



Celebrating 150 years

Students, staff, alumni and friends of Aberystwyth University gathered on Friday 14 October to kick the bar on the town's famous promenade for the founders' day celebration to mark the institution's 150th Anniversary.

The event marked the latest in a year-long programme of celebrations a century and half after the University welcomed its first students to an unfinished Victorian hotel, later to become the Old College, on 16 October 1872.

Led by Professor Jamie Medhurst, head of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors Dame Elan Closs Stephens and Elfyn Llwyd, the Founders' Day procession kicked the bar, which this year was adorned in the University's red and green, thanks to the work of Dr Cathryn Charnell-White, head of the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies.

The kicking of the bar was followed by the traditional breakfast event, echoing the breakfast enjoyed by the University's founders in the Belle Vue Hotel on the 15th of October 1872 to celebrate the opening.

This year's breakfast marked the launch of the newly published 150th anniversary book *Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People*. The illustrated volume brings to life a wealth of stories and people from the University's past and present through 150 objects drawn mainly from the University's own collections archive and academic departments.

Further details of the 150th anniversary celebrations are available online.

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150th anniversary book published

The Chair of the Editorial Board has thanked all members of staff, students, alumni and others who contributed to the creation of the University's 150th anniversary book.

Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People was published on Founders' Day 14 October 2022 and reflects on different aspects of the University's history through 150 objects.

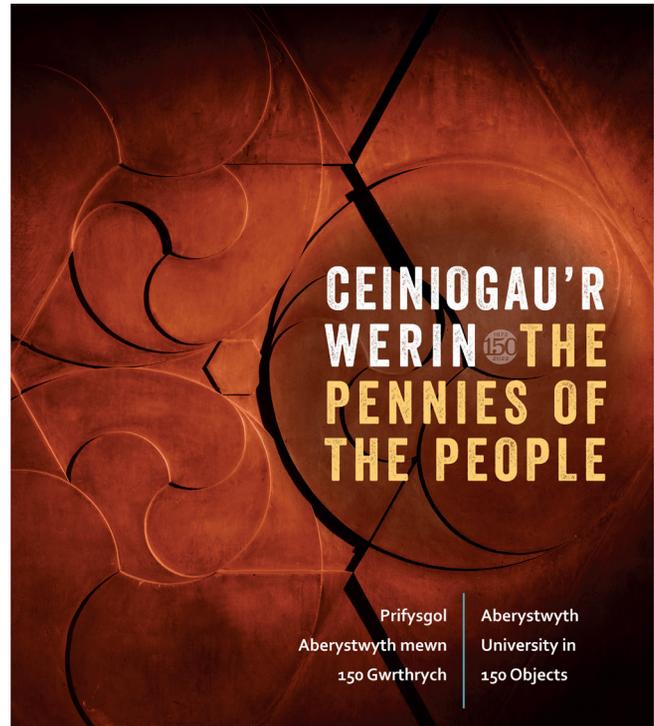
Speaking at the launch of the book in the Great Hall, Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, said: "The publication of this book has truly been a joint effort across the University's broad family and, as an Editorial Board, we are extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the creation of a landmark publication which will be a lasting legacy of our 150th birthday.

"In addition to numerous nominations for content, more than 115 members of staff, students, alumni and others wrote some wonderful text to sit alongside images of the 150 objects. Some chose to submit short essays, others a personal memoir, piece of prose or a poem. Together, their words weave a rich and varied tapestry of stories, events and people from our past and present.

"At an extremely busy time for everyone, I am also grateful to my fellow members on the Editorial Board for their hard work and commitment in ensuring this beautifully illustrated book was published in time for our Founders' Day celebrations."

The 312-page hardback book includes striking full-page photographs of the 150 objects, taken by Aberystwyth-based photographer Rolant Dafis.

Many of the featured objects come from the University's own collections while some are included by permission of The National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales, Urdd Gobaith Cymru and others.



Win a copy

For a chance of winning a copy of the book, please send your answer to the following question to communications@aber.ac.uk by Friday 11 November 2022 using your aber.ac.uk email address. The winner will be drawn at random from all correct answers submitted.

When the first University College in Wales opened its doors in Aberystwyth in October 1872, how many members of staff did it have?

Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People (Aberystwyth University, 2022) is available in bookshops and online, including the University's website, for £25.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/about-us/150-anniversary/150-publication



The Vice-Chancellor's Column



As the days grow shorter and we begin to see the autumn colours appearing, the summer's sun-drenched graduation ceremonies seem a distant memory. However, it wouldn't be right not to mention them here. Providing three years' of students with the graduation day that they deserved was a fantastic achievement, and one that was accomplished through of great deal of hard work by a great many dedicated people, so a huge thank you for that.

The beginning of September saw the arrival of our first cohort of Nursing students. This is such an exciting development for our University, and it will help meet the demand for nurses for the hospital, primary care, care homes and social services here in mid-Wales and beyond. 50% of this year's Nursing students are Welsh speakers, and the fact that they will be able to study up to half of their course through the medium of Welsh, will have a hugely beneficial impact on future service users.

The majority of our other students followed a few weeks later, and it was lovely to see campus busy with Welcome and Orientation activities. I am grateful to staff from across the University who volunteered to greet and signpost our new students and their families as they arrived with us.

Our Founders Day celebrations on Friday 14 October took on an added significance this year, as they marked 150 years of educating students here in Aberystwyth. It was a real pleasure to join with students, staff and friends of this, Wales' first University to take this great opportunity to celebrate our remarkable history and heritage.

The day began with our customary early morning walk to 'kick the bar', followed by a celebratory breakfast, as our predecessors enjoyed in 1872. We also saw the launch of the wonderful 150th book *Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People*. If you haven't yet had chance to see a copy, it really is a superb tribute to some of the remarkable items and stories that have contributed to making our University the place that it is today. And it was a real pleasure to speak to lots of colleagues from across the University during the staff party in the evening.

Of course, Founders Day itself is only the beginning of a year-long programme of events to mark our special anniversary. This month we will also join friends and alumni at events in Cardiff and London, and throughout the year ahead we will join with supporters across the globe to celebrate the University's contribution to the world and look forward to the next 150 years in our history.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice-Chancellor



University to raise money for chemotherapy day unit

Students and staff have voted to support the chemotherapy day unit at Bronglais Hospital as the Aberystwyth University Charity of the Year 2022-23.

Hywel Dda Health Charities recently announced that its Bronglais Chemo Appeal had raised the remaining £500,000 needed to proceed with plans to build a modern and purpose-built £2.2m chemotherapy day unit at Bronglais General Hospital.

Funds raised by the University staff and students over the next year will now go towards enhancing the new unit and providing services and activities which are beyond what the NHS can normally provide.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice Chancellor of Aberystwyth University, said: "We are very pleased to be able to contribute towards Hywel Dda University Health Board's vision for a brand new chemotherapy unit at Bronglais. It will be of enormous benefit to people from Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys who are receiving anti-cancer treatment. Supporting this local facility is an issue close to the hearts of a great many of our staff and students, and we look forward to showing our support through fundraising on campus over the next year."

Bettina Vance, Chemotherapy Clinical Nurse Specialist, said: "We are absolutely thrilled that students and staff at Aberystwyth have chosen the chemotherapy day unit at Bronglais Hospital as their Charity of the Year. The chemotherapy day unit delivers cancer services to patients from

across mid Wales. The donations will support the department to provide services and activities above and beyond what the NHS can provide, and will have a big impact on the experience of patients, families and staff. On behalf of the unit I would like to say a huge thank you for your support."

Now in its tenth year, the University Charity of the Year appeal seeks to raise as much funding as possible for a worthy cause, and provide a fundraising focus for staff, students and the community.



Staff at the Bronglais Chemotherapy Day Unit

Cheque presented to Wales Air Ambulance

On Friday 14 October, Vice-Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure presented a cheque for £5,200 to Wales Air Ambulance, representing the total raised by staff and students for the University's Charity of the Year for 2021-22.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure said: "Here in Aberystwyth we are blessed with beautiful countryside which offers plenty of opportunities for people to get out and enjoy the natural surroundings. However, there are parts of our local landscape that are not easily or quickly accessible by road in the event of an emergency, and this is why the service provided by the Wales Air Ambulance is so critical to rural and remote regions like ours. It has been a pleasure to be able to support this life-saving service through our fundraising over the last year".

Dougie Bancroft, Community Fundraiser for Wales Air Ambulance, who received the cheque on behalf of the charity, said: "We are over the moon at the support we have received from right across campus and beyond. This helps in keeping Wales Air Ambulance operating right across Wales and saving lives. Thank you so much".



Exciting new era of healthcare education provision

by Amanda Jones , Principal Lead in Healthcare Education



Principal Lead in Healthcare Education
Amanda Jones

At the beginning of September we welcomed our first cohort of nursing students to Aberystwyth. A historic and exciting moment for the University, the development is also being hailed as a major boost for the health service, especially in mid Wales.

Following the huge strain on health and social care during the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to pre-existing recruitment issues, this development will make healthcare education more accessible for many, especially in a predominantly rural region like ours.

This initial step into Healthcare Education sees the University offering two degree courses - BSc Adult Nursing and BSc Mental Health Nursing.

Teaching takes place in our Healthcare Education Centre, which was officially opened by Wales' Health Minister Eluned Morgan MS on 30 September 2022.

The learning experience is enhanced by our newly established Clinical Skills Unit, with its suite of high quality clinical practice rooms where students can learn and practise clinical skills in a safe and supportive environment. This simulation area reflects the patient's journey from home and community services through to assessment, planned and acute care. It allows students to put their theoretical knowledge into practice in an environment that reflects as closely as possible the conditions that they will experience when they go on placement in a hospital or community setting.

The new teaching equipment includes virtual reality headsets for experiencing ageing and life-size human models that simulate a wide variety of health conditions.

Half of the programme will involve students studying theoretical modules and the other half in clinical practice placements. Students will acquire the fundamentals of holistic nursing practice, meeting the standards and requirements of the Nursing & Midwifery Council, whilst also benefitting from a bespoke and intimate learning experience with a curriculum that is shaped by the local community and environment.

We pride ourselves on our commitment to the Welsh language and are well aware of its importance to very many service users and the students who care for them. So our nursing students will also have the opportunity to study up to half of their course through the medium of Welsh, which will enable and safeguard the Welsh language provision of quality healthcare services for future generations.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Health Minister Eluned Morgan MS, Principal Lead in Healthcare Education Amanda Jones, and Elin Jones MS opening the Healthcare Education Centre



First cohort of nursing students at Aberystwyth University

Night Terrors - troubled sleep and the stories we tell about it

Dr Alice Vernon is based in the Department of English and Creative Writing where she teaches the fundamentals of storytelling, and conducts research on representations of sleep and sleep disorders in science and culture.

Her narrative non-fiction book *Night Terrors* was published earlier this month.

ABER News asked Alice to tell us more about her fascination with sleep disorders and their strange supernatural interpretations.

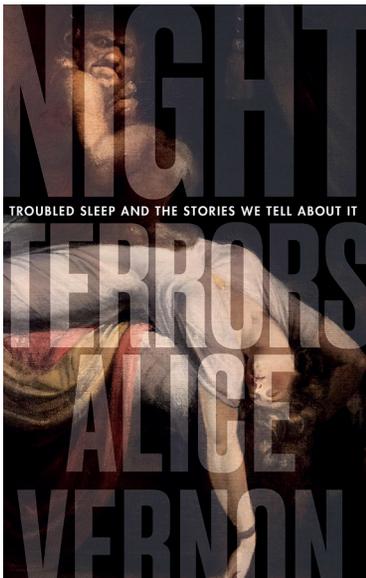


Dr Alice Vernon

How long have you been fascinated by nightmares, lucid dreams, and things that go bump in the night?

These have been a part of my life since I was child, when I would sleepwalk around the house and had nightmares about Cybermen and UFOs (very specifically). When I was a teenager, I started to experience more hallucinatory sleep disorders, but I also began to lucid dream, too. I started my PhD at Aberystwyth in 2015, under the supervision of Dr Jacqueline Yallop, which investigated representations of insomnia in fiction. By the end of the PhD, though, all I wanted to write about was nightmares and sleep paralysis—the things that have haunted my sleep for most of my life. Soon after I handed in my thesis, I hallucinated every night for a week that a ghostly woman didn't want me to move out of my flat. It was absolutely terrifying. I think that was the moment when I knew I needed to begin investigating how we've represented and reacted to parasomnias throughout history.

Tell us about your new book and the research that led to it?



Night Terrors is about the dark side of sleep that often gets overlooked because of its association with madness and the paranormal, yet 70% of us will, at some point in our lives, have at least one of the disorders I write about. In finding examples and case studies from history, as well as being rather brutally honest about my own troubled sleep, I'm hoping to encourage

conversations about parasomnias—and for people to feel less weird for experiencing them, too. My favourite book is Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and when I revisited it during my PhD I realised just how much of it is about troubled sleep. Legend has it that Stoker ate some bad seafood and had a nightmare that gave him the inspiration for his iconic vampire. Whether that's true or not, I think you can actually read the whole book as one big metaphor for sleep disorders; sleep paralysis, hallucinations, sleepwalking—*Dracula* provokes them all. My research starts with *Dracula*, but covers a range of strange and unexpected things, from the Salem Witch Trials to World War II dream diaries, from *Lady Macbeth* to alien abduction.

Of all the 'parasomnias', which one do you find the most frightening?

Each parasomnia is frightening in a different way. A hallucination of a spider in my bed will startle me into scrambling out of bed, but then I'll just as quickly calm down and fall asleep again. Sleep paralysis, on the other hand, is a far slower and sinister kind of threat, and even though I know the experience wasn't real, I do find it alters my mood the next day.

If somebody could promise you a peaceful and dreamless night's sleep every night, would you take them up on the offer?

Oddly, I don't think I would! While it would be nice to stop hallucinating, and to know with certainty that I'll never sleepwalk again, I find dreams—especially the mind-bending thrill of lucid dreams—absolutely fascinating. And as someone who's interested in horror fiction, it all makes for excellent stories!

In addition to the day job

Dr Amanda Clare is a senior lecturer in the Department of Computer Science. Her research interests lie in computational biology, genomics, artificial intelligence and data mining.

Outside of work, she teaches swing dancing!

We spoke to Amanda to find out more...

Could you explain what swing dancing is?

It's a dance from the 1930s in America when big bands played swing music and people danced the night away and socialised. It's a happy energetic partnered dance, with roots in tap, jazz, Charleston and African dances.



When and how did you get into swing dancing?

In 2004 a visiting PhD student to the Computer Science Department was talking about enjoying swing dancing back in Norway. We then put him in touch with a Master's student from America studying International Politics who had also mentioned swing dancing. They both showed us some dancing and we were hooked.

What is it that you enjoy about swing dancing?

The music is fun, the playfulness of the dance is fun and the people in the group are really friendly. It's a very sociable dance which gets me away from the computer and makes me smile.

Tell us about AberSwing

AberSwing has been going ever since then, since 2004. We have people of all ages from students up to retired active people. We dance Lindy Hop and Charleston and Solo Jazz. We change partners frequently throughout the class so that we all learn good leading and following skills. This also means that no one needs to come with a partner, and we all get to dance with everyone else.



If somebody is interested in getting into swing dancing, what advice would you give?

Just turn up and give it a try. We have classes that welcome beginners in Llanbadarn Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes without too much grip. Pay how you feel, just put a donation in the tin. It's energetic so a bottle of water might be a good idea.



KEEZLE WACKA



Cat Griffiths and Beckie Sweeney

As regular readers of ABERNews will know, every now and then, we invite the University's Information Governance Team to give us an insight into some of the remarkable items that have been preserved in the University archive.

This edition's Keezle Wacka is brought to you by Catrin Griffiths (Cat) and Beckie Sweeney who both joined the team during the pandemic.

Uncovering Olivia

Starting a new job during COVID certainly had its challenges and it was undeniably a steep learning curve!

Our introduction to the University archive was in our first week when Cat mentioned that her great great-aunt, Olivia Griffiths, had graduated from the University of Wales around 1900.

Some of our earlier student records had been digitised, so this was our starting point. We were able to find Olivia's student record in the [1908 student register](#). But how amazing would it be if we could find a photograph of her during her time studying here?

Other publications (*The Dragon* magazine) helped to identify that Olivia was a member of the Students' Representative Council, which led us to the 1910-11 UCW Students' Representative Council photo, which included Olivia.

The 1910 UCW Calendar then confirmed that she graduated that year with first-class honours in German.

It was a surprise to find a mention of her in the [Reports submitted to the Court of Governors](#) noting her employment in the Education department at the University. The staff register held in the archive recorded Olivia's role as the Mistress of Method.

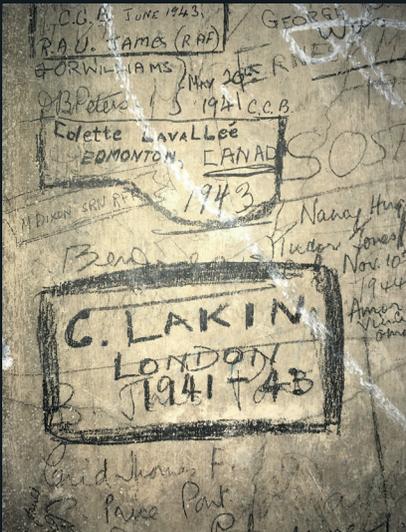
After working entirely from home as a new team for the first six months, we were given the task of helping clear the Old College (including moving the archive). This was our first opportunity to work together in person (masked up and socially distanced, of course) and who wouldn't want to explore every corner of this beautiful, historical building?



1910-11 UCW Students' Representative Council



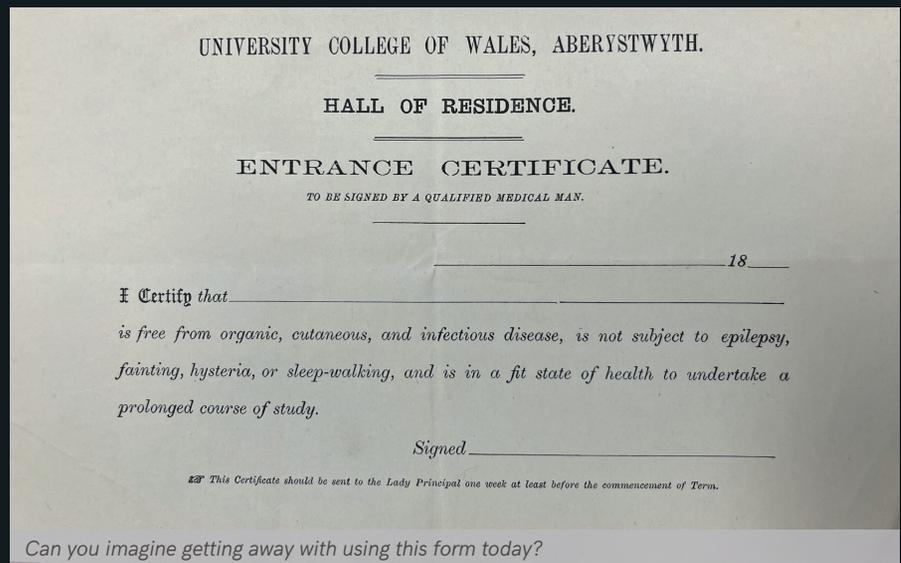
Old College archive



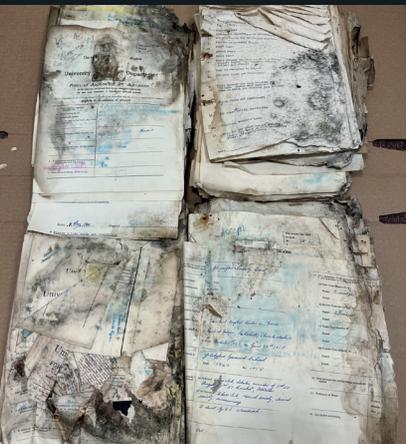
Some of the graffiti on the tower walls in the Old College

As you can imagine, we discovered some very interesting and sometimes rather dirty things along the way. We uncovered almost a hundred years of teacher training records from 1890 onwards, graffiti-covered walls in the tower and part of a train from a RAG float in the attic (which, yes, we did have to rescue, so thank you to whoever had to carry it down all those stairs!).

Beckie worked in Residences previously, so she has a particular interest in the history of university accommodation. In particular, the application forms from female students applying to live in Alexandra Hall, which we have from 1907. So how do we know what life was really like living in Alex Hall all those years ago? We are fortunate to have letters in the archives from Miss Olive Marsh who moved in in 1898, two years after the new hall of residence was officially opened by the Princess of Wales, who gave it her own name 'Alexandra'. But that's a story for another time...



Can you imagine getting away with using this form today?



Teacher training records rescued from the Old College basement

After months of unpacking at the new home of the University archives in Gogerddan, we are finally ready to welcome you to the reading room. If you are interested in visiting to consult the archives, please get in touch with us at archives@aber.ac.uk.

We are also always on the lookout to add to the collections, so if you have any items associated with the University that need relocating to a good home, then we look forward to hearing from you.



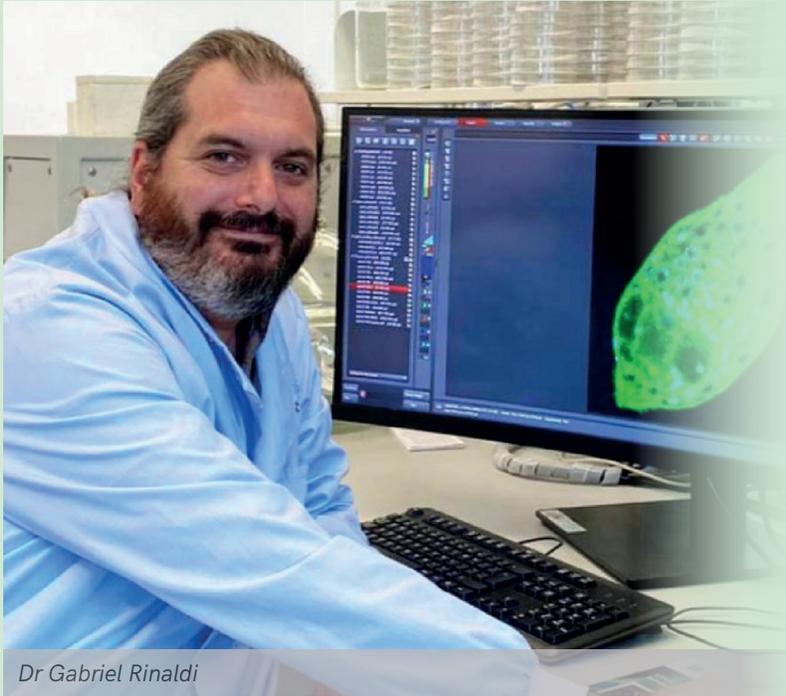
Part of a train from a RAG float discovered in the attic



New reading room at the Lord Milford building, Gogerddan

Why "Keezle Wacka"?
 The column's title is taken from the Aberystwyth 'College Yell', which originates from 1905 when the decision was taken to establish a chant with which to support fellow Aber students at inter-college sporting events. Following a competition in the Old College Quad when a number of proposed yells were demonstrated by their composers, a winning yell was adopted. The expression 'Keezle Wacka' used in the Aberystwyth College Yell was later chosen as the title for the Aber RAG magazine which ran for several decades, and seemed an appropriately quirky title for this column.

Meet the UKRI Future Leaders Fellow



Dr Gabriel Rinaldi

Dr Gabriel Rinaldi joined the Department of Life Sciences in August to take up a prestigious Future Leaders Fellowship, awarded by the UK Research and Innovation body (UKRI). The award celebrates leading early career academics in the UK and provides them with support to continue their research into society's biggest problems.

We spoke to Gabriel to find out more about him and the importance of his research.

Tell us a bit about your background

I am a medical doctor by training and practised medicine as General Practitioner (GP) for seven years in my home country, Uruguay.

However, since early on as an undergraduate I was also fascinated by fundamental science; genetics and molecular biology, in particular.

While working as GP, I enrolled on a Master in Science degree followed by a PhD in Molecular Parasitology at the School of Science, UDELAR.

I then did post-doctoral training at the George Washington University (Washington DC), where I developed and optimised protocols for maintenance and genetic manipulation of parasitic worms that affect hundreds of million people worldwide.

Later on, I moved to the UK to work as Senior Staff Scientist at the Wellcome Sanger Institute in Cambridge. Here, I led projects on genetic manipulation of parasitic worms and established a genomic platform that included cutting-edge molecular and 'omics' technologies to study the fundamental biology of these parasites.

I have now brought this technology to the Department of Life Sciences via a Future Leaders Fellowship, awarded by the UK Research and Innovation body.

What are your first impressions of Aberystwyth?

I first visited Aberystwyth with my family in 2018, when the British Society of Parasitology meeting was held at Aberystwyth University.

We were so impressed by the beauty of the town and the harmony between the seacoast and the magnificent surrounding green hills.

The people are very nice and friendly, and even though Aberystwyth is quite a small town, it displays a big diverse community and has a unique "international vibe".

Coming from a coastal town in Uruguay, and having lived in inland cities for more than a decade now, settling in such a paradisiacal place facing the sea is almost like going back home.

What is the Future Leaders Fellowship?

The Future Leaders Fellowship scheme, awarded by UKRI, offers long-term support to enable fellows to tackle ambitious programmes or multidisciplinary questions.

The Fellowship will enable me to continue my career development, establish my own research team as leader of an innovative research programme, and join the internationally-recognised infectious disease research community here at Aberystwyth University.

It will also facilitate the accomplishment of an ambitious research project, focused on functional genomics and the molecular and developmental biology of parasitic flatworms that are responsible for major Neglected Tropical Diseases.



Schistosomiasis affects more than 250 million people around the world and is caused by parasitic flatworms known as schistosomes

What is your research about and why is it important?

My research interests focus on the use of cellular and molecular biology approaches coupled with genomics to study Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

Parasitic worms called schistosomes are the infectious agents of schistosomiasis, a major NTD that affects more than 250 million people and kills several thousand annually in Low and Middle-Income Countries. The disease is associated with liver inflammation and fibrosis, or kidney and bladder pathology (including bladder cancer), depending on the parasite species.

Treatment for schistosomiasis relies entirely on a single drug (praziquantel), but signs of resistance to it are emerging. This means that new strategies for controlling the disease are urgently needed.

My research will use cutting-edge molecular biology approaches to reveal key factors involved in the early development of male and female parasites and their interaction with the host. This will ultimately expose vulnerabilities that can be exploited with novel control strategies, including drugs and vaccines.

Finally, if you could quickly and easily learn any new skill, what would it be?

If it was possible to do so quickly and easily, I would try to improve my bioinformatic skills. Having worked at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, experiencing over the years the extremely fruitful interaction between "dry lab" (i.e. bioinformatician) and "wet-lab" researchers, I wish I could have learnt more computational biology early on in my career. I think, nowadays, it is essential for students in any biomedical field to be trained on large-scale data analyses to shed light on fundamental, and many times very old, questions in biology.

Recognised Research Supervisor accreditation

Professor Stephen Tooth from the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences is the first Aberystwyth University academic to be awarded UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) Recognised Research Supervisor accreditation.



The accreditation reflects the wide-ranging, highly complex and demanding set of roles involved in modern research supervision. It asks applicants to reflect upon 10 different areas of their supervisory role, to consider their strengths and identify areas of potential improvement.

Commenting on the process, Professor Stephen Tooth said: "My application for the UKCGE Recognised Research Supervisor Award provided an opportunity to reflect on my experiences with the various dimensions of postgraduate research supervision, from liaising with potential research student applicants, through managing research student-supervisor relations, to advising on thesis submission and post-PhD career opportunities.

"My reflective account included the identification of my successes, partial successes and failures in these and other dimensions, and enabled me to relate these experiences to a growing body of subject-specific and more general studies on best practices in research student supervision."

Further information on UKCGE Recognised Research Supervisor accreditation can be found at: <https://supervision.ukcge.ac.uk/good-supervisory-practice-framework>.

At Aberystwyth University, the process is a collaboration between the Graduate School and the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit. For further details about how to apply, please visit:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/supervisory-framework or contact Annette Edwards on sstaff@aber.ac.uk.



RESEARCH SUPERVISION RECOGNITION PROGRAMME
UK Council for Graduate Education



Bev Herring

A minute with...

the new Head of Careers & Employability, Bev Herring

How long have you worked at the University?

I've been at the University for 17 years working in a number of careers roles: delivering workshops to students, managing the Student Job Shop in the SU, and working on GO Wales projects to upskill graduates in the local workplace and create work-shadowing and graduate placement opportunities. Most recently, I was a Careers Consultant working alongside the Business and Graduate Schools and Information Studies, leading careers representative within the Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences, Careers Consultant Team Lead and project lead for Embedded Employability. Externally I am a National Trainer for the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS), my professional body, delivering on the Warwick University MA in Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance. I am also a mentor for other careers professionals across the UK, and I sit on the AGCAS Exec Learning Committee

Tell us about your new role

My new role involves working strategically, operationally, and collaboratively to ensure employability is embedded, accessible and part of our shared university narrative going forward.

What are your first priorities in the new job?

Ensuring our services are comprehensive, appropriate, and easy to navigate no matter where a student or graduate might

be in their career-thinking; building staff knowledge and understanding (and partnership) of the Service and their contribution to the Employability Agenda; and reviewing the current AU Employability Strategy ready for the next 5 years.

Who's in your team?

We have five teams within the Careers Service:

Our Careers Consultants are allied to academic departments, two per faculty. They work with academic coordinators to ensure employability content is aligned to learning outcomes and teaching delivery and/or assessments, as well as providing wider careers services such as one-to-one appointments, webinars, and departmental outreach.

Employer Engagement - a team of two who have responsibility for our AberForward Internships programme and liaising with employers to offer a variety of events both on campus and online, ensuring we have plenty of opportunities for our students and recent graduates to proactively engage with employers and build those all-important networks. One such event is our Careers Fair, which takes place on 25 October in the Arts Centre.

Our Careers-readiness Support Programme is new this year and offers more tailored support to students and recent graduates looking to build confidence when navigating our Careers Services, and includes coaching and mentoring alongside plenty of

opportunity for self-reflection.

Our Frontline team is the door to our service. The team offer a triage service including drop-in support ensuring every student gets to the right support for them. Ideally located in the Student Union the team is easily accessible, but can also be reached via our email and online query service.

Finally, we have our Enterprise support for those with an entrepreneurial flair or curiosity. We host a range of events including insights, role models, competitions, and challenges both within and outside of the curriculum, alongside free and easily accessible business one-to-one mentoring and a pan Wales virtual business start-up week full of enlightenment and interaction.

Finally, do you have a hidden talent that you wouldn't include on a job application?

That I originally trained as an archaeologist. And that despite crediting my early confidence in public speaking down to my PGCE, I secretly credit it to my role in an Eve Ensler production at the Arts Centre that sold out three nights running.

Estates Technician recognised for 40 years of lifeboat volunteering

Peter Heading, University Estates Technician, has been presented with a 40 year long-service award from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in recognition of his remarkable service as a volunteer with Aberystwyth Lifeboat crew.

Peter, who began volunteering aged 22, told *ABERNews* how he first got involved: "I used to spend a lot of my spare time down at Aberystwyth harbour and going out in my own boat, fishing and generally enjoying going out to sea. I often watched the lifeboat going out on calls and gradually got to know some of the lifeboat crew. Senior Helmsman of the lifeboat then was Tommy Ridgway, a former Aberystwyth University Geology technician (who coincidentally has been awarded his 50 year long-service award this year) - he was the person who persuaded me to get involved as crew."

After starting as a trainee crew member, Peter went on to spend 11 years as a crewman and helmsman, before taking over as senior helmsman for nine years until he retired in 2004 (at that time RNLI policy was that inshore lifeboat crew had to retire at 45 years of age). He continued to volunteer as station mechanic and tractor driver, and now as shore crew.

Peter attended an RNLI Volunteer Recognition Garden Party at Llangoed Hall near Llyswen in Powys on 25 September, along with 100 other long-service awardees from Wales, the West and the Isle of Man. His long-service award was presented by Michael Vlasto MBE, retired RNLI Operations Manager and former Divisional Inspector Wales and West.



Peter Heading

This is not the first award that Peter has received from the RNLI. As well as receiving the Queen's gold, diamond and platinum Jubilee medals as a member of the lifeboat crew, he was also presented with the Royal Humane Society award in 1986 for entering the harbour from the lifeboat to recover a body. In 1990 he and a fellow crew member were awarded the RNLI Bronze Medal for Gallantry after rescuing a yacht in storm conditions and the Ralph Glistler Award for the most meritorious rescue by an inshore lifeboat that year.

Peter said: "There is great camaraderie between all lifeboat crews, and it is thanks to the Aberystwyth crew past and present that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time involved with the RNLI."

InterPol students win new departmental diversity prize

The Department of International Politics has awarded its inaugural Student Diversity Prizes, which acknowledge the work that the department's students do to enhance diversity.

The winners are third year student Jasneet Kaur Samrai and 2022 graduate Johannes Lindem.

Jasneet Kaur Samrai received the prize for founding Centre Aberystwyth, a campaigning society that works with students, the University, Student's Union and the town to find solutions to issues that impact students. The society recently worked on two key issues: creating a coalition on sexual assault and work around spiking.

Johannes Lindem from Norway, who graduated in July, received the prize in recognition of the impact he had as Editor in Chief of the student-produced journal *Interstate*. Whilst in the role he

institutionalised and successfully encouraged gender equality, strongly enhanced Welsh medium participation and online access.

Both winners receive a prize of £100, donated by the Aberystwyth University Alumni.

Organiser of the International Politics Student Diversity Prize, Dr Lucy Taylor, said: "We want to build a culture that celebrates our department's diverse community. Of course, students play a vital role in fostering positive change, as well as staff. We were thrilled to award this richly-deserved prize jointly to Jasneet and Johannes - congratulations to them!"

Aberystwyth Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol



Jonathan Fry

Jonathan Fry, Lecturer in Business and Management, was recently elected as Chair of Aberystwyth University's Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol for 2022-2024.

We invited Jonathan to write a piece about the Coleg and forthcoming activities to celebrate its tenth anniversary.

Some of you may have heard of the Aberystwyth Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol but may be unsure of its remit, and how it is different from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. The purpose of this article is to provide answers to these questions and details of how you can get involved.

The Aberystwyth Branch is located at the Centre for Welsh Language Services in Penbryn (above Medrus). Administrated by Dr Tamsin Davies and Sharon Owen, two officers funded by the Coleg, the branch provides support and advice to both academic staff (e.g. those with projects funded by the Coleg) and students (e.g. those who receive scholarships from the Coleg).

Although the primary focus is on the undergraduate academic provision through the medium of Welsh, there are also other important considerations which are highlighted and discussed, such as Welsh medium research, PhD scholarships, Marketing and Student Recruitment as well as the Language Skills Certificate which is open to both staff and students.

The branch also has a Committee, which has the role of supervising and developing academic provision through the medium of Welsh at the University.

Committee membership consists of every member of staff who teaches through the medium of Welsh or supports Welsh medium teaching, academic-related staff who support Welsh medium teaching, staff in professional services who have a role in Welsh medium provision and student representatives including the UMCA President.

If you meet one of these categories and do not receive emails inviting you to meetings of the Branch Committee, please let me know - jof36@aber.ac.uk.

10th anniversary of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

We are very excited to announce details of three projects celebrating 10 years of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol:

Employability Event 25-10-2022 at 09:10:

A hybrid event which will be online via MS Teams and at Aberystwyth Arts Centre Cinema.

We have arranged for alumni from Business, Education, International Politics, Law and Criminology and Welsh to participate in a Q&A with academic staff:

Keynote Speaker: Rhiannon Heledd Williams 'Welsh and the Contemporary Workplace'

Simultaneous translation will be available at this event.

Research Conference 22-11-2022 at 10:00:

The conference will highlight Welsh medium research conducted by Aberystwyth University staff over the past decade. We are planning to host at least one presentation from each of the Faculties.

The publication of a book celebrating the highlights of the Welsh medium provision at Aberystwyth University:

The book will include contributions from academic departments and alumni.

As you can see from this article, there is a lot going on and plenty of opportunities to get involved!

An update from AberSU



New Full-Time Officers

We would like to introduce to you our 2022/23 Full-Time Officer Team, who started with us in July.

- **Aisleen**, SU President: "I want to be an active student voice so please contact me with anything".
- **Dafi**, Welsh Culture & UMCA President aims to "push for as much equality as possible for Welsh speaking students".
- **Cameron**, Wellbeing Officer stood for the role because "I am an activist online for a variety of groups and movements and like to share my personal experiences with mental health, disability, gender, and neurodivergence publicly to help others".
- Alongside returning Full-Time Officers, **Elizabeth** (Academic Affairs Officer), who is looking forward to "carrying on working on things that will be a positive influence for students", and **Rachel** (Student Opportunities Officer) who is looking forward to "meeting and working with students to make University life the best it can be".

Freshers

Looking back on another successful HeloAber Freshers:

We held our annual Freshers Fair in the marquee on Chapel Green, welcoming 3,000+ students! The three-day event showcased 180 stallholders.

We also worked with the University's Commercial Services team to host a range of evening events, ranging from a Freshers Closing Party to Bingo Lingo, which attracted over 3,500 attendees over the course of the week.

Second Hand Project

Second Hand Project, previously known as Big Sale, is a chance for students to pick up any clothing/homeware for free all year round and also acts as a clothing donation point. If staff have anything to donate, please bring it to the SU reception.

Student Opportunities

We would also like to shed some light on our upcoming events run by the Student Opportunities team. BUCS will be starting again on 12 October. Homecoming this year has been linked with the University's 150th anniversary, so our club-run events will be held on the 15 October. Aber Challenge is returning in November; as well as Arts Fest in December - both in their third years!

Student Voice

We have introduced a new process to Academic Rep Elections, which will now take place in lectures during this month. Each department will inform students of the Rep roles up for election and let students know which lecture voting will take place in.



Aber SU Full-time Officer Team 2022/23.
L to R: Back row: Rachel, Elizabeth. Front row: Dafi, Aisleen, Cameron

Royal Academy of Engineering Fellow



Professor Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences and a Professor in the Computer Science department, has been recognised for his exceptional contribution to engineering and technology by being made a Fellow of the

Royal Academy of Engineering.

Professor Shen is admitted this year alongside the mathematician Professor Hannah Fry and UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser Sir Patrick Vallance, who were both appointed Honorary Fellows.

Each of the Fellows was elected for their landmark contributions to their own sector, pioneering new innovations, leading progress in business or academia, providing high level advice to government, or promoting wider understanding of engineering and technology.

It said Professor Shen is distinguished for world-leading and ground-breaking research and development within data modelling and analysis. It has real-life applications in the fields of space exploration, counterterrorism, process monitoring, transportation management and consumer profiling.

It described him as a "visionary academic leader, inspiring and nurturing future generations of computing engineers globally".

Prestigious fellowship



Professor Peter Merriman, from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, has been elected as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Merriman is a human geographer specialising in cultural and

historical geography, mobility studies, and the history and philosophy of modern geography.

He is a leading scholar in mobility studies and mobility history and has written widely on theoretical approaches to space and place, histories of the road and driving, and theories of nationalism and national identity.

The Academy's Fellowship is made up of distinguished individuals from academic, public, private and third sectors, across the full spectrum of the social sciences.

The Fellows are highly accomplished individuals recognised for excellence in their fields and their wider contributions to the social sciences for public benefit.

Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales

Four academics from Aberystwyth University are amongst 66 new Fellows who have joined the Learned Society of Wales this year from across the arts, humanities, sciences and beyond.



Professor Iain Donnison is Head of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS). A plant and agricultural scientist with expertise in temperate and tropical grasses, his work focuses on environmental stress, and strategies for adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.



Professor Rhys Jones is a former Head of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. A human geographer, his research focuses on the geography of group identities focusing in particular on the geography of Welsh nationalism and the way in which this is shaped by place.



Professor Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation, is an authority on global health issues and security, and is co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook on Global Health Politics*.



Dr Eryn White is a Reader at the Department of History and Welsh History and a historian of early modern Wales, with special interests in religion and society, focusing in particular on the significance of print culture and the growth of Nonconformity.

The Learned Society of Wales is the national academy for arts and sciences. Its Fellowship brings together experts from across all academic fields and beyond and their collective knowledge is used to promote research, inspire learning, and provide independent policy advice.

Election to the Fellowship is a public recognition of excellence; it is keenly competed and takes place following a rigorous examination of each nominee's achievements in their relevant field.

Academic Promotions

Thirty academic colleagues are celebrating their promotion to Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Senior Research Fellow and Research Fellow in the 2021-22 academic year.

Our new Professors are:



Professor Jamie Medhurst -
Department of Theatre Film & Television Studies



Professor Huw Morgan -
Department of Physics



Professor Sian Nicholas -
Department of History and Welsh History



Professor David Whitworth -
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences



Professor Rattan Yadav -
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

Our new Readers are:

Dr Maurice Bosch - IBERS

Dr Paul Robson - IBERS

Dr Cathryn Charnell-White - Department of Welsh & Celtic Studies

Dr Andrew James Davies - School of Education

Dr Hywel Griffiths - Department of Geography & Earth Sciences

Dr Thomas Jansen - Department of Computer Science

Dr Jacqueline Yallop - Department of English & Creative Writing

Our new Senior Lecturers are:

Dr Neil Alexander - Department of English & Creative Writing

Dr Malte Urban - Department of English & Creative Writing

Dr Greg Bevan - Department of Theatre Film & Television Studies

Dr Marie Busfield - Department of Geography & Earth Sciences

Dr Ian Chalmers - IBERS

Dr Hefin Williams - IBERS

Dr Rachel Cross - Department of Physics

Dr Gabor Gelleri - Department of Modern Languages

Dr Jennifer Wood - Department of Modern Languages

Dr Harry Heuser - School of Art

Dr Sarah Higgins - Department of Information Studies

Dr Peadar O Muircheartaigh - Department of Welsh & Celtic Studies

Dr Myra Wilson - Department of Computer Science

Our new Lecturers are:

Dr Paula Hughes - IBERS

Our new Senior Research Fellows are:

Dr David Bryant - IBERS

Dr Matt Gunn - Department of Physics

Dr Changjing Shang - Department of Computer Science

Our new Research Fellow is:

Dr Jessica Adams - IBERS

Appointments

A warm welcome to colleagues who have joined the University in recent months, including:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS



Dr Tom Vaughan has joined the department as a Lecturer in Strategy and Intelligence. Tom received his PhD from Aberystwyth in 2022 and has previously worked at the University of Exeter. He works in critical nuclear politics, and his

current research explores the imagination and construction of alternative nuclear (or non-nuclear) futures. He is developing a postdoctoral research agenda to examine how these different imaginaries of the nuclear future can be built, and how far they can accommodate multilateral nuclear disarmament.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Professor Tossapon Boongoen has joined the department as a Chair. He graduated from Cranfield University (BEng & PhD), and was a PDRA at Aberystwyth from 2007-10. Previously, he was an Associate Professor and Director of Research & Innovation Institute, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand. He has been Principal Investigator on four Newton Fund/GCRF projects and six other national grants during 2014-2022.



Dr Natthakan Iam-On has joined the department as a Lecturer in Computer Science. She obtained a BSc and MSc from Chaing Mai University, Thailand, then a PhD at Aberystwyth in 2011. Previously, she was an Associate Professor and Assistant to the



President, at Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand. Her research focuses on data science and engineering, including ensemble learning and its applications to data analysis.

Dr Maxim Buzdalov has joined the department as a Lecturer in Computer Science. Maxim obtained his PhD at ITMO University, St Petersburg, Russia in 2014, where he was also leading a laboratory on evolutionary computation until 2022. His main research areas include evolutionary algorithms, as well as advanced algorithms and data structures.



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES



Dr Bethany Simmonds has been appointed as Senior Lecturer in Sociology in the department, to lead and develop the new Sociology programme launched in 2019. Bethany's research expertise is in the sociology of ageing and health, drawing

together global, national, local and individual level analyses.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION STUDIES

Sarah-Jane Harrison has joined the department as Lecturer in Cinematography. She has just completed an MA in Global Film and Television at the University of Hertfordshire. After working many years in the camera department for film and television shows, she then joined the University of Westminster as the film technician and has been recently lecturing in Cinematography at London South Bank University.



James Caddick has joined the department as a Lecturer in Editing and Visual Effects. He has directed award-winning work



including broadcast and independent documentaries TV commercials, music videos and short films. His work has been shown at international film festivals including Edinburgh, Milan, Cannes and the BFI London Film Festival.

INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL SCIENCES

Dr Amanda Holder has joined the University as a PDRA on the Perennial Biomass Crops for Greenhouse Gas Removal project, aiming to identify traits in different miscanthus genotypes that have a positive impact on soil carbon storage. Amanda completed her PhD at Aberystwyth University and has previously worked with the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology on her main research interest of plant-soil-environment interactions.



Dr Beatrice Elohor Ife has joined IBERS as a Senior Research Fellow in Plant Breeding. She was formerly Senior Lecturer and Leader, Maize Breeding Programme at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, University of Ghana. Her research interest is improving crops for sustainable production, high yield, and resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses. She will be leading the miscanthus breeding at IBERS.



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Dr Sarah Gubbins has joined the department as a Lecturer in French. She works on nineteenth-century French poetry and on prose writing by poets, especially Gérard de Nerval and Charles Baudelaire. She focuses, in particular, on the relationship between poetry and politics in nineteenth-century France.



DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES



Gabriel Rinaldi, MD, PhD has joined the department as UKRI Future Leaders Fellow (FLF). As Senior Staff Scientist at the Wellcome Sanger Institute he developed a functional genomics platform for parasitic flatworms, including the use of single cell transcriptomics and genome editing to assess fundamental biological questions of these parasites. This FLF will enable his establishment as innovative leader at Department of Life Sciences and facilitate the accomplishment of an ambitious research project focused on molecular and developmental biology of schistosomes, agents of major neglected tropical diseases.

Dr Peter Korsten has joined the Department of Life Sciences as a Lecturer in Vertebrate Zoology. Before joining us, Peter held teaching and research positions at the universities of Bielefeld (Germany), Antwerp (Belgium), and Edinburgh. He obtained his PhD at the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). His research focuses on understanding individual differences in behaviour and reproductive success of animals in their natural environment.



HEALTHCARE EDUCATION CENTRE



Bleddyn Lewis has joined the Centre as Senior Lecturer and Field Lead for Mental Health Nursing. Prior to this, Bleddyn has worked in a range of settings and specialities within the National Health Service, most recently as the Senior Nurse for Adult Mental

Health. He has a variety of professional interests including compassionate leadership and improving mental health education through simulation based education.

Devibala Kasinathan has joined the Healthcare Education Centre as a Nursing lecturer. She obtained her post graduate nursing degree in India, after which she started teaching nursing students. Before joining Aberystwyth University she was employed as a team leader in the emergency department in Bronglais Hospital.



Darren Prince has joined as a Mental Health Lecturer in Healthcare Education to help deliver the newly validated adult and mental health nursing programme. He qualified as a mental health nurse from Cardiff University and practiced within older

adult mental health services, specialising in dementia care. He was Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing for over 17 years at the University of South Wales, where he was also clinical skills co-ordinator and Specialist Lead for Mental Health.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



Eva Baglova is joining the department as a Lecturer in Biopsychology. She graduated from the University of Liverpool and completed her MSc in Clinical and Health Psychology at Bangor University, where she stayed to pursue a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience. Eva's research explores the link between neural correlates underlying semantic and social cognition by means of various behavioural and neuroimaging methods such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS).

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Sara Tudor has joined the team of Link Tutors on the PGCE programme at the School of Education where she will be instructing and supporting student teachers in schools across mid and west Wales. Sara taught for 17 years in primary schools in Powys and was deputy headteacher at Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion from 2014-2022. She graduated from Leeds University with a degree in Mandarin Chinese.



STUDENT SERVICES



Sara Childs has joined the Wellbeing team in Student Services as a practitioner with a counselling specialism. She is a former Head of English in Machynlleth, who retrained as a counsellor, with a particular interest in young people. Her previous roles were as Counselling Tutor at New

Pathways and Counsellor at Coleg Ceredigion. She is currently completing a Masters, looking at the use of the Welsh language in counselling.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Genevieve Roberts joined the department as a Tax and Financial Accountant in July 2022. Genevieve graduated from Aberystwyth University with a Law degree before starting her career as an accountant working in practice. Genevieve is a chartered certified accountant.



Aberystwyth Arts Centre

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

19:30, Thursday 10 November

Bartók Hungarian Sketches
 Elgar Cello Concerto
 Mendelssohn Symphony No.3 'Scottish'

Gergely Madaras - conductor
Santiago Cañón-Valencia - cello



Heavily influenced by the Hungarian and Romanian folk music he collected whilst travelling, Bartók's Hungarian Sketches fuses boisterous dance with sublimely lyrical melodies, along with a humorous depiction of a staggering drunk, complete with hiccups! Rhapsodic melodies accented by pizzicato allusions lead the way to virtuosity and British bravado in Elgar's much-loved Cello Concerto, although his post WW1 moroseness is never far from the surface, with assertive yet austere themes, a jaunty energy and meditative qualities.

From stormy developments and vivacious scherzo's to sentimental songfulness and sprinklings of Midsummer Night's Dream-esque fairy dust, Mendelssohn's Third Symphony was inspired by the composer's 1829 trip to Scotland. Characterised by a fierce energy, cunning countermelodies and vivid pictorial qualities, Mendelssohn sketched much of the work following a trip to the ruins of Holyrood, although he didn't complete the work for over 10 years. To conduct we are delighted to introduce audiences across Wales to the prodigiously talented Hungarian conductor, Gergely Madaras.



Tachwedd 15 - 20 November 2022 (Aberystwyth)
 Tachwedd 25 - 27 November 2022 (Ar-lein / Online)

www.abertoir.co.uk

Abertoir International Horror Festival

15-20 November
 25-27 November (Online)

Back for its seventeenth year, Abertoir once again is planning to bring the very best new, unreleased titles right to our doorstep in Aberystwyth. Promising special guests, talks, presentations and lots more... they're even planning an exciting event that will bring Abertoir nationwide! Stay tuned to www.abertoir.co.uk or Facebook page as gradually more is revealed ...

Ballet Cymru: Dream

18:00, Tuesday 22 November (relaxed performance)
 19:30, Wednesday 23 November

DREAM is a vibrant, fresh, and innovative new full-length ballet based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Working with Award-Winning instrumentalist and composer Frank Moon, Ballet Cymru has created a magical, gender bending world of fairies, lovers, and bewitching enchantment. DREAM is a sparkling re-interpretation in ballet for the 21st Century and features Ballet Cymru's groundbreaking dancers, stunning video projection, and innovative choreography from Artistic Directors Darius James OBE and Amy Doughty.



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