

Aber^rNEWS

ISSUE 17 - April 2014

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



L to R: Dr Joe Gallagher (BEACON Project Leader, Aberystwyth), Professor Chris Thomas (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aberystwyth), Dr Adam Charlton (BEACON Project Manager, Bangor), Professor Diane Kelly (BEACON Scientist, Swansea), Professor Steve Kelly (BEACON Scientist, Swansea), Jane Hutt (Minister of Finance), Professor Iain Donnison (Director of BEACON), Professor April McMahon (Vice-Chancellor, Aberystwyth) and Professor David Shepherd (Pro Vice-Chancellor Bangor)

BEACON wins prestigious European Commission RegioStars Award

A prestigious European Commission RegioStars Award 2014 has been won by the BEACON Biorefining Centre of Excellence, an innovative Welsh research partnership dedicated to developing industrial products from plants to reduce reliance on fossil-based resources such as coal and gas.

BEACON is a Welsh Government EU funded collaboration between Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea universities. Researchers at BEACON work with industry, including small and medium sized enterprises, to develop renewable materials, fuels and chemicals as well as modified and new environmental and economically sustainable processes.

Led by IBERS, BEACON was one of four projects to be shortlisted in the "Sustainable growth: Green growth and jobs through Bio-economy" category. The BEACON team received their award at a glittering awards ceremony in Brussels on 31st March.

The RegioStars awards have been organised by the European Commission since 2008 with the objective of identifying good practices in regional development and highlight original and innovative projects which could be attractive and inspiring to other regions.

BEACON is funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government, under the Convergence programme for West Wales and the Valleys. Further information about BEACON is available online at <http://beaconwales.org/en/>

The full list of winners and further information about RegioStars Awards is available online at: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/regiostars/regiostars_en.cfm.

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Aber^{NEWS} is published by the **Department of Communications and Public Affairs**, Aberystwyth University. **Tel:** 01970 622946
E-mail: communications@aber.ac.uk.

The next edition of Aber^{NEWS} will be available in **June 2014**.
 Copy deadline for this edition is **Tuesday 6th May**.

Mauritius campus

Last month the University formally announced its ambition to open a new campus in Mauritius.

The announcement was made by the Vice-Chancellor at a conference in London hosted by the Mauritius Board of Investment.

The University is working with Mauritius based Boston Campus Limited and is planning to launch four undergraduate degree programmes and one MSc postgraduate programme for September 2014, subject to accreditation by the Mauritius Tertiary Education Commission. The programmes are also subject to accreditation by the Mauritius Tertiary Education Commission and approval by the University's Senate.

The programmes proposed for September 2014 include BSc degrees in Accounting and Finance; Business Finance; Business Management; Management with Law and the MSc in International Business.

For September 2014 the proposal is to deliver the courses in premises operated by Boston Campus Limited in CyberCity, Ebène, 15 km south of the capital, Port Louis.

Plans are also being developed with Boston Campus Limited to build a modern residential campus catering for up to 2000 students at Quartier Militaire, 12km inland from Port Louis. It is anticipated that the new Quartier Militaire campus will open in time for the 2015 academic year, subject to final approval by the University's Council.

Under the arrangement, students studying at Aberystwyth University's Mauritius campus would enjoy the same status as their counterparts at Aberystwyth and upon successful completion of their course would receive Aberystwyth University degrees.



An artist's impression of the planned residential campus at Quartier Militaire

All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered on the Mauritius campus would be subject to the quality assurance processes that are applied at Aberystwyth University.

To ensure consistency of provision and foster a close working relationship, academic and administrative staff from Aberystwyth would spend time working on the Mauritius campus and staff from Mauritius would be encouraged to spend time working in Aberystwyth.

Equally, students who might wish to transfer to Aberystwyth from Mauritius would be able to do so, and would be offered the choice of attending graduation at Aberystwyth or Mauritius, upon successful completion of their course of study.

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

Sir Emyr Jones Parry elected President of Learned Society of Wales



Sir Emyr Jones Parry

The University's President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, has been elected as the next President of the Learned Society of Wales, a society that exists to 'celebrate, recognise, preserve, protect and encourage excellence in all of the scholarly disciplines'.

Sir Emyr will begin his three-year term of office as President of the Learned Society of Wales on 14 May. The appointment follows a ballot of all Fellows of the Society which resulted in an overwhelming response in favour of his election.

Aberystwyth amongst world's elite

Aberystwyth features amongst the world's top 200 institutions in 4 of the 30 subjects included in the 2014 QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Geography; Politics; Agriculture and Forestry and English Language and Literature are all featured in the prestigious ranking of universities published on www.topuniversities.com.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject list combines information from global academic and employer reputation surveys and citations per paper.

Full story: www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/03/title-147303-en.html

UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Here at Aber we have students and staff from over 90 countries across the world, and we are constantly seeking to develop and enhance our international research and business partnerships. Over the last month, you will have undoubtedly seen the exciting news that we are planning to open a new branch campus in Mauritius. For this edition of **Aber NEWS**, I'd like to use this column to take a moment to explain how and why the University is dipping its toe in the Indian Ocean.



Engaging the world is one of the core aims in our Strategic Plan. We're not unique in trying to enhance our international reputation and attract students, staff and partnerships from all four corners of the globe. I'd challenge any University, within the current economy, to be sustainable purely through recruiting and seeking to garner support from its immediate locality.

Why Mauritius? Why not! Whilst many regard Mauritius as a holiday destination for newly-weds, the British Council has recognised the small island's ambitions to be a global hub for higher education in Africa and India. The Tertiary Education Commission and the Board of Investment are delivering the Mauritian Government's ambitious strategy to attract universities to the island to provide an excellent student experience. As a University we're extremely excited at the prospect of being able to assist the Mauritian government in achieving their aim, and at the same time meet our objectives of engaging the world. We see our branch campus as a positive step in attracting and assisting African students, who may not be in a position to travel to Wales or the UK, but want a high quality UK higher education experience.

Without divulging the commercial secrets of what makes Mauritius a lucrative destination, or the size of our investment, it is important to explain that this decision hasn't been made without the support of numerous financial and legal audits and thorough due diligence has been undertaken. We are developing our project with a local Mauritian partner and this, in our opinion, strengthens our foothold in Mauritius and opens up a host of broader opportunities.

Are we brave in seeking to develop a new branch campus in the Indian Ocean? Absolutely. However, we need to extend our reach, be entrepreneurial and take big steps forward with our international and developmental strategies that provide a clear signal of our intent. The challenges faced at home, with increasing competition across the sector and the changes to the cap on recruitment in England mean that we need to think differently.

Assuming that everything goes to plan, and that the Mauritius Tertiary Education Commission approves our plans, we will be in a position to offer degree courses this September. Initially offering four undergraduate degree programmes and an MSc in International Business, currently run by our Institute of Management, Law and Information Studies, our intention is to develop our portfolio and broaden our offering at the branch campus.

Whilst it is still early days, and we are still working our way through the appropriate processes and procedures, the initial feedback is very heartening. The number of academics and students, both internal and new to the University, enquiring about possible opportunities to work in Mauritius is fantastic. We anticipate that there will be opportunities for future Aber students to study abroad, and opportunities for flying faculty to teach at our campus in Mauritius. To this end, we are hoping that Mauritius becomes known for much more than a honeymoon destination, confident in the knowledge that our international development is intended to last for much longer than the honeymoon period.

Professor John Grattan

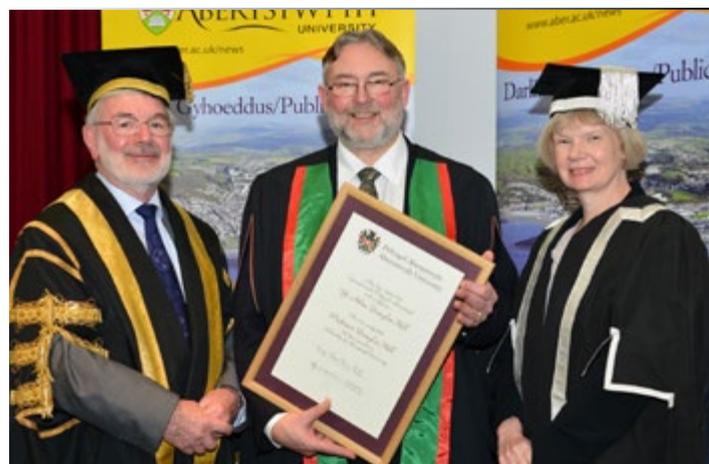
Pro Vice-Chancellor for International and Student Experience

Fellow honoured

Professor Douglas Kell CBE returned to Aberystwyth on 28 February to be conferred with a Fellowship of the University, and to give a public lecture on how science will save the planet.

An accomplished and award winning academic, Professor Kell began his career at Aberystwyth in 1983 and was awarded a Personal Chair in 1992. From 1997-2002 he was Director of Research at the Institute of Biological Sciences. Professor Kell was appointed Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) in 2008. He retired from this role last year and is now Professor of Bioanalytical Science at the University of Manchester.

Professor Kell accepted the offer of a Fellowship in July 2013 but was unable to attend the graduation ceremonies due to longstanding engagements.



Dr Glyn Rowlands, Vice-President, Professor Douglas Kell CBE, Fellow and Professor April McMahon, Vice Chancellor

Glacial discovery

International research involving Aberystwyth glaciologists Dr Ann Rowan and Professor Neil Glasser has shown that Britain was home to small glaciers within the last few centuries. The research established that glaciers almost certainly existed in the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland as recently as the 18th century, whereas previously it had long been understood that Britain's last glaciers melted some 11,000 years ago.

Full story:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/01/title-145279-en.html

Ancient forests revealed

Professor Henry Lamb from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences discussed the ancient forests of Tywyn with the BBC News team on 23 January.

The winter storms which battered the coastline of Wales exposed previously hidden traces of the area's Stone Age landscape. A four mile stretch of coastline near Tywyn was so altered by the sea that it was pushed back 50 feet (15 metres). The new coastline has revealed the existence of an ancient forest, with the remains of trees dating back 6000 years.

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

Full story:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/01/title-145448-en.html



Professor Henry Lamb

Tackling green energy challenges

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

The Network has been awarded £7m to appoint PhD students and fellows to develop new research and attract more investment to Wales.

Led by Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities and directed by Professor David Thomas, the focus of the pan-Wales network is on the interactions between land, water, the provision of food and energy production, and how they can be maintained to meet society's needs particularly in the face of the challenges posed by climate change.

The funding was announced by Welsh Government Economy and Science Minister Edwina Hart on Thursday 13 March and marked the completion of the first phase of the Sêr Cymru programme which was launched at Aberystwyth in September 2012 and aims to attract scientific talent to Wales.

More information on the Low Carbon, Energy and the Environment Network is available at www.nrn-lcee.ac.uk.

Full story:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/03/title-147529-en.html



Edwina Hart launching Sêr Cymru at Aberystwyth University in 2012

Calling on all secondary schools in Ceredigion



Secondary school children making the most of laboratory sessions

The University is calling on all secondary schools in Ceredigion to take advantage of a grant totalling £30,000 which enables students to directly engage with practising researchers in subjects including biology, chemistry, geography, politics, and sport and exercise science.

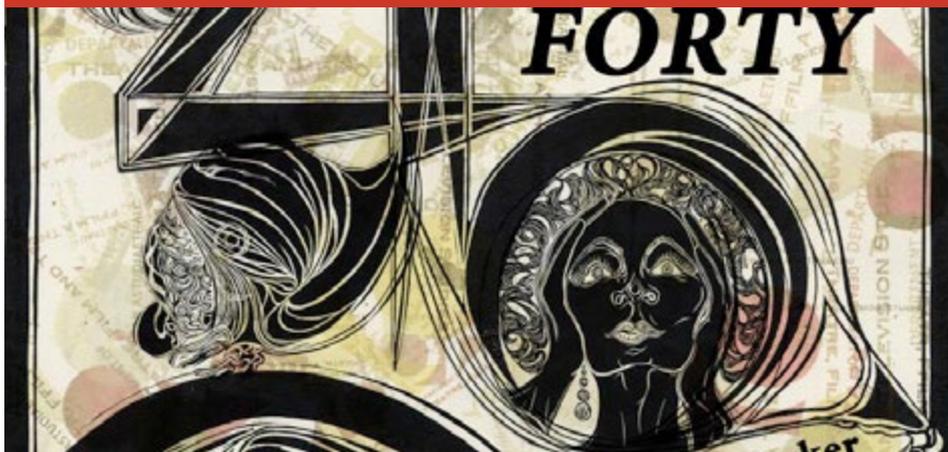
The funds have been made possible via the Schools University Partnership Initiative (SUPI) funded and administered by EPSRC and Research Councils UK (RCUK).

Known as SusNet Wales, the three-year initiative enables Higher Education Institutes to work in partnership with secondary schools and colleges - www.rcuk.ac.uk/pe/PartnershipsInitiative.

One of the schools to have already benefited from this project as part of a pilot scheme last year is Penglais School, which saw their A level students benefit from school sessions with lecturers from the University over a six month period.

Full story:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/02/title-145972-en.html



Red Sun and The Forty

In February, actor and honorary fellow Richard Lynch visited the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies to join in the latest of a series of events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the department.

Under the direction of Professor David Ian Rabey, Richard Lynch joined with lecturer Roger Owen in a day's rehearsal and free public script-in-hand performance of a play by internationally renowned dramatist and Honorary Professor in TFTS, David Rudkin.

Red Sun, which was first staged in 2003, is set on an island in the Third World where a foreign company exploits the natural resources and abuses the native tribe. It explores how a tribal magician, in his rage and pain at what his people suffer, uses his magic craft to create a subhuman creature of clay, which he sends to commit acts of terrorism among the oppressors, to punish them and frighten them away. Inevitably, he has created something more than he can control.

The rehearsal and performance of *Red Sun* reunited Lynch within a practical working context with Owen and Rabey, fellow founder members of Lurking Truth/Gwir sy'n Llechu Theatre Company (established 1985); and all three follow up this event by working together again on another, in further celebration of the department's anniversary year: a new production of *The Forty*, by another departmental Honorary Professor, Howard Barker.

The Forty is an innovative series of forty short plays, first staged as a departmental Advanced Production Project directed by Rabey in 2011, and the subject of a journal article subsequently published by him. This new production will be staged in the department's Emily Davies studio on 11 and 12 April, the first performance coinciding with the department's hosting of the 2014 Standing Committee of University Drama Departments' annual conference.

Digital preservation

The University has joined the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC).

Digital Preservation is a rapidly growing field. It involves the planning, resource allocation and application of preservation methods and technologies to ensure that digital information of continuing value remains accessible and usable.

The Digital Preservation Coalition works with education institutions, key practitioner and policy making institutions responsible for digital content and preservation. Its vision is to "make our digital memory accessible tomorrow".

Sarah Higgins, a lecturer in the Department for Information Studies, explains: "This membership means we can further support our students in our postgraduate degree schemes, especially those undertaking the new MSc in Digital Curation and the more established MSc in Information Governance and Assurance.

But it's not just about the opportunities it affords our teaching and our students, it's also about the impact we can have through the DPC. We're really looking forward to further contributing to the work of the DPC, and collaborating with other members to improve understanding of digital preservation more generally."



The Sundance Kid



Mathew David

A former Aberystwyth student picked up a prize at the Sundance Film Festival held in January in Utah for his role in the film *Burger*.

The 11 minute short-film, funded by Iris Film Prize, observes the individuals that inhabit a late night burger bar and was shot on location in Cardiff.

Cardiff actor, Mathew David, along with the cast and Norwegian director, Magnus Mork, won a direction and ensemble acting prize at the festival.

Mathew, who graduated in Drama from Aberystwyth in 2009 and went on to train at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, explains: "During my time at Aber, I took a great deal of inspiration from one of the tutors, Joan Mills, whose direction was fantastic. I loved the energy of Aberystwyth and the people were so friendly."



Success in the face of adversity

By Debra Croft, Manager of the University's Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion.

Higher education can be a daunting experience without the support of a family, and the award-winning package of support offered by the University is often the difference between success and failure.

As part of the University's Centre for Widening Participation and Social Inclusion, I am the central contact point for students leaving care. Helping students who have encountered difficulties and challenges in their younger life to achieve their potential can be an inspirational and rewarding experience, and I would like to share one particular example with you.

I first encountered Hamid Soorghali in 2009. Then in his final year at sixth form college, he contacted the University to enquire about support for those coming from a care background.

Having lost his family at a young age, Hamid had been accepted into the UK as an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker at the age of 15. He had progressed through the ups-and-downs of school and college in Essex. In his first year at sixth form college Hamid had been told that his

marks were not sufficiently high to make going to University a realistic prospect for him. However, he had been determined to turn his results, and his life, around.

Over the next four years my team worked in partnership with the Leaving and Aftercare team at Essex County Council to support Hamid in his quest to obtain an honours degree and then to progress his academic career to the next level.

In the summer of 2010, Hamid completed our Summer University programme, achieving an excellent set of marks, and in September of that year he began a degree course in the Department of International Politics.

Whilst studying, Hamid was keen to help those encountering similar struggles to those he had faced. He did so by working as a role model for younger students, including working on the Summer

University programme in 2012 as a Student Leader, providing pastoral care for a group of 17 year olds during the six-week residential programme.

In 2013, Hamid graduated with an Upper Second degree in International Politics and Intelligence Studies. Moreover, he obtained the Ken Robertson prize for the highest mark in Intelligence Studies in his year. Hamid has gone on to study for a Master's Degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Hamid has endured many more challenges than most 23 year olds, but has equally achieved much more than could ever have been expected of him. His story shows that when a motivated and determined young person, a caring social services team and a University come together, the results can be spectacular. We wish Hamid all the very best for the future.

Hamid's story

My journey in the last eight years has not been without worries and difficulties, but I have come to learn that this is the essence of learning, living and being.

I am proud to say that as a young person who has been in care from a young age and endured considerable difficulties in my battle to forge a new life in the UK and, in the process, having faced repeated upheavals and lack of many basic things that most young people would need to succeed, I have managed to overcome many of those difficulties, whilst also focusing on my studies.

I remember when at the end of my first year in the sixth form college, my teachers were giving me the distressing news about how dreadful my marks were, and that I was no longer able to apply to university, unless a miracle happened. I was disillusioned. I had become tired of the repetitive compulsion of my teenage hood life, repeating the same acts of doing things wrong or that of not being committed to a thing for long enough time, but at the same time expecting to obtain a positive outcome. Things had to change.

I wanted to live, imagine and articulate my world differently. First: I began thinking carefully about decency and honesty; about where I wanted to be, and things I wanted to do. For a better future, I intended to teach myself and sustain myself through the adversities that I faced, improving habits, smoothing rough edges, and remaining determined to succeed.

Since then, things have changed considerably in my life. I turned the bad results around and succeeded in college, and went on to study International Politics in a prestigious University and attained the highest mark in my degree scheme class for my final year of work. But this would have never been possible without the caring support of Geeta Ray in the Leaving and Aftercare Team, and Debra Croft in Widening Participation at Aberystwyth University. I have an entrenched sense of gratitude for having met these two caring people in my life, at critical age. I wanted to also use this opportunity to thank my former caring foster parents, Sara and Graham Seddon, the two loveliest people.

Aside from studies, I have dedicated an extensive part of my time, both in Aberystwyth University and now in the School of Oriental and African Studies, in the welfare and education of students from Widening Access backgrounds. In particular, those that have faced assorted difficulties that in turn have limited their vision and attainment. This stems from my deeply held ethical and humanitarian convictions and my commitment to contribute to those holding a similar past and difficulties as me. I have never forgotten my past, and never will.



Hamid Soorghali

NEWS

Improving water governance around the world



Professor Tony Jones

Professor Tony Jones, Emeritus Professor of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, has been appointed Chief Assessor for the 7th Phase of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) which aims to improve the management of water and sanitation around the world and help implement the UN Millennium Development Goals on water.

The IHP is the oldest and most established international water organisation within the UN and specialises in research and development projects related to water management, especially in improving water governance in developing countries. It serves 190 Member States.

Tony Jones has been conducting research into water resources and climate change since 1990, and initiated some of the first research into the effects of global warming on riverflows and water resources in Wales and the UK.

Full story:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/02/title-146385-en.html

Aber is one of the top 10 UK destinations for Norwegian students

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

The University is home to around 900 international students from more than 90 countries. There are currently 98 Norwegian students here studying a wide range of degree schemes, the most popular areas of study being International Politics and Theatre Film and Television Studies.

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

Full story:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/01/title-145324-en.html



Ellen Dingstad, originally from Oslo, is a third year student studying Film and Television Studies

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RESEARCH, BUSINESS & INNOVATION



Summer 2014 will see the return of the Aberystwyth University Business Network on the evening of Monday 19 May. With a refreshed format, we are delighted to be welcoming keynote speaker Fiona Roberts, Human Resources Director for Volkswagen Group United Kingdom Ltd.

The event provides an excellent opportunity to invite existing contacts from businesses and external organisations onto campus as well as extending invitations to organisations we hope to spark interactions with.

Alongside thought provoking keynote presentations, these informal, business focused events provide the opportunity to meet representatives from across the University, network with external organisations and discover more about the wealth of opportunities offered by Aberystwyth University.

Further information about the Business Network can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/network

Gary Reed, Director of Research, Business and Innovation.

Transforming social science

Showing commitment to an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Award to nurture social science research which can be truly 'transformative', the University has recently created a new high level post.

Professor Michael Woods from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences has been appointed as Professor for Transformative Social Science. This innovative post will lead a two year programme which focuses on the ESRC's three strategic priority areas and aims to nurture transformations in theory, methods and knowledge exchange.

Commenting on his appointment, Professor Woods said: "This is an exciting opportunity not only to develop research that transforms social science knowledge and methods, but also to ensure that our research has a real impact in transforming society for the better".

Through championing novel and interdisciplinary research, the Professor of Transformative Social Science will lead a programme of activities engaging fellow academics and members of the local community together with policy makers and practitioners.

Using innovative approaches, proposed activities include a series of workshops with policy-makers and practitioners to 'co-produce' knowledge and to explore the three main ESRC priorities. Furthermore, through working with individuals from the creative disciplines, the aim is to develop and test the effectiveness of novel forms of knowledge exchange with local communities - for example using film, poetry, art and performance to convey ideas about fairness, sustainability and changing behaviours.

As part of his role, Professor Woods will explore the possibilities of publishing on different aspects of the activities undertaken, as well as ensuring the longer-term legacy of the programme; most clearly in relation to promoting transformative follow-up research bids in the social sciences, targeted primarily at the ESRC.



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Open access policy

A significant number of research funders (including RCUK, European Funding FP7/Horizon 2020 and the European Research Council) now require that research outputs, specifically journal articles, generated by the research they fund are available through Open Access (OA).

Open Access publishing allows all readers to access papers without having to pay subscription or download charges, thereby providing the opportunity for research findings to be disseminated through a wider audience.

To meet the requirements of funding bodies, and as part of our preparations for REF2020, the University has recently adopted a policy on Open Access. The University's Research Committee and Executive have agreed that where possible, as from 1 January 2014, all new journal articles should be made available via Open Access, ideally through deposit in an OA repository, like the University's repository CADAIR - <http://cadair.aber.ac.uk>. Details regarding the different routes to OA publishing are available from: <http://jump.aber.ac.uk/?gxmj>.

The new policy is a major change to research practice and further information will be available for all research active staff and students. Briefing sessions providing details of open access requirements will be advertised via departments and through the Weekly Bulletin. In the meantime, however, please contact openaccess@aber.ac.uk with any urgent questions.

Global gateway for Welsh research

A web gateway that brings together Welsh research and global business went live on St David's Day.



Wales IP (www.walesip.com) acts as a portal for potential investors or companies seeking commercial applications, helping them locate innovative opportunities developed by five of Wales' research-intensive universities. Acting as a gateway to 95% of the region's research, it helps researchers find intellectual property and identify areas of collaboration.

The site is the public face of the Intellectual Property Collaboration Project (IPCoP) between Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, South Wales and Swansea Universities.

IPCoP brings together a network of Technology Transfer Officers who can identify, protect and commercialise Wales' research, to support the Welsh economy and build an 'innovation culture'.

In its first year of operation, IPCoP identified multiple new technologies with strong potential and secured in excess of £1.1m of translational income. The partnership has strengths in food security, energy and the environment, health and biosciences, advanced engineering and manufacture, the digital economy and creative industries.

The collaboration is funded by the Higher Education Council for Wales (HEFCW). Using

the leading research and immense expertise of these institutions, IPCoP aims to drive forward the knowledge economy in Wales, worth £177M in 2011-12.

EU funding update

The European Union's Structural Funds are very important to the University as they provide its biggest source of research and innovation funding, and help support projects such as BEACON, SmartCoasts, and Knowledge Exchange Student Scholarships projects.

A potentially significant development to the University has been the selection of Professor April McMahon as the Wales Higher Educational Institutes' representative on WEFO's EU Structural Funds Programme Monitoring Committee which oversees the implementation of the new tranche of 2014-2020 funding. WEFO plans to implement new Structural Funds Programmes, likely to be launched in late spring. A series of presentations will be organised by the Department of Research, Business & Innovation's EU Unit for staff interested in applying for funding in support of priority proposals.

The world's largest research funding 'pot', the EU's 'Horizon2020' programme, was officially launched on 11 December 2013 when calls for 2014 and 2015 were announced. Eleven briefings were delivered to coincide with the launch, each on various sub-schemes, and two proposal writing events were delivered soon after.

With the recent initiation of Professor Michael Woods' European Research Council Advanced Grant project, which is to draw down a grant of €2.25M, the University will have benefitted from over €18M to support 44 projects from Horizon 2020's predecessor scheme, Framework Programme 7.

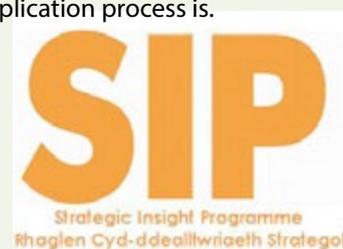
Fostering collaboration through funded placements

The pan-Wales Strategic Insight Programme (SIP) fosters collaboration through supporting academics to engage in knowledge exchange activities with external partners. SIP funds short term placements for University staff to go into public, private or voluntary sectors and vice versa. These bite size placements (40-50 hours) can provide a fresh perspective on existing projects and can also be used to stimulate innovation for new ideas.

Placements have been awarded across the disciplines, from the arts to the sciences and can be an ideal foundation for long term strategic partnerships. Through her placement with NSCHR Cancer Research Network Wales Dr Joanne Wallace (Department of Sport and Exercise) says she has had the opportunity to forge working relationships with several different organisations. "The SIP application was a really straightforward process, with only about a week between submission and the placement being approved. It was a unique networking experience, from which I had the opportunity to develop links with several different organisations. Working alongside these groups will undoubtedly increase my success in securing larger research grants".

Another recent successful SIP placement supported Dr Sarah Riley to work with the Government Equalities Office on a campaign for body confidence which has resulted in strengthening links between the University and policy makers.

If you would like any further information in relation to SIP please contact Dr Dafydd Roberts (dir@aber.ac.uk) to discuss potential ideas and find out just how straight forward the application process is.



The Power of the Placebo



Dr Chris Beedie. Credit BBC

Placebo

Dr Chris Beedie is a Reader in Sport Psychology in the Department of Psychology. His research examines the role of emotions and beliefs in human behaviour. In February, Chris was featured on the BBC's long standing science programme *Horizon*. The programme, *The Power of the Placebo*, which was broadcast on 17 February, showed Chris illustrating how placebos can improve sporting performance. It is this aspect of his research that Chris focuses on below:

Athletes look for any product, technology, or process that might provide them a competitive advantage. This leads some athletes to use illegal and potentially harmful drugs. The use of such drugs undermines the ethos of sport. More seriously, it threatens the health of athletes. There are currently 73 documented deaths resulting from the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport.

A small number of athletes who have failed drugs tests have claimed that they did not know they had taken the drug. It is now clear that in several cases drugs have been deceptively administered by coaches, scientists or team doctors. Ten years ago, one such athlete claimed that his ignorance of having taken the drug rendered the drug less effective, in short that a drug is only fully effective if the athlete is aware that they have taken it. Whilst this proposal is at face value counter-intuitive, it is not inconsistent with recent findings relating to the placebo effect in medicine.

For ten years, myself and a team of sports scientists at several UK Universities have researched the above idea.

Firstly we examined what would happen when athletes performed at maximal intensity when they believed that they had taken a performance enhancing drug but had in fact taken a placebo (we informed them that they had taken high doses of caffeine, a substance that, although legal in sport, can still enhance performance substantially). We found that athletes went faster, and that the more caffeine they thought they'd taken, the faster they appeared to go. Of course, they hadn't taken any caffeine, they simply believed that they had. They had experienced a placebo effect, albeit one on performance.

Secondly, we examined what would happen if different athletes were told different stories about the same 'drug' (again, a placebo); some that it would make them go faster, others that it would make them go slower. Not surprisingly given the above, effects were more in line with the story than the content of the tablets, those who went slower experiencing what the medical community term a 'nocebo' or negative placebo effect.

Lastly we examined whether, if we gave athletes a real 'drug' (caffeine), but told them it was a placebo, it would be as effective as when we gave them the drug and told them the truth. It wasn't; whilst the caffeine had an effect in both conditions, it appeared to work almost twice as well when the athletes knew they'd taken it. This finding arguably supported the claims of the athletes described above. This is also a form of placebo effect.

Our research findings suggest that performance levels similar to those resulting from drugs can be achieved through a placebo. It also suggests that drugs are more likely to be effective when an athlete has a positive expectation of them than if they have a negative expectation, and that drugs might be more effective when the athlete knows they've taken them than when they don't. In short, the mind is at play as much as the body when an athlete uses drugs.

So what use is this research? Theoretically, if we can demonstrate to athletes and coaches that the power to improve their performance is as much in the mind as the bottle or syringe, we could help reduce drug use in sport. This in turn may improve the confidence of the public - especially the parents of aspiring athletes - in sport. More importantly, it could reduce the often negative health effects of drug use. The current phase of our research tests this idea by evaluating attitudes to drug use before and after an athlete has experienced the type of 'sports placebo effect' described above.

If you would like to find out more, Chris can be contacted at chb44@aber.ac.uk.

STUDENT NEWS

Elections, Healthy Lunch, May Ball and Rugby 7s – it's all going on at the Union

I am delighted to be able to announce the outcome of our Student Elections 2014, in which the student body elected the next group of full-time Officers to represent them for 2014-15. The sabbatical team for the year ahead are Jacob Ellis as President, Harriet O'Shea as Activities Officer, Grace Burton as Education Officer, Will Atkinson as Welfare Officer and Miriam Williams as UMCA and Welsh Affairs Officer.

By the time this column is printed, the new team will be preparing to take office. This is a very exciting period for the Union, and I look forward to the fantastic work and campaigns they'll put in place to improve the lives of the student body in Aberystwyth. The new team will be introduced in more detail in the next edition of *AberNEWS*.

We were very pleased this semester to re-launch our downstairs catering facility in the Union, 'The Underground', previously maintained by Campus Services. Throughout the week, we now offer a delicious selection of hot subs, filled baguettes, jacket potatoes and a self-service salad bar – an ideal choice for a healthy lunch break. A few aesthetic touch-ups and new soft furnishings downstairs have created a great new social space for students when they come into the Union – whether for work or play.

Moving forward through the semester, we've got lots coming up on the social calendar. We're busy gearing up for our annual May Ball on 9 May, taking over the campus with an evening bursting with live entertainment, split between the Students' Union and the Arts Centre. Open to both students and staff, we're sure there will be something for everyone on the night.



Downstairs catering facility in the Student Union, 'The Underground'

Preparations are also underway for our annual Rugby 7s tournament on 3-4 May, a key weekend in our sporting calendar, which sees around 1,000 players competing in a mix of elite and social leagues. We've filled up registration with entries from current students, University alumni who make the annual pilgrimage back to Aber, University staff and rugby clubs from all over the country. With live entertainment spread over the weekend on Blaendolau Playing Fields, it's an event not to be missed, and a fun weekend for all the family.

Although I'd love to share all of our news in this column, I'd encourage you to pay a visit to our website, where you can find out about all the on goings and exciting new developments at the Union – www.abersu.co.uk

Jamie Barker

Marketing & Communications Manager, Aberystwyth University Students' Union

Hot off the Press!

Congratulations to Team Aber on their victory in the Aber v Bangor Varsity 2014, winning 22-13.



Promotion, reward and recognition processes 2014

Academic Promotions

The 2014 promotions process for Senior Lecturer, Reader and Chair in 2014 has commenced. The deadline for expressions of interest was 24 March 2014 and we are pleased to have received a high numbers of expressions of interest again this year. Mentors have now been allocated and the timetable for the next stages of the process is as follows:-

5 September 2014

Closing date for applications

8 September – 9 November 2014

Assessors reports and references to be obtained and applications to be circulated to panel members

10 November and 17 November 2014

Academic Promotions panel meets

Full details relating to the Academic Promotions Process can be found on the HR website at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/academic-promotions.

Accelerated Increments and Contribution Points Timetable

We are pleased to announce the timescale for the Accelerated Increments and Contribution Points process in 2014. This process has been reviewed as part of our commitment to continuous improvement and revised information is available at www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/employment-information/contribution.

1 August 2014 - Window for submitting applications opens

28 November 2014 - Closing date for applications

w/c 19 January 2015 - AICP panel meets

w/c 26 January 2015 - AICP panel meets

3 February 2015 - Executive considers panel recommendations

10 February 2015 - Employees notified of decision

These dates will be communicated again prior to August and regular reminders will be sent during the period 1 August to 28 November 2014.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the HR Team.

University invests in future of its female leaders

The University is supporting five female staff members to attend the Aurora Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE), a new women-only leadership development initiative that was launched last year.

This initiative is a response to the LFHE's own research which shows there are fewer women in the most senior positions in higher education than ten years ago.

While most leadership programmes are aimed at leaders and managers already in role, Aurora is designed to enable a wide range of women in academic and professional roles in higher education to engage with leadership development at an earlier stage in their careers.

The five women attending from Aberystwyth are Dr Sarah Riley, from the Department of Psychology, Dr Anoush Simon and Ms Jean Jones from the Department of Information Studies, Dr Sarah Davies from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, and Dr Ifat Parveen Shah from IBERS.

Also, in April 2014 the University is submitting applications for an Institutional Athena SWAN Bronze award and an Equality Challenge Unit Gender Equality Chartermark.

Full story: www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2014/01/title-145411-en.html



Dr Sarah Davies, one of the five female staff attending the Aurora Leadership Foundation for Higher Education

International Women's Day photography competition



Geek is smart and chic. Winning photograph by Ramona Tapi

Ramona Tapi, a third year Computer Science student, won the University's Athena Swan photo competition for the most inspiring and evocative image related to the broad theme of 'Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine'.

Forming part of the University's 2014 celebrations of International Women's Day, the competition was run by the Athena Swan Team, and was open to all staff and students at the University.

Entries were judged by a panel of five members of the University and IBERS Athena Swan Self-Assessment Teams: Professor Chris Thomas (PVC for Research), Professor Kate Bullen (Athena Swan Professor), Gary Reed (Director of Research, Business and Innovation), Olympia Petrou (Equality Advisor) and Joy Arkley (IBERS HR Business Partner). Ramona was rewarded for her efforts with a £25 Amazon voucher.

Athena Swan Professor Kate Bullen commented, "Athena SWAN focuses on the career progression women in STEMM, and this photography competition was a great opportunity to explore and highlight new ways of portraying women in these subjects".

SPOTLIGHT



Spotlight on... Student Support

The Student Welcome Centre on Penglais Campus is a one stop shop for student support. To learn more about the services offered, we spoke to the Director of Student Support, Caryl Davies.

Could you tell us a bit about yourself?

I joined the University in 2005 as Assistant Director of Student Support and officially became Director in December 2013, although I'd been Acting Director for some time before that. Before moving to Aberystwyth University I worked for a number of years at another HEI where I held a variety of Student Support roles and before that I worked in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. Before that is too long ago for anyone to remember!

Could you explain the structure of Student Support?

We are made up of 5 distinct and different services and within each service different teams perform different functions.

Accessibility Services offers a range of support to disabled students or those with specific learning difficulties/chronic health issues. Wellness Services is comprised of Student Counselling, our Mental Health Adviser and our nurses who offer advice on a range of health issues. Five teams of Resident Tutors live in University accommodation and make up our Residential Support Service. The Advice, Information and Money Service does what it says on the tin and Childcare Services comprises a Nursery and after school and holiday play schemes.

How many staff are there in the department?

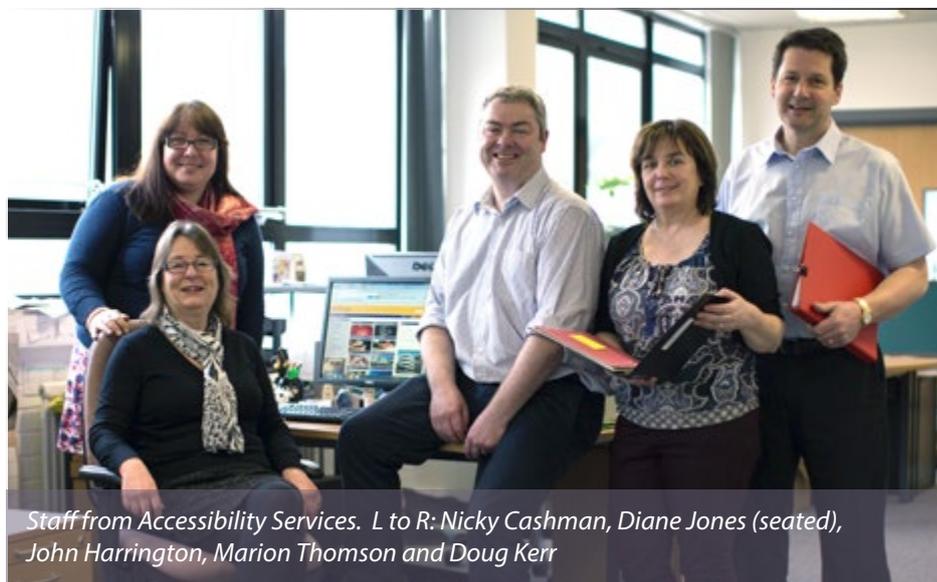
Including Childcare Services we have in excess of 50 core staff (although many of these are part-time posts). We also have about 45 Specialist Mentors and Tutors who work 1:1 with students; numerous note takers and other 1:1 support staff; 9 Residential Support Co-ordinators as well as a number of students who work with us as Resident Tutors or Signpost Mentors.

How has Student Support changed and developed in recent years?

We are trying to get out and about a bit more to make ourselves more accessible to both staff and students and we've been trying to identify (and plug) gaps in provision. We're an enthusiastic group of individuals who are very student-centred and are keen to move the Department onwards and upwards – for example we've embarked on an ambitious plan to gain accreditation in a number of service areas.

What are the common misconceptions that people have about the work your department does?

We often get students who have been asked to contact "Student Support" rather than the specific service and we are



Staff from Accessibility Services. L to R: Nicky Cashman, Diane Jones (seated), John Harrington, Marion Thomson and Doug Kerr

not here just for students – we can also advise and support staff in their interactions with students. There seems to be a misunderstanding about the role we play in supporting students with mental health issues – while we are here to support students in their day to day education we cannot (and should not) duplicate the work of specialist statutory mental health services in the community.

Describe a typical day in Student Support?

I sometimes wish there was a typical day but there isn't - you never quite know what's going to come through the door. That's what makes it so enjoyable and keeps us on our toes. However, it does also mean that some of our best laid plans have to be side-lined to deal with more urgent issues. So if you've emailed me recently and haven't had a reply...

Can a member of staff refer a student to your department if they feel that they feel could benefit from Student Support?

We are always happy to advise staff about how to respond to student issues but prefer them to suggest to students to come and see someone for themselves. This is particularly so for Counselling.

How can people contact you?

We appreciate it's not always easy for people to identify which team within which service they need to contact so our reception staff can signpost in the right direction. But basically, it's 01970 622087 for anything in respect of health/psychological issues (which is the number for our Wellness Centre on Penglais Hill); it's 01970 622233 for Childcare, and for anything else it's the Student Welcome Centre on 01970 621761.

More information is available on our webpages:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/

Spotlight on... Postgraduate

Postgraduate students are part of the future Aberystwyth University. Our Strategic Plan has made this area one of substantial growth and it is part of our role in the Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions Offices to help make this vision a reality.

We thought it was an opportune time to reflect about the developments in postgraduate study over the last year or so and think about why the University (and the UK nationally) needs more postgraduate students.

So why are postgraduates important to us?

As well as teaching, research output is an important aspect of any reputable University and postgraduate students are considerable contributors to our research output. Having postgraduate students increase our capacity for quality research which adds to our HEFCW funded Quality Research (QR) assessment. Our QR funding is currently the third largest in Wales, a statistic to be proud of.

It is (in part) our job as a University to respond to changing needs of the knowledge economy and provide highly skilled workers. Industry, business, non-government organisations and the public sector all seek innovative, knowledgeable and creative employees. Our postgraduates have higher than average employment rates and starting salaries so we know that the University is performing well when it comes to delivering industry standard training and we should aim to continue this tradition. After all, a good reputation for supplying excellent students in industry will help the prestige of your own department.

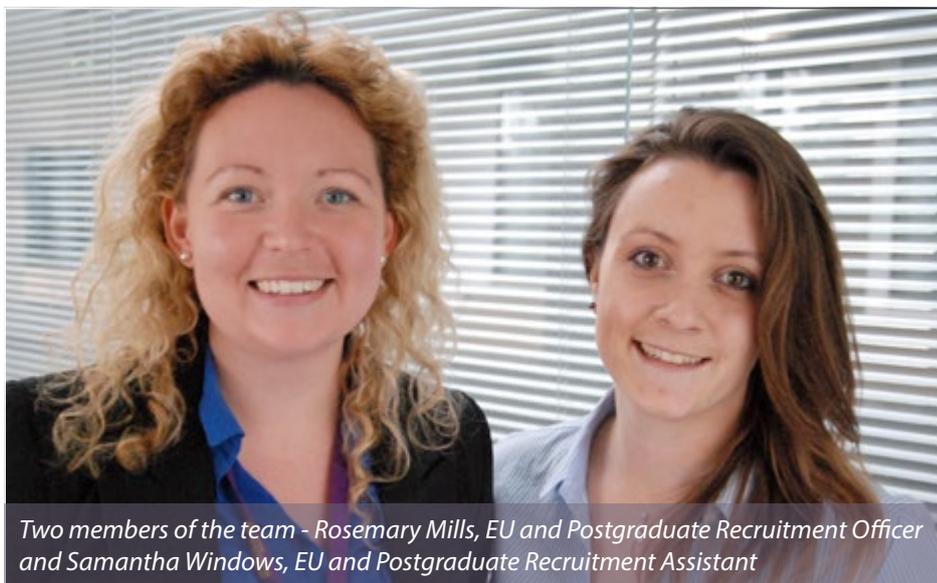
In addition, it's important to remember the cultural value and personal development for a postgraduate student, alongside the professional advantages. Postgraduate students benefit from collaborative working, a dynamic student experience and a real community at AU. Feedback tells us that postgrads enjoy being part of the academic and postgraduate community; they think their academic tutors are great mentors and teachers, and are really pleased with the new Graduate Centre in Llandinam. For the sake of the postgraduate student experience we should ensure that we attract lots of postgraduates from around the globe so this community of postgraduates can grow.

So why should having more postgraduates be important to you?

Postgraduates make a significant contribution to knowledge and it is in our interest to support postgraduate study. We are training the next generation of leading researchers, academics and the future global workforce, and that is a responsibility we should take seriously.

We are also told that postgraduates are a pleasure to work with. They are bright, intelligent and motivated and these are all great reasons to want postgrad students in your department.

Of course, postgraduate student numbers are also uncapped by



Two members of the team - Rosemary Mills, EU and Postgraduate Recruitment Officer and Samantha Windows, EU and Postgraduate Recruitment Assistant

the Welsh government which means you can have as many of these talented students as you wish to accept!

What's new and arriving soon in Postgraduate Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions?

- A new, more user-friendly and student-focused postgraduate application system, being developed in house and expected to be completed in July 2014.
- Instant Web Chat on the website for all postgraduate prospective students.
- Specific Postgraduate Open Days, virtual and physical.
- A Twitter feed, which can be found at @AberUni_PG
- Over 30 new postgraduate courses, with new editions starting this September in River Basin Dynamics, Applied Theatre, Environmental Change, and Television and Digital Culture.
- Staff newsletters with information on postgraduate related issues and admissions updates
- A brand new Graduate Centre in Llandinam, Penglais Campus
- Postgraduate Virtual Open Day dates set
- New postgraduate scholarships for IMLIS students starting in September 2014

What with the Doctoral Career Development Scheme deadline in early March (this is the University's prestigious PhD Funding scheme), a Postgraduate Open Day on 5th April and Aberystwyth representatives out at recruitment fairs, it's great to see the Postgraduate Taught application numbers for Home/EU above what it was this time last year – despite a national decline, so we've good reasons to be positive.

Finally, we want our postgraduates to feel valued at Aberystwyth University for their intellect and contributions to knowledge; so let's work together and send a clear message that we want postgraduate students.

ABER PEOPLE

Person Profile

In Person Profile we focus on a staff member and their role. This edition, we spoke to Janet Sanders who works in the Energy and Environment section of the Estates Development Department, which works to minimise the overall environmental impact of the University estate.

Tell me a bit about your background

I moved to Aberystwyth in 1993 and graduated in 1998 from the University with a BSc in Environmental Earth Sciences.

What is your current role and what does it entail?

I was appointed to the role of Energy Advisor for the University in November 2013. My main activities over the last few months have been establishing the Carbon Management Strategy for the University, the Ecocampus Scheme, getting the Sustainability Group re-established, and working to improve the University's position in environmental accreditation and awards schemes.

Can you explain a bit about the Carbon Management Strategy?

The Carbon Management Strategy (CMS) details the existing and future commitment of the University to manage and reduce carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions and energy costs. It provides a robust framework for achieving emission reductions through implementing good housekeeping, invest-to-save and renewables projects. Over the last 5 years, the University has reduced its CO₂e emissions by more than 10%. However, a challenging target of 3% carbon reduction year-upon-year has been set. The strategy will run until 2020/21, with a full interim review to be performed in 2016/17.

And, what is the Ecocampus Scheme?

The Ecocampus Scheme (www.ecocampus.co.uk) is a programme designed to guide Higher and Further Education institutions through the implementation of an Environmental Management System, and the University is now a member. Membership gives us access to an online Resource Centre packed with useful resources, including software manuals and training courses. Over the next few months, there will be a series of presentations for staff and students, which will let you know how you can access these resources and get involved. We will also be working with some of our suppliers to see how sustainable procurement can be developed.

What does the Sustainability Group do?

The Sustainability Group will be looking to improve performance and knowledge of energy, waste, water and transport emissions. Led by Rebecca Davies Pro Vice Chancellor, the group includes members from academic and support staff, students and Union representation.

How is the environmental impact of buildings on campus being minimised?

The Building Management System, which is the computer-based control system installed in buildings, has had controls



Janet Sanders

and meters upgraded. Energy efficient replacements for some very elderly gas boilers are being identified, including options for biomass and/or Combined Heat and Power for various sites. With IBERS, I have been looking to develop a biomass resource assessment, anaerobic digestion for farm slurry waste, a demonstration pico-hydro installation, and wind resources. Photovoltaic and solar thermal for roofs is being appraised as roofs are being upgraded.

What environmental accreditation and award schemes is the University involved in?

The University is determined to perform as well as possible in the People and Planet Green League and the Green Impact Awards.

The Green Impact Awards is an environmental accreditation and awards scheme run by the National Union of Students, which brings staff and students together with their wider communities to enable and showcase positive changes in environmental practice.

This is the first year that AU has taken part, and it offers an exciting way for teams across the University to improve their environmental impact and engage staff and students on essential issues. It is a great chance for staff to show what is already done to improve environmental performance as well as providing the opportunity to work towards future environmental goals.

Participants take part by working through an online workbook of criteria, which are split into Bronze, Silver and Bonus categories. Near the end of the academic year, this online workbook is submitted and the teams are audited by AU students or staff.

Visit greenimpact.org.uk/aberystwyth for more information.

When you're not at work, what do you like to do?

In no particular order... running half marathons, cooking, walking, chickens, family.

Appointments

ESTATES DEVELOPMENT



Mark Taylor has been appointed Director of Estates Development. An alumnus of the University of Westminster with a BSc in Urban Estate Management and the University of South Wales with a Post Graduate Diploma in Management, Mark has some 30 years' experience in

the Estates sector. His career began in private sector consultancy in London and moved into various property positions in Local Government in Wales.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Tim Davies has been appointed to the substantive role of Deputy Director of Information Services, and will be stepping up as Director of Information Services for the next two years. An Aberystwyth alumnus with several University degrees, Tim joined the University in 1996 as a Research Associate in the Department of Computer Science and was previously Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services. Tim is currently completing his MBA at Aberystwyth.



INTERNATIONAL POLITICS



Dr Sergey Radchenko has joined the department as a Reader in International Relations. An international historian of the Cold War with expertise in nuclear history, Soviet foreign policy and East Asian politics, Dr Radchenko joins the University after spending several years as Assistant and then Associate Professor at the University

of Nottingham's China campus, where he also directed the Institute of Asia Pacific Studies.

Obituaries

Robert (Bob) John Wootton (1942 - 2014)

A native of Birmingham, Bob took his first degree at Cambridge University, followed by a PhD at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. His long career in research and teaching started in the Department of Zoology here in Aberystwyth and ended on his retirement as a Reader at IBERS. Bob was renowned internationally for his research on fish, particularly sticklebacks. He was the author of many papers and several books in this area and was elected to Fellowship of the Linnean Society. In 2010 he was awarded the Le Cren Medal of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles. He was fully committed to teaching and was instrumental in establishing the innovative degree courses then known as Environmental Science and Aquatic Biology. Their successors, Environmental Biosciences and Marine & Freshwater Biology, continue to attract students to IBERS.



Mariaine Victorine (Peggy) Jones (1948 - 2014)



Born in Belgium, Peggy started her career as a nurse training in Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth. She later took a degree in nursing in London and returned to Aberystwyth to take up the role of Matron in Bodlondeb.

At a career crossroads, Peggy met Dr Kemp, the then Warden of Cwrt Mawr, who asked her if she would like to become 'a mother to 1,300 University students'. This fortuitous meeting prompted the start of her new and happy life as Residence Manager with the University. Peggy retired after 16 years of service in 2007.

Quality assurance appointment

Professor John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience and International, has been appointed to the Board of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The QAA guides and reviews universities and colleges across the UK, judging academic standards and the quality of the learning experience.



Retirements

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Professor Ian Clark from the Department of International Politics retired at the end of 2013. One of the department's longest-serving members of academic staff, Professor Clarke is a world-renowned expert in international history and international relations theory. He will be much missed by staff and students alike, and his popularity was reflected by the many tributes sent in by current and former students via Twitter, which were read out at his retirement party. Professor Clark and his wife will be relocating to Australia, where they have family and many close friends.



Professor Martin Alexander from the Department of International Politics retired last month. Professor Alexander, who joined the University in 2001, is a leading expert in strategy and military history, with a particular interest in French military history. Professor Alexander's modules were always extremely popular with students, not least because of his enthusiastic lecturing style, but also because of the care and attention that he gave to each student. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Firefly Children's Book Prize 2014

Dr Sarah Taylor, Head of Strategic Development in the Planning, Governance & Business Information Department, has won the Firefly Children's Book Prize 2014 with a 21st century take on a rather grumpy King Arthur and his squabbling knights. The book, *Arthur and Me*, delighted the judges with its wit and comic timing. It is aimed at 7-9 year olds and will be published with Firefly in the autumn. The prize was offered for an original children's story for 7-9 year olds set in modern-day Wales by a first-time children's author, and was judged anonymously. Sarah also won £500, a week writer's retreat at Chawton House and editorial advice from Firefly Press.



Dr Sarah Taylor

Dr Huw Morgan receives award in memory of young scholar

Dr Huw Morgan, lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Physics, has received an award established by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in memory of Dr Eilir Hedd Morgan, a Coleg Cymraeg lecturer at Bangor University, who was tragically killed in an accident last year.

The annual award will be presented to an individual under forty years of age who has made a significant contribution to science through the medium of Welsh. Dr Huw Morgan was presented with this year's award during the Coleg's Annual Congregation in Carmarthen on 18 February.

Born and bred in Llanbrynmair, mid Wales, Huw's main expertise is in the field of astronomy and the solar system. He worked as a Scientific Researcher at Hawaii University before being appointed to a lecturing post funded by the Coleg at Aberystwyth University in 2011.

During the congregation, four prominent figures were honoured by the Coleg as a way of recognising their vital contribution to Welsh medium higher education over many years. One of those honoured was Professor Elan Closs Stephens, who has promoted studying in Welsh throughout her entire academic career. She was the first to be appointed to a Welsh medium lecturing post at the University's Department of Film and Television and subsequently during her time as Head of Department she succeeded in increasing the provision available.

World premiere of lost music



Dr David Russell Hulme

Thanks to the research of Dr David Russell Hulme, Director of Music and Reader at the University Music Centre, BBC Radio 2 was able to broadcast the world premiere of a lost song by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Friday Night is Music Night, which is hugely popular all over the world, presented a Gilbert and Sullivan evening on Friday 7 March, featuring several songs reconstructed from incomplete material by Dr Hulme, who is widely regarded as the world's foremost authority on Sullivan's manuscripts.

The world premiere was of a ballad for the principal contralto in *The Sorcerer*. It

was cut just before the first performance in 1877 and has never been heard in public.

The words survived but the musical material was discarded, believed lost until an incomplete set of orchestral parts surfaced recently. From these Dr Hulme reconstructed a complete orchestral score and voice part.

International Documentary Film Festival

Dr Dafydd Sills-Jones, lecturer in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, recently took part in Helsinki's International Documentary Film Festival, Docpoint. Whilst there he participated in events sponsored by the European



Dr Dafydd Sills-Jones

Documentary Network. In particular he was invited to moderate a special session where Finnish and Nordic documentary film producers came face to face with representatives from the six leading documentary film festivals of Europe – Berlinale, IDFA (Amsterdam), CHP:DOX (Copenhagen), Jihlava, Nyon (Switzerland) and Artdocfest (Moscow). Dafydd also presented his latest research work, a documentary film entitled '17', to colleagues at Aalto University in their 'Ajatuspiiri' ('Circle of Thought') research seminar series.



Dr Huw Morgan

WHAT'S ON

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

Wales Festival of Architecture 2014

Organised by Royal Society of Architects in Wales and Aberystwyth Arts Centre

15-17 May

This year the festival will take Dylan Thomas' boathouse as an inspiration to investigate original ideas for small creative spaces/sheds in a series of themed events, talks, exhibitions and workshops. The festival will also include a performance of a special production *Under Ply-wood* - a unique take on regeneration and town planning.



Worktown: The Drawings of Falcon Hildred. An exhibition of the work of the highly accomplished artist, from Blaenau Ffestiniog, who has dedicated his working life to recording buildings and landscapes of nineteenth and twentieth-century industry.

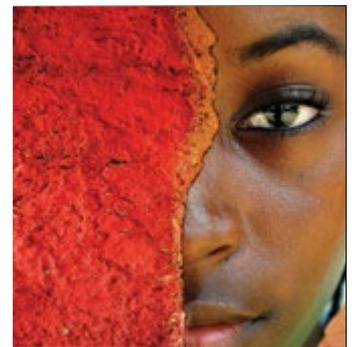
The Eye International Photography Festival

27-29 June

Over one busy weekend, leading UK and international photographers will gather in Aberystwyth for a jam-packed programme of talks, discussions, interviews, portfolio reviews and prestigious photography exhibitions for The Eye International Photography Festival.

Festival passes cost £60 for the weekend. Day tickets for Saturday and Sunday are also available at £40, and concession prices and special group discounts are available.

Further information at: www.theeyefestival.co.uk



Angéle Etoundi Essamba

SCHOOL OF ART EXHIBITIONS

7 April – 9 May (closed 18 and 21 April)

Gallery 1 & 2

Full Circle

Wood engravings by Hilary Paynter

This exhibition is a retrospective account of the career of one of the UK's most admired and prolific wood engravers.



'Fallen Angel' wood engraving, 2008

Spanning 40 years it coincides with a publication with the same title. Hilary Paynter was born in Scotland and studied at Portsmouth College of Art. Following this she achieved an MA and MSc in Psychology and worked as an educational psychologist but continued with her printmaking practice. She is now President of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers and an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Paynter's subjects encompass social-political concerns as well as an ongoing interest in landscape and illustration. Her work is direct, playful, humorous and passionate. She has work in the collections of the V&A, Laing Art Gallery, the Fitzwilliam Museum, and the Ashmolean Museum and she has illustrated numerous books including titles for Gregynog Press. She has also been commissioned to design murals for Tyne and Wear Metro on the concourse of Newcastle Central station and copies of these huge panels are displayed in the exhibition at the School of Art.

Gallery 3

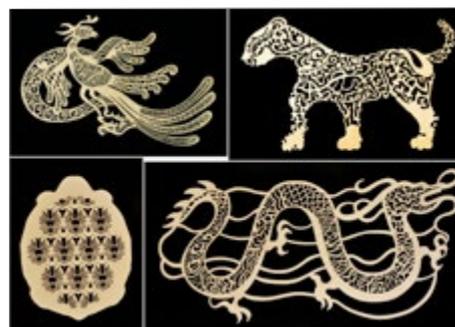
Synthesis of Eastern and Western Reflections

The four guardians of the sky: Dragon, Phoenix, Turtle and Tiger
Ousama Lazkani, PhD Exhibition

Before starting his PhD in Aberystwyth Ousama Lazkani moved from Syria to study an MA at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. Here he was able to research and practice Chinese approaches to printmaking and book illustration.

He has always been fascinated with the origins, connotations, similarities and differences between Eastern and Western cultural differences and beliefs particularly in the spheres of art, mythology and astrology.

His PhD practice has provided him with the opportunity to continue this cross-cultural research and to combine it with his Middle Eastern heritage.



'Dragon, Phoenix, Turtle and Tiger', laser cut plywood

In this exhibition Lazkani focuses on the central creatures of Chinese Legend: Dragon, Phoenix, Tiger and Turtle.