business that will commercialise the University's apps concepts. This has resulted in the formation of the company 'Codiki Limited'. The University's ACF has also been closely involved in this process which has included an investment of £15,000 to kick start the business.

CCS is delighted to collaborate with Codiki and looks forward to working with the business to help the University's staff and students bring their ideas to market in the form of smart phone apps.

**COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**Editorial Contact:** Delyth Whitelaw, [dte@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dte@aber.ac.uk) Ext: 8753

## University launches its first agriculture app

CCS showcased its new mobile applications ('apps') initiative at a launch event at the Royal Welsh Show 2012. 'mobileFARM', created by the CCS Technology Transfer team, will promote apps for agricultural productivity and animal health. The event also marked the successful launch of farmGRAZE – an android app for grazing management.



Speakers at the farmGRAZE launch. Professor Wayne Powell, Director (IBERS), Dr Christianne Glossop (Chief Vet to the Welsh Government) and Dr Rhian Hayward, Technology Transfer (CCS)

The launch event at University's Education Pavilion was very well attended and presentations were heard from Professor Wayne Powell (IBERS), Dr Rhian Hayward (CCS), Huw Powell (Grassland Development Centre, IBERS) and Dr Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer to the Welsh Government.

The speakers highlighted the unmet need for high quality apps to improve land-based productivity in challenging times for farmers and the economy. Dr Glossop gave a ringing endorsement for mobileFARM as being at the forefront of the use of new media for farming.

Pre-launch media coverage of farmGRAZE included a filming session with Ffermio, the S4C farming series, which was aired on the 30th of July. farmGRAZE also received significant interest from the press on the day. The light and full versions of farmGRAZE are now available on the Google Play app store.

CCS is pleased to add to its growing apps portfolio and to support the University in transferring technologies and know-how into the global apps community.

See mobileFARM: [www.mobilefarmapps.com](http://www.mobilefarmapps.com)

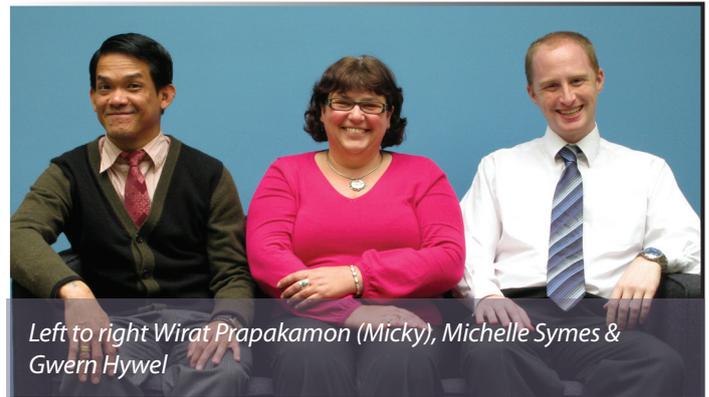
## KESS & ATM Opportunities

Access to Masters (ATM) and Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) aim to build links between businesses and universities and promote business-focussed research. Projects are linked to a taught Masters (ATM) or a research Masters through an MPhil qualification (KESS). The next call for project applications from academics will be in spring 2013, for projects starting in October 2013. This is the final chance for the University to benefit from these two popular schemes as the current funding will be coming to an end, so don't miss out!

Further information: Karen Hutton (ATM) / Lewis Richards (KESS) on [business@aber.ac.uk](mailto:business@aber.ac.uk) / 01970 622385

KESS and ATM are part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the European Union's Convergence programme administered by the Welsh Government.

## CCS Welcome New Staff



Left to right Wirat Prapakamon (Micky), Michelle Symes & Gwern Hywel

CCS would like to welcome three new staff members to the team: Gwern Hywel, Michelle Symes and Wirat Prapakamon (Micky). Gwern and Michelle have joined the Knowledge Exchange Skills Scholarship (KESS) team as Administrative Officers and Micky as an Administrative Officer for Access to Masters (ATM).

## Enterprise Intern becomes a "YES Man"

Student Enterprise Intern, Kristian Crowshaw, has taken a Year in Employment placement, as part of his Business Degree, to work at the heart of Welsh Government. Kristian will offer a "student's eye perspective" on the strategically important Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy for Wales (YES).



Kristian Crowshaw

The YES strategy drives all enterprise activity in schools, colleges and universities in Wales and directs Welsh Government funding for the host of enterprise education initiatives that have become an important resource for Aberystwyth students and graduates over recent years.



Ruth Fowler

## WISE move

Ruth Fowler has been appointed to the role of Administrative Assistant on the WISE Network (Welsh Institute for Sustainable Environments) in CCS. Ruth has worked at the University for three years, initially in the Department of Welsh and later in the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

### 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)

## FEATURE

# What is the future we want? Rio +20

Dr Carl Death, Lecturer in the Department of International Politics, and Dr Mark Whitehead, Reader and Director of Learning and Teaching in the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, consider the UN Conference on Sustainable Development which marked the 20th Anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit of 1992.

Late spring, early summer was a time of high tension, with front pages dominated by the Greek elections, violence in Syria and flooding in Wales. There was the build-up to the Royal Jubilee, Euro 2012 and the Olympics. No wonder the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro to negotiate a global agreement on sustainable development largely passed unnoticed. The conference marked the 20th anniversary of the trail-blazing Rio Earth Summit, and Rio+20 was an opportunity to assess the progress made towards achieving environmental, social and economic sustainability. On Friday 22 June it concluded by adopting a negotiated text entitled The Future We Want.

With 191 UN member states and observers and 44,000 official participants in attendance, this was a major event in global environmental politics. Given the scale of the challenges faced it might be assumed that the ten days of negotiations in Rio from 13-22 June were a big deal. However, the sad truth is that Rio+20 passed below the radar for a good reason: it was clear from quite an early stage that little of significance was going to be negotiated or agreed by the inter-state delegates.

Negotiators had been locked into interminable and spiralling arguments for months over commas and phrasing. There had been some hope that the conference might break through the deadlock in a number of key areas, but as positions became more entrenched, it was clear that the most that could be hoped was that Rio+20 would not entail backsliding on agreements that have survived since 1992.

It was therefore a masterstroke of Brazilian diplomacy when delegates agreed on a shortened version of the text drafted by the hosts. By removing the most contentious sections, and slimming the document down to 53 pages, they had produced



*Credit: Mario Roberto Durán Ortiz*

an outcome no one could disagree with. George Monbiot summed it up by describing it as “283 paragraphs of fluff.”

Although The Future We Want’s lack of ambition is a source of consternation to many, it also points to an important shift in the nature and purpose of multilateral summits and texts. One veteran NGO representative observed, “It is critical not to equate Rio+20 with a document ... Rio+20 is a gathering of people, a catalyst, which can convert to action.” It was after the text had been agreed, and delegates and diplomats realised they had three days to fill, that the real purpose of the summit became clear.

In the context of the glacial pace of progress towards substantive agreements at Rio+20, some claim that Environmental NGOs are beginning to re-assess their diplomatic efforts, and are increasingly adopting a war footing in their quest to secure a more sustainable planet.

The UN reported on 712 voluntary commitments during the conference from governments, NGOs, 500 companies and universities. States were involved in only seven per cent of these commitments. These initiatives signify where the real energy and progress on sustainable development lies.

The Welsh Government’s Environment Minister, John Griffiths, represented Wales at Rio. Since its inception, the Assembly has had a constitutional commitment to achieving sustainability and is presently negotiating a new sustainability bill. Before leaving for Rio, Griffiths stated that he hoped to talk about the great progress that Wales has been making in its attempts to build a more sustainable society. This progress can be seen

in Wales' ground breaking Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship curriculum, and in schemes such as Arbed, which has helped those living in social housing improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

When the multiple initiatives to deal with conservation, water security, sustainable consumption and transport in communities around the world are taken into account, the future of global environmental politics does not look so grim as the failure of Rio+20 suggests. Wales can also take encouragement from the fact that the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, of which it is a part, was formally recognised within the end of conference document that came out of Rio. This recognition should provide a more effective basis for innovative developments within regional government to influence the international sustainable development agenda.

However, many questions remain unanswered:

Without an effective multilateral intergovernmental process, who will ensure that the poorest countries and communities are not left behind?

How do we avoid the inequitable distribution of the effects of environmental degradation and climate change?

Will the rights and responsibilities of all be defined and protected?

Will the worst states and corporations be held accountable?

This is why despite the frustration that people feel towards Rio+20, we must not abandon the project of developing a fair and effectively co-ordinated global response to the most pressing social, economic and environmental problems facing the planet.

## NEWS

### Three years of Artists Residencies at the Arts Centre

Over thirty artists from around the world have now benefited from support through the Arts Centre's Artists in Residence scheme. A new publication reporting back on the success of the first three years of the programme details the wide ranging work undertaken by the artists.



*'Bad In, Good Out- acrylics on earthenware and kitchen stool made by Grandpa' by Rikka Makikoskela, who lives and works in Finland and produced several sculptural works during her Arts Centre residency.*

Under the scheme, artists are able to spend a period of three months or more based in one of the Arts Centre's award winning Creative Studios, to focus on their own research and develop individual artistic practice. The programme, which is made possible by funding from a number of charitable foundations and support from the Arts Centre, is the only one of its kind in Wales.

[www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/artists-residence](http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/artists-residence)

## Rediscovered lost works

Aberystwyth University Director of Music, Dr David Russell Hulme, has brought to life a duet from Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* that has been silent since 1878. Cut before the first performance and then lost, David has worked from rediscovered, but incomplete orchestral parts, to reconstruct the vocal melody and full score. The result was performed for the first time by the resident professional company at the Buxton International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in August.

David is also this year's recipient of the Machynlleth Tabernacle Trust's Glyndŵr Award for an Outstanding Contribution to the Arts in Wales. The award was presented by the Vice-Chancellor at the Machynlleth Festival on Friday 24th August.

Speaking after the presentation, David expressed his delight. 'It is not just a great personal honour, it recognises what has been achieved by the University and the many supportive people who make Aber such a thriving place for music. I was born in Machynlleth and went to school there. I feel very proud to be coming home for this very special occasion.'



*An early poster for HMS Pinafore. The 'lost' duet was cut before the operetta's opening night.*

Credit: Jens Hausherr

## Welsh space mission

Second year Computer Science student Connor Goddard was the brains behind a recent Pembrokeshire mission to space, which saw a Haverfordwest secondary school launching its own weather balloon.

Connor devised the concept for the ambitious project whilst studying for his A-levels at Tasker Milward School, and proposed it to school physics teacher and Aber alumnus, Dorian Pascoe. Connor returned to the school during the summer to assist with the launch and tracking of the balloon.



Connor Goddard

The balloon was equipped with a digital camera which captured images throughout the ascent, electronic sensors to gauge temperature and atmospheric pressure, and a GPS module to relay positional data allowing the team to track the balloon as it climbed.

It climbed to a height of 20 miles (33km), and recorded temperatures as low as -40°C. The images captured from the edge of space show weather systems and cloud formations, the curvature of the Earth, the blue glow of the atmosphere, and the blackness of space.

After an ascent lasting over three hours, the balloon reached its maximum altitude and burst. The payload descended by parachute and touched down in a field of cows near to St Clears in Carmarthenshire.



Photograph taken from the balloon at a height of 21 miles (34km)

“We were tracking it all the way and couldn’t understand when it landed why it was still moving,” explained Connor. “When we arrived at the landing site we found a field full of young heifers. They must have been trying to play football with it!”

Speaking after the mission, Dorian Pascoe said; “To have pictures from space is quite incredible. The wealth of data we collected will be invaluable and allow us to create exciting lessons and activities for science classes from year 7 through to year 13. Everyone will be able to look at data for velocities, temperature profiling and ascent / descent rates with the added excitement of knowing that our students collected the information.”

## Fulbright Summer Institute Students visit AU

Over the summer AU once again welcomed a group of American undergraduate students, who spent a fortnight here as part of the Wales Fulbright Summer Institute 2012 programme.

The Summer Institutes are designed to introduce students to the UK while developing their academic and leadership skills. Hosted by Cardiff, Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities, the six-week course involved the internationally-recognised research and teaching specialisms of all three educational establishments, with the students studying Welsh history, culture, politics and geography, investigating how industry shaped the nation’s landscape and population.



## International Student Drama Festival

The Pot of Thieves Theatre Company (all TFTS 2012 graduates) was selected to compete in the finals of the 2012 ISDF, taking their place alongside the very best student performers on an international stage. The festival was staged in Sheffield during June 2012. The Company performed the world premiere of an unpublished play by Howard Barker: *Five Names*. Read more about Pot of Thieves at [www.potofthieves.co.uk](http://www.potofthieves.co.uk).

## PAWS shortlisted for award

The JISC-funded AU PAWS (Powerdown And Wake System) has been shortlisted for a ‘Green ICT’ Green Gown award.

The PAWS project makes use of a computer programme that saves electricity by turning off idle computers. In the last year alone the University saved in the region of £50,000 in electricity costs and 325 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Following a successful pilot, a project to rollout PAWS to all staff computers will commence soon. With deployment to staff computers, it is hoped that the University will achieve approximately £100,000 electricity savings per annum in the future.

Now in their 8th year, the Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK. Winners/highly commended entries will be announced at the Green Gown Awards Ceremony to take place in November.

## Chinese Creative Media Industries

AU is one of twelve UK HEIs (and the only one in Wales) taking part in a British Council-led project on the Creative Media Industries in China. Led by Dr Jamie Medhurst, Head of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, the University will take part in symposia with a number of prestigious Chinese universities which, it is anticipated, will lead to further collaboration, research and dialogue between HEIs in the UK and China. Further details are at [www.britishcouncil.org/china-education-higher-media.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/china-education-higher-media.htm).

STUDENT NEWS

## A word from the student President

Here we are once more at the beginning of a new academic year and we have a lot of exciting changes to look forward to.

Some may have noticed that we are going through a major rejuvenation exercise. The start of this was the change from Aberystwyth Guild of Students to Aberystwyth University Students' Union (AUSU). With this we have a fresh new look, with new branding, and a brand new website on the way, that will allow us to engage with students in a way we never have before.

At the same time we have been working on some pretty big changes to The Union building itself. After years of underdevelopment we have managed to secure funding to start sprucing the place up a bit. With students now paying £9k to attend university, ourselves and University management agree that it is only right that they get a top class Students' Union to further the already amazing student experience in Aber. We have all-new signage throughout the building, many areas have new wood-effect flooring, and nearly every room has had a lick of paint to brighten the place up. We are also starting to serve fresh coffee in our updated bar space, which has new furniture as well as offering sandwiches with fillings designed especially for us by our friends at Spartacus. We have also moved the Student Officers out of the aptly named 'Bat Cave' (offices at the back of the building) into a new open plan office at the front of the building, allowing us to be even more accessible to students when they need us.

Before Freshers' Week, we kicked Uni life off early with our annual Sports Week, where new students who wanted to try out a sports club could come one week early and get involved. Even if they hadn't played sports before, they could come along and try anything that they might have been interested in, from the standard rugby and cricket to lacrosse and ultimate frisbee!

Throughout Freshers we facilitated the Freshers' Heroes, who were around campus and town all week sporting bright yellow t-shirts and helping new students find their bearings. It's one of the toughest weeks of the year but we're very excited to introduce a host of new students to the fantastic opportunities that we offer in The Union.

### Ben Meakin

President, Aberystwyth University Students' Union



## Aberystwyth Student Media

Steffan Storch outlines the year ahead for the newly formed student media group.

Aber Student Media (ASM) is the new student media organisation in Aberystwyth. We produce *The Courier*, the student newspaper; run the student radio station, *Bay Radio*; and the new student TV station, *BayTV* – all of which are available through our website, [www.aberstudentmedia.com](http://www.aberstudentmedia.com).



We're an integrated organisation, which means students only have to join once to be able to write articles for the paper, get on air with the radio station or produce shows for the TV station. Not only will students get the chance to provide a valuable service to the campus and have fun at the same time, getting involved with student media will provide a lot of valuable experience that will be extremely useful for them in later life, media careers or not.

Student-run media in Aberystwyth primarily serves students, but in a small town with a tight-knit university community, to try to distinguish between the interests of students, staff and locals is surely a waste of time. Last year, *The Courier* provided the only live coverage of local election results and was frequently the first to report on town news. Next year ASM will continue to provide news and entertainment to Aberystwyth and non-students are welcome to contribute their ideas, opinions and articles.

As Chair, I will be the point of contact between the University and ASM's committee, working to build links between University departments and student media to continue the huge progress made by *The Courier* and *Bay Radio* in the last year.

### Steffan Storch

Chair, Aberystwyth Student Media



## Learning & Teaching Enhancement Fund

There was an unusually diverse range of projects funded this year by the Learning & Teaching Enhancement Fund - Software programmes that teach about evolution in fish, making marking easier, helping students take better notes at lectures, and the teaching of basic statistical methods - but all had one thing in common; they all embraced the use of innovative technology to enhance learning.

Offering up to £2000, the Learning & Teaching Enhancement Fund focuses on areas highlighted in the Aberystwyth / Bangor Learning, Teaching and Widening Access Strategy.

If you would like to know more about the Learning & Teaching Enhancement Fund go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/cdsap/funding/ltf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cdsap/funding/ltf).

## Teaching excellence

Dr Hannah Dee (Computer Science), Ms Kerry Lewis (Law and Criminology) and Dr Lynda Thomas (Computer Science) have been awarded Learning and Teaching Fellowships in recognition of their exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at the University.



L to R Dr Lynda Thomas, Ms Kerry Lewis and Dr Hannah Dee.

Dr Hannah Dee is founder and chair of the British Computer Society's Group for Women's Undergraduate Lovelace Colloquium, the UK's main event for female undergraduates studying technical subjects, and is on the University's Athena Swan committee.

Ms Kerry Lewis is a full-time lecturer in the Centre for Legal Practice in the Department of Law and Criminology. Following several years of in a private legal practice, she now teaches on the Legal Practice Course and is an integral member of the departmental Learning and Teaching Committee and Staff-Student Consultative Committee.

Dr Lynda Thomas has been a teaching Fellow since 1999. She has published over 30 papers in the field of computer science education research. Dr Thomas is an academic advisor for the Department, scheme coordinator for the BSc in Computer Science and has chaired the departmental Learning and Teaching Committee for several years.

This year also saw a record number of postgraduate teaching assistants being presented with the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award.

They are Fergus Guppy (Sport & Exercise Science), Chikara Hashimoto (International Politics), Robert Morris (Sport & Exercise Science), Nitin Niak (Computer Science), Jonathan Roscoe (Computer Science), Herman Salton (International Politics) Damien Van Puyvelde (International Politics) and Adam Vellender (Mathematics and Physics).

The awards were presented at graduation this year. Further information is available on line [www.aber.ac.uk/en/cdsap/awards/aultf/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cdsap/awards/aultf/)

## Staff Development and Performance Review (SDPR), Contribution Points and Academic Promotion

During 2012 Aberystwyth University has reviewed and restructured some of its reward and recognition policies to introduce ways in which all staff can be recognised and rewarded for excellent performance.

### Staff Development and Performance Review (SDPR)

SDPR is now rolling out across the University.

For more information see: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/sdpr/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/sdpr/)

### Contribution Points and Accelerated Increments

Applications for contribution points

and accelerated increments can now be submitted by managers and staff for consideration by the Promotions panel. The deadline for submission of applications is 10 October 2012.

Further information on the process including timescales can be found at: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/employment-information/contribution/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/employment-information/contribution/)

### Professorial salary band

Remuneration Committee has recently approved arrangements for a Professorial salary band, details of which will be communicated to professorial staff shortly.

### Review of Academic Promotions

A review of Academic Promotions took place at the beginning of the academic year.

Further information on the review and its outcomes, including timescales, can be found at: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/employment-information/academic-promotions/review/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/employment-information/academic-promotions/review/)

### Further information

For more information on these and other reward and recognition issues please refer to the Human Resources website ([www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/)) or by email to [hr@aber.ac.uk](mailto:hr@aber.ac.uk) or by telephone (01970) 628555.

## ABER PEOPLE

## Senior appointments

**Peter Curran** has been appointed as the University's Director of Finance. Currently Vice-Principal at the Royal Welsh College of

Music and Drama (RWCMD), Peter led on the delivery and arrangement for funding for a major new capital project, which has provided world-class conservatoire facilities. An Aber alumnus (Economics 1985), he is a member of the Executive of the British Universities' Finance Directors' Group. Although Peter's precise start date is still under discussion, he will be spending time at Aberystwyth during the autumn.

**Lucy Hodson** will be joining the University as Director of Planning on 1 November. Currently Director of Strategic Planning at De Montfort

University, Lucy has previously worked at the University of Oxford and the Institute for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine at Imperial College, London. An Oxford graduate (Modern History and German 1985), she completed an MA in Islamic Studies at Birmingham in 1986 and is working towards a PhD in International Relations at St Andrews. She is currently Chair of National Planners' Group Executive - a UK-wide body which represents higher education planners' concerns.



## Academic appointments

## Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

**Professor Nigel Scollan** has been appointed to the position of Waitrose Chair of Food and Farming based in IBERS. This senior appointment reflects Waitrose's commitment to finding long-term solutions to food security and other issues affecting agriculture in the UK, and will give the supermarket, and associated companies, world-class support with research into improving the sustainability of the UK's food production systems.



## Department of International Politics

**Dr Huw Bennett** will be joining the Department to take up a Lectureship in International Politics and Intelligence Studies. His research interests include warfare in the twentieth century; British counter-insurgency since 1945; the Kenya Emergency, 1952-60; intelligence and security; the military dimensions of the troubles in Northern Ireland and contemporary strategy.



**Dr Berit Blieseemann de Guevara** joins the Department as Senior Lecturer in the field of post-conflict reconstruction. Her main research interests are statebuilding and the state in post-conflict societies; the role of think tanks in the international politics of conflict management; causes and courses of internal wars; and insurgent groups on the internet. Her regional specialisms include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latin America, and India.

**Dr Jeff Bridoux** will take up a Lectureship in post-conflict reconstruction. His research interests encompass the use of the concept of power in international relations, especially regarding American foreign policy, international politics of the Middle East and East Asia, post-conflict reconstruction, democracy promotion and democratisation.



**Dr Madeline Carr** will be joining the Department to take up a Lectureship in International Politics and the Cyber Dimension. Her research interests include the social construction of technology, computer security in state to state conflict, network neutrality and internet governance, the impact of information and communications technology upon existing frameworks for understanding international relations, cyber security and internet governance, international security and US foreign policy - particularly in the area of emerging technology and new security threats.



**Dr Charalampos Efstathopoulos** joins the Department to take up a Lectureship in the field of Newly Emergent Powers. His research interests include middle power theories; theoretical approaches to multilateral diplomacy; Indian foreign policy; South African foreign policy; trade politics and WTO negotiations.



**Dr Kristan Stoddart** will take up a Lectureship in International Politics and the Cyber Dimension. His research interests include nuclear weapons issues, nuclear strategy, 'minimum deterrence', nuclear terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation. He also has a keen research interest in the importance of intelligence in strategy and the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) debate focusing on technology and security, especially cyber security and cyber warfare.

## ABER PEOPLE

### Department of History and Welsh History

**Dr Martyn J Powell** has been appointed Head of the Department of History and Welsh History. Dr Powell gained undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at Aberystwyth University and then lectured at Nottingham University before returning to Aberystwyth to take up a permanent post. He is a specialist in Irish political and social history.



### School of Management and Business (SMB)

**Mike Christie** (formerly from IBERS) has been appointed Professor in Environmental and Ecological Economics in SMB. Prof Christie's research involves the economic valuation of the 'ecosystem service' benefits derived from biodiversity and other natural resources. Current projects include a £3m NERC BESS project investigating the importance of river organisms to the function and economic value of Wales' river ecosystems.



### Department of English & Creative Writing

The Department of English & Creative Writing is delighted to welcome four new members of staff for the new session.

Joining the Creative Writing team is **Dr Jacqueline Yallop**, author of two novels, *Obedience* (Atlantic/Penguin, 2011) and *Kissing Alice* (Atlantic, 2009), and the non-fiction book, *Magpies, Squirrels and Thieves: How the Victorians Collected the World* (Atlantic, 2011) – longlisted for the Longman-History Today Book of the Year 2012.



Also joining the Creative Writing team is **Dr Katherine Stansfield**. Katherine's first novel, exploring Cornish history and identity, will be published by Parthian in 2013, and her first full poetry collection will appear from Seren – one of the UK's most respected poetry presses – in 2014. Katherine's poetry has been

widely published in magazines and journals and she was on the final longlist of collections for the 2011 Eric Gregory awards.



**Dr Rosie Dub** is also joining the Creative Writing team in the exciting new post of Creative Writing Fellow, responsible for supervising PhD students – an area in which the department is flourishing. Rosie grew up in Adelaide, and has been living in Tasmania. Her novel, *Gathering Storm*, was published by Penguin in 2008, and her second novel, *Flight*, appeared from Fourth Estate in 2011.



**Dr Beth Rodgers** joins the Nineteenth-century Literature team from Queen's University, Belfast. Interested in particular in representations of girlhood across a range of genres, her published work to date explores the ways in which juvenile periodicals, girls' magazines and school stories shaped the cultural landscape of the time. Her next major project will focus on the Irish children's writer, LT Meade, and explore the role of the professional women writer in the 1890s.



**Andrew Henley** rejoins SMB in October as Professor of Entrepreneurship and Regional Economic Development. Professor Henley was previously Professor of Economics here at AU, and was more recently Head of the School of Business and Economics at Swansea University, and Director of the prestigious LEAD Wales programme based at Swansea and Bangor Universities. His research expertise is in the areas of entrepreneurship, the economics of human resources and in regional development.



### Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

**Dr Matt Hills** joins TFTS as Professor of Film and Television Studies. Dr Hills completed his PhD at the University of Sussex, and previously worked at Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies. His research interests focus on cult media and fan cultures, situated more generally in terms of cultural studies work on audiences.



**Dr Birgit Beumers** joins TFTS as Professor of Film Studies. Dr Beumers specialises in contemporary Russian culture. Her research interests generally lie in contemporary culture, especially theatre and drama, and Russian and central Asian cinema.



## Congratulations

### Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

Congratulations to **Kate Woodward**, Lecturer in Film and Television Studies, on the birth of her daughter Greta Grug on 17 May, and further congratulations to the Head of TFTS, **Dr Jamie Medhurst** and TFTS Research and Postgraduate Administrator, **Ceris Medhurst Jones**, on the birth of their son Henry Joseph on 25 June.

## Appointments

### Communications and Public Affairs

**Alice Earp** has been appointed to the role of Publications Officer. Alice has worked at the University for five years, initially in the Planning Office and later in the Research Office.



**Esther Eckley** recently joined the University as Campaigns Officer. Esther is a PR consultant with more than 15 years' experience in the industry.

**Steve Pickup** has been appointed as Events Officer, a role shared with the Development & Alumni Relations Office, and also working closely with the VC's Office. Steve previously worked for the Students' Union.

### Research Office

**Anne Howells** has been appointed as European Development Officer within the Research Office's European Unit. Working closely with finance office staff, Anne is responsible for overseeing the provision of information, advice and support relating to bidding for all EU Structural Funds; ESF, ERDF and INTERREG.



## Retirement

### Department of European Languages

**Joanne Maltman**, Departmental Secretary in the Department of European Languages since 2003, retired at the end of June. The Department would like to extend its deepest thanks for her tireless work.



## Bowling for Wales

Member of the University grounds team and Welsh international bowler, **Andrew Fleming**, has been selected as one of Wales's five-man team for the 2012 World Bowls Championships in Adelaide. Andrew, who represented Wales at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, will fly out to Australia in November to compete in the prestigious event.



## Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales

A number of current members of staff were amongst those elected as Fellows of The Learned Society of Wales in 2012.



**THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES**  
**CYMEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU**  
CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION  
DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

Vice Chancellor  
**Professor April McMahon**,  
**Professor Qiang Shen**, Head of the  
Computer Science

Department, and **Professor David Kay** of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, have all been honoured by the Society for their academic contribution to Welsh life.

Fellows of the Society are defined as being "persons resident in Wales, persons of Welsh birth who are resident elsewhere and others with a particular connection with Wales; in each case, having a demonstrable record of excellence and achievement in one of the academic disciplines or, being members of the professions, the arts, industry, commerce or public service, having made a distinguished contribution to the world of learning". The Society now has 250 Fellows.

## Foreign Learned Scholar in China

**Professor Neville Greaves**, Distinguished Research Professor in IMAPS and Distinguished Research Fellow at the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy at the University of Cambridge, has been elected a Foreign Learned Scholar in China by Shanghai University with funding to visit and teach at the School of Engineering and Materials Science at Shanghai University.



## Literature Wales' New Chair

**Professor Damian Walford Davies**, Head of the Department of English and Creative Writing, has been announced as the new Chair of Literature Wales.



In taking up the new role, he said: "Taking up the role of Chair of one of Wales's national companies is a privilege – and a challenge... My aim as Chair is to help give the radical energies of our two literatures the place they deserve in contemporary debates, so that writing becomes not the pleasure of the few, but an instrument of change and transformation for us all."

WHAT'S ON

## 2012 DDMI Annual Lecture – Professor Norman Davies on the state of Europe

6pm on Thursday 1 November 2012, in the Old Hall, Old College

The David Davies Memorial Institute (DDMI) is delighted to announce that the internationally esteemed historian Professor Norman Davies will give the 2012 Annual Lecture.

In his early career, Professor Davies specialised in the history of Poland, but subsequently has made decisive contributions to our understanding both of British history and that of Europe as a whole. His latest book, which has been greeted with critical acclaim, is *Vanished Kingdoms: The History of Half-Forgotten Europe* (2011).

Professor Davies will speak on the state of Europe (precise title to be announced nearer the date). It promises to be a major statement by one of the leading historians of our times. All are welcome. For more information about Public Lectures and Events, go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/public-lectures-and-events/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/public-lectures-and-events/)



Professor Norman Davies

### Public Lecture: 'Human evolution in a variable environment: the amplifier lakes of Eastern Africa'

6.30pm, Monday 1st October 2012

Main Hall, International Politics Building

Martin H. Trauth, Professor of paleoclimate dynamics at the University of Potsdam



An exciting opportunity to join Professor Trauth, an eminent Earth scientist who has worked on various aspects of reconstructing and modelling the Earth's past climate changes for over two decades, as he provides a fascinating insight into the influence of environmental changes on human evolution.

Hosted by IGES, a warm welcome is extended to all as Professor Trauth guides us through this ancient journey to a modern day hot topic. An informal complimentary drinks reception will immediately follow the lecture.

A warm welcome is extended to all to attend.

For more details about Public Lectures and Events go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/public-lectures-and-events/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/public-lectures-and-events/)

### University Music Centre

September sees the start of the University Music Centre's thriving programme of ensembles and concerts for students, staff and anyone who wants to join in. Everything gets underway during the first week of term, with rehearsals in the Joseph Parry Hall in Laura Place and the Old Drill Hall over the road from Matalan.

Choral Union (Friday evenings), the large mixed-voice choir starts work on Carl Orff's spectacular and colourful *Carmina Burana* for a concert next spring. Conductor, Director of Music Dr David Russell Hulme, will also be working with the symphony orchestra, Philomusica (Wednesday evenings), for a December concert featuring Aberystwyth-born violinist Christiana Mavron in Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*. Also programmed is Sibelius passionate first symphony – and plenty more besides.

Monday evening is Wind Band night, when conductor Aidan Hassan will be taking this lively group through a wide range of popular and classic repertoire. There is also Simple Strings, and informal string ensemble for players of all standards on Tuesdays, and Saxophony, for sax players, on Thursdays.

All groups welcome new members. Come and be part of the university's great live music scene. See the Music Centre website for more details - [www.aber.ac.uk/en/music/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/music/).



[www.aber.ac.uk/en/pg-open-day](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/pg-open-day)

Discover more about Postgraduate Life at the Postgraduate Open Day on the 14th November 2012



Book your place at: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/pg-open-day](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/pg-open-day)



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

### School of Art Postgraduate Exhibition

24 September – 5 October 2012

School of Art, Buarth Mawr, Aberystwyth  
Open: 10am-5pm, Monday-Friday

