



PRIFYSGOL  
BANGOR  
UNIVERSITY

# ANNUAL REVIEW

2015-2016





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**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

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## **GOVERNANCE**

The Council, which is the governing body of the University, met on four occasions in 2015/16 and is chaired by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM. The University Secretary is Dr Kevin Mundy. The Council is assisted by a number of sub-committees, including the Finance & Resources Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, Mr David Williams, and the Audit & Risk Committee, chaired by Dr Griff Jones, which both met on five occasions. Other Council committees which met during the year include the Nominations & Governance Committee, Ethics Committee, Bilingualism Committee, Remuneration Committee, and the Health & Safety Committee.

Further information regarding the University's governance is available on [www.bangor.ac.uk/about/management.php.en](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/about/management.php.en)

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# AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The year under review has seen Bangor University once again making substantial progress in many areas.

A particular highlight was the opening of our £40m development at St Mary's. The St Mary's student village includes 600 rooms with a range of accommodation including studio apartments and townhouses. There is also a cafe, shop, common rooms and sports and fitness room facilities on the site.

At the same time, Pontio's activities were ramped up after its phased-opening period, and students and the local community had the opportunity to make use of the building's excellent facilities, ranging from lecture rooms, innovation spaces, social learning areas, cafes and restaurants, as well as the cinema, theatre and studio theatre.

Significant progress has been made in the development of our new Science Park on Anglesey, which has been supported with funding from both the Welsh Government and the European Union. Early work has already been carried out on the site and we will see much more activity on the site itself next year.

The new £5.5m Marine Centre Wales building at the School of Ocean Sciences in Menai Bridge was officially opened. This national facility provides expertise to both commercial operators and agencies in the growing Welsh marine sector.

The University has also begun to plan for a major redevelopment of our science site along Deiniol Road. During the year, we began work on the very early stages of the site development which involved the demolition of buildings behind the Memorial Building. Over the next few years we will see further steps being taken as designs and plans are developed, and our Estates Strategy is implemented.

Once again this year, Bangor performed exceptionally well

in the National Student Survey. Our students reported an overall satisfaction rating of 90% which places us in the top 15 of UK universities that offer a broad range of subjects.

The results ranked Bangor 4th in the UK for the academic support given to students, and no less than seven subjects at the University achieved a 100% satisfaction rate, placing them at the top of their subject table: English Studies; Geology; Journalism; Linguistics; Medical Technology; Music; and Ocean Sciences. Journalism is 1st in the UK for the third consecutive year.

A further seven subject areas are top 10 in the UK: Psychology (4th in UK); Electronic Engineering; Agriculture; Media Studies; Finance; Philosophy; and Iberian Studies.

Looking forward to next year, there are a number of major issues facing us and the sector.

We face both the uncertainties of Brexit and the consequences of the Diamond review of higher education funding and student finance in Wales. At the same time, the general economic situation as well as demographic changes combine to make it a potentially turbulent time for universities.

This will necessitate some difficult decisions, as we seek to adapt and position ourselves to withstand these changes so that we can continue to prosper in the future.

I would like once again to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to members of the Council and to colleagues throughout the University for their support and contribution into what was once again a very successful year for Bangor University.

**Professor John G Hughes**  
**President and Vice-Chancellor**



# HIGHLIGHTS



1

1 Helena Robinson receiving the Ebola Medal from Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor.



2

2 The Bangor Institute for Health and Medical Research launch. From left: Dr Ruth Hussey, Welsh Chief Medical Officer; Prof Julie Williams, Wales' Chief Scientific Adviser; Prof David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Prof Clare Wilkinson, School of Healthcare Sciences; Prof Jo Rycroft-Malone, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Prof Chris Burton, School of Healthcare Sciences and Prof Nichola Callow, Dean of College of Health & Behavioural Sciences.

Helena Robinson, a PhD Student at the **School of Medical Sciences** was awarded the Ebola Medal in recognition of her bravery and dedication in tackling the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Helena was awarded the Ebola Medal following her five-week deployment to Sierra Leone in December 2014.

The **Bangor Institute for Health and Medical Research** was launched, and will facilitate more interdisciplinary research that spans discovery in the laboratory through to research that solves complex health problems in the real world. Working closely with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, the Institute will contribute to a strong NHS research environment in north Wales, with particular concentration on areas of excellence, for example in dementia, cancer and rehabilitation, and areas where Bangor teams have developed new methods for conducting top quality research.

Gwen Elin, a student at the **School of Welsh**, won the prestigious Urdd Gobaith Cymru Bryn Terfel Scholarship, worth £4,000. It was presented to her during a spectacular concert which was broadcast live on S4C.

Two Bangor academics were awarded the prestigious Fellowship of the British Academy, the highest honour in the UK for a scholar of the arts and humanities. Emeritus Professor Tom Corns of the **School of English Literature** is an internationally-renowned expert on seventeenth-century English literature and, in particular, a leading authority on the work of John Milton, author of the great English epic poem, *Paradise Lost*. Nancy Edwards, Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the **School of History and Archaeology** was awarded a fellowship in recognition of her outstanding contribution to research in archaeology.

A new £12m investment in Wales' 'green' economy was announced by Welsh Government Finance and Government Business Minister, Jane Hutt. Backed by £8m of EU funds, the BEACON+ project will see scientists from Bangor, Aberystwyth and Swansea Universities working with industry to develop renewable materials, fuels and chemicals. The funding will enable specialists in bio-refining to develop research and product innovation with 100 small and medium-sized businesses in north and west Wales and the south Wales valleys.







3 Benjamin Butler (left) with Master Draper John Giffard and Géraldine Derroire (right).

Bangor University was listed among the 200 most international universities globally and the most international university in Wales in a table drawn from data contained in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, where the University appears among the top 350 world Universities.

Drapers' Company medal and is currently approaching the end of his PhD in Marine Geochemistry. Benjamin completed an undergraduate degree at the **School of Chemistry** and a postgraduate degree at the **School of Ocean Sciences** before commencing his PhD in 2012. Géraldine Derroire, 35, from Clermont-Ferrand, France, was awarded a bronze Drapers' medal. She is nearing completion of her PhD on the ecology of tropical dry forests, through the Erasmus Mundus FONASO (Forest and Nature for Society) Doctorate programme within the **School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography**.

4 Llŷr Titus with the 'Best Welsh-Language Playwright' Award.

Professor Jerry Hunter, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Medium) travelled to America to learn more about the history of Welshman Evan Jones and the Cherokee community of today for a three-part series on S4C. The series looked at the history of Evan Jones' journey from Llaneigion in Powys to North Carolina. He settled there as a missionary and learnt the native language. When the Cherokee were forced from their land, Evan Jones went with them.

Llŷr Titus, a research student at the **School of Welsh** won 'Best Playwright in the Welsh-language' at the Wales Theatre awards. Llŷr received the award for his play *Drych* which he composed as part of Cwmni'r Frân Wen's 'Sgript i Lwyfan' scripting course, and which was staged nationally last year.

The Drapers' Company is one of the historic Livery Companies of the City of London, and now a philanthropic organisation. They kindly donate two medals each year to be awarded to outstanding postgraduate students. Benjamin Butler was awarded a silver





5 Elizabeth McManus who received the first 'Women in Science' scholarship to study neuroimaging.

Committed to increasing women's participation in science at every level of education, the University awarded its first, innovative 'Women in Science' scholarship worth £8,000 to Elizabeth McManus, who graduated from the **School of Psychology**. This enabled Elizabeth to study on the MSc Neuroimaging course allowing her to pursue a career in a similar field.

The Learned Society of Wales announced the results of its 2016 Election of new Fellows, and seven are from Bangor University: Professor Ronald Brown, Emeritus Professor, **School of Computer Science**; Professor Eryl Wynn Davies, Head of **School of Philosophy and Religious Studies**; Professor Peredur Lynch, **School of Welsh**; Professor Gareth Ffowc Roberts, Emeritus Professor of **Education**; Professor Robert Rogers, **School of Psychology**; Professor Carol Tully, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) and Professor of German; Professor Gerwyn Williams, Head of **School of Welsh**.

Megan Elias, a second year student in the **School of Welsh**, won the Welsh Learners' Medal in the Urdd National Eisteddfod held in Flintshire. The Learners' Medal is awarded to an individual who shows how he or she uses the language on a daily basis at school, college or university and also in a social context.



Bangor University was crowned 'Employer of the Year' (public sector) in the Chwarae Teg 'Womenspire' awards. This new awards scheme recognises the remarkable contribution made by women across Welsh society and aims to inspire future generations of women to achieve and prosper.

The new £36m EU-backed Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS II) scheme was launched, and will partner over 500 businesses with academics and postgraduate research students to develop innovative research projects aimed at driving business growth. The scheme will allow over 600 postgraduate students to benefit from opportunities to develop as research professionals as part of Research Masters and PhD programmes funded through the scheme. Led by Bangor University in partnership with other Welsh universities, KESS II will operate in north and west Wales and the south Wales valleys over the next six years.





**6** Human Resources staff (from left) Catherine Lees, Nia Meacher and Dr Alison Wiggett with a representative of Employer of the Year Award sponsors, Highgrade Recruitment.  
© Chwarae Teg Womenspire Awards 2016

**7** Students' Union Vice-President for Societies and Community, Matt Day, with the NUS National Societies Award.



**Students' Union** Vice-President for Societies and Community, Matt Day, won a sponsored bursary for outstanding contribution in the NUS National Societies Awards, which is the first national event to credit societies for their contribution to students' career prospects and experience during their time at university.

The **School of Psychology** was awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award by the Equality Challenge Unit. The Equality Challenge Unit supports higher education institutions across the UK to advance equality and diversity for all staff and students. The ECU's Athena SWAN charter specifically recognises commitment to tackling gender inequality in higher education.

Bangor University received a prestigious national Award as a direct result of rave reviews by the University's own students. Having been nominated in seven out of ten categories for the Whatuni Student Choice Awards for 2016 including one for overall University of the Year, Bangor University won the Award for Best University Accommodation. The University was also placed second in the UK for Courses and Lectures, third in the UK in the Student Support category and fourth in the overall University of the Year category. A total of 125 universities in the UK competed for the 2016 Awards.

The **BioComposites Centre**, was accepted as a 'network university' by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a charity dedicated to promoting the idea of a 'circular economy'. The Foundation aims to enable collaborative ventures and knowledge exchange across policy makers, business and academia outside its formal programmes. Joining a select group of institutions, the BioComposites Centre will now share some of its expertise in innovative business solutions with the Foundation, further cementing the University's reputation as an international leader in the field of sustainability.

**Sports Science** PhD student Gabriella Rossetti, 24, became the fourth woman in the world and one of the youngest ever to be graded as a second degree black belt in Japanese Jiu Jitsu.

Othman Alzahrani, a third year PhD Molecular Biology and Genetics student at the **School of Medical Sciences** was awarded an Excellence Achievement Award from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In recognition of this distinction Othman's name will be engraved on the roll of honour board in the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London.



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8 HRH The Prince of Wales (right) officially opened the University's new Marine Centre Wales. Pictured with Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor.

HRH The Prince of Wales officially opened the University's new Marine Centre Wales at the **School of Ocean Sciences**. Built at a cost of £5.5m, Marine Centre Wales is a national facility for the growing marine sector in Wales. The Centre provides a focus and access to expertise and a collaborative space for researchers, commercial operators, and agencies in the Welsh marine sector.

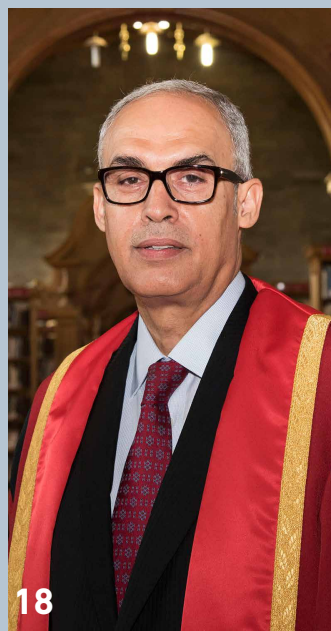
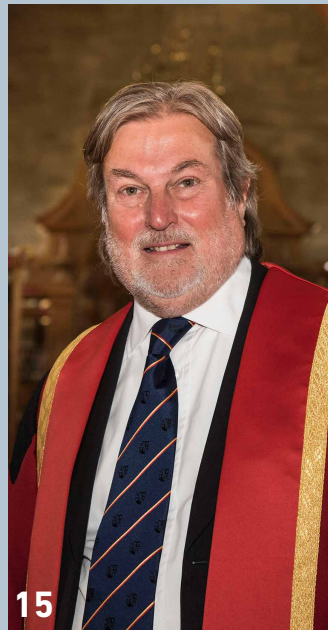
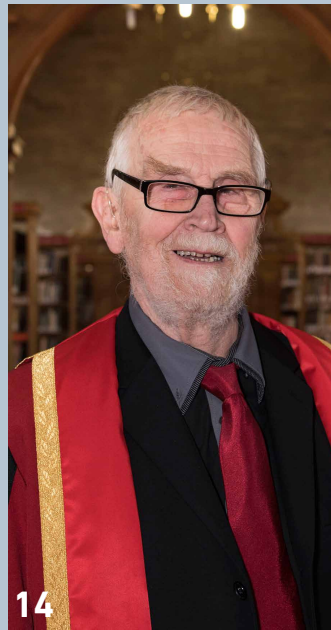
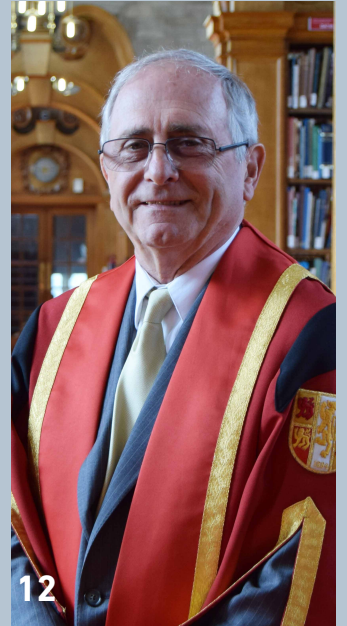
Professor Andrew Hiscock, **School of English Literature**, was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship, one of Europe's most competitive and prestigious awards, aimed at fostering interdisciplinary research, innovative academic training and international collaborations.

Staff at the **School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography** began teaching the first cohort of the BSc (Hons) Forestry and Environmental Management degree at Bangor College China.

Several individuals attended the University degree ceremonies to receive honorary fellowships. They were: Bangor graduate and Director General of the Army Legal Services, **Major General Susan Ridge**; Bangor Graduate and Chief Executive of the Welsh Care Council, **Rhian Huws-Williams**; Former Chief Medical Officer for Wales, **Ruth Hussey CB OBE**; National Science Foundation Assistant Director for the Directorate of Biological Sciences, **Professor John Wingfield**; **Glyn Watkin Jones** of construction company Watkin Jones & Son Ltd; Wales' most eminent sculptor, **John Meirion Morris**; Bangor University's former Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Merfyn Jones CBE**; renowned operatic soprano, **Elin Manahan Thomas**; Bangor graduate, **Professor John Porter**; Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, **His Excellency Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj**; and father and daughter, actor **J.O. Roberts** and broadcaster **Nia Roberts**. Sadly J.O. Roberts passed away shortly after graduation week.

- 9 Major General Susan Ridge
- 10 Rhian Huws-Williams
- 11 Ruth Hussey CB OBE
- 12 Professor John Wingfield
- 13 Glyn Watkin Jones
- 14 John Meirion Morris
- 15 Professor Merfyn Jones CBE
- 16 Elin Manahan Thomas
- 17 Professor John Porter
- 18 His Excellency Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj
- 19 J.O. Roberts & Nia Roberts







## BANGOR RESEARCH HAS A GLOBAL IMPACT

Research at Bangor University is having an impact on people's lives around the globe.

No fewer than three research projects at the University were included among the 20 most impressive examples of university research which contribute to development. They were selected from almost 7,000 research projects at UK universities by the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS). UKCDS is a group of 14 UK government departments and research funders working in international development.

Bangor University's work on crop improvement shows how UK research can make a global impact, and one project has increased food security for an estimated 3 million people.

This work by Professor John Witcombe of the University's School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography, has developed a disease-resistant variety of pearl millet, a staple crop for populations throughout Africa and South Asia. Every year the downy mildew disease causes extensive crop losses. The new disease-resistant variety is now grown extensively in India – enabling more resilient farming systems and creating jobs for local women in the process. This is one of numerous new and improved

crop varieties developed at Bangor University, with the participation of local farmers in Asia.

A researcher at Bangor's School of Ocean Sciences is also a key member of a research partnership which is protecting local livelihoods in coastal parts of Kenya, by supporting mangrove forest conservation and restoration in the region. Poor communities rely heavily on the natural resources and ecosystem services that the mangroves provide.

Dr Martin Skov is one of three key academics in the UK whose collective research has helped local communities initiate the world's first carbon trading project with a marine ecosystem; the mangroves. The community project ([www.eafpes.org](http://www.eafpes.org)) brings \$12-18,000 annually to people of Gazi Bay by trading certificates of the CO<sub>2</sub> that is captured by the mangroves which are protected by them. Profits fund job generation and community projects, such as building new school buildings and water supplies. The project is now fully community-run, and includes a variety of supporting activities.

Professor John Turner, also of the School of Ocean Sciences has been closely involved with developing and surveying the world's biggest marine reserve to support the biodiversity and people of the Indian Ocean. The coral reefs and islands of the Chagos Archipelago in the central Indian Ocean are a British Overseas Territory. They are the UK's most biodiverse marine environment.

The uninhabited Chagos reefs have been little, if ever, affected by human activity. The archipelago boasts the cleanest seawaters ever tested and a high degree of biological richness, biomass and productivity. Using Chagos as a reference site is providing a strong foundation for the restoration and management of other damaged reefs.

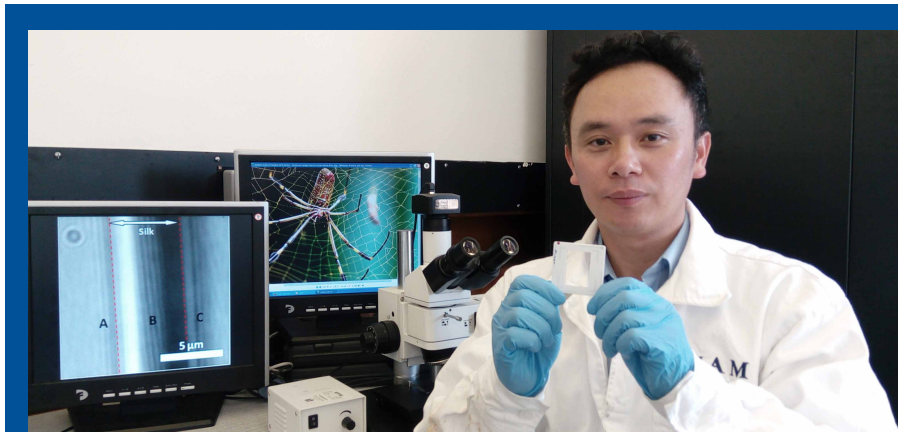
Prof David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, commented: "Our aim is that our research should have global impact and should make a difference in people's lives. These are great examples of the many ways that research carried out by our academics is having a major impact on the economy and the lives of people around the world."



# RESEARCH



A reef being surveyed in the Indian Ocean.



Dr Zengbo Wang with the dragline silk of the golden web spider which is used as a superlens.

## SUPERLENSES: SEEING THE 'INVISIBLE'

Extending the limit of the classical microscope's resolution has been the 'El Dorado' or 'Holy Grail' of microscopy for over a century. Physical laws of light make it impossible to view objects smaller than 200 nm – the smallest size of bacteria, using a normal microscope alone. However, superlenses which enable us to see beyond the current magnification have been the goal since the turn of the millennium.

Scientists at the School of Electronic Engineering have achieved two world firsts in their development of the superlens.

Led by Bangor's Dr Zengbo Wang and Prof Limin Wu at Fudan University, China, the team created minute droplet-like lens structures on the surface to be examined. Made of millions of nanobeads, the spheres break up the light beam. Each bead refracts the light, acting as an individual torch-like minute beam. It is the very small size of each beam of light which illuminates the surface, extending the resolving ability of the microscope to record-breaking levels. The new superlens adds 5x magnification on top of existing microscopes (Sci. Adv. 2, e1600901 2016).

Another project led by Dr Zengbo Wang in collaboration with Prof. Fritz Vollrath's silk group at Oxford University's Department of Zoology, describes how they used a naturally occurring material, the dragline silk of the golden web spider, as an additional superlens. Applied to the surface of the material to be viewed, this provides an additional 2-3 times magnification (Nano Lett., 16(9), 5842–5845, 2016).

These super-resolution lenses could be used for seeing and viewing previously 'invisible' structures, including engineered nano-structures and biological micro-structures as well as, potentially, native germs and viruses.





## RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN WALES' ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Committee for Administrative Justice and Tribunals Wales commissioned Bangor Law School to conduct research to support their work as a guardian of the public interest with regard to administrative justice in Wales.

Administrative justice deals with the relationship between the individual and the state. It extends from principles of good decision-making for public bodies, to how people complain to those bodies. It also redresses external mechanisms such as courts and tribunals and Ombudsmen and Commissioners which have responsibilities in different areas of public life.

The recommendations by Dr Sarah Nason of the Law School, will enable consideration of the best way forward to strengthen people's ability to take efficient and proportionate action when they feel that they have not received a

proper service or response from a range of public bodies in Wales.

Dr Sarah Nason said: "Conducting this research has helped me to see that these issues are not confined to Wales, and that in the devolution context, Wales has a special opportunity to develop an innovative administrative justice system that could be used as a model to be followed by other smaller legal jurisdictions across the world."

Professor Sir Adrian Webb, Chair of the Committee for Administrative Justice and Tribunals Wales, said:

"Dr Nason has produced an extremely valuable research report which will help inform the ongoing development of a system which, although not well understood, has a significant impact on the lives of the citizens of Wales."

## THE "ALCOHOL HARM PARADOX" EXPLAINED

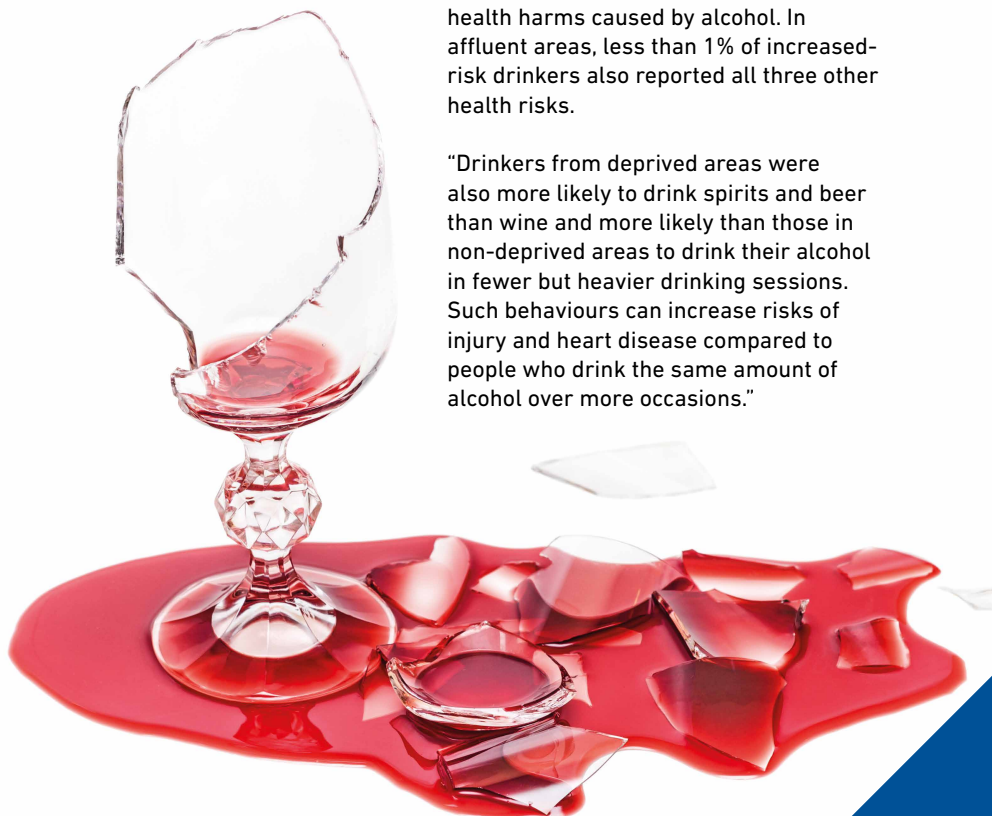
New collaborative research from Bangor University, Liverpool John Moores University and Alcohol Research UK explains why people in deprived communities suffer more alcohol-related ill-health than people in non-deprived communities, despite drinking the same amounts of alcohol – termed 'the alcohol harm paradox'.

The study, conducted in England and published in BMC Public Health, found that heavier drinkers living in deprived communities are more likely to combine such drinking with other health damaging behaviours.

People from deprived areas who drank at levels consistent with increased risks to health were nearly 11 times more likely to combine drinking with smoking, excess weight, poor diet and little exercise than increased risk drinkers living in non-deprived areas. These combinations do not just add to the dangers from alcohol consumption but effectively multiply the risks of ill health.

Professor Mark Bellis, School of Healthcare Sciences, said: "About 9%

of increased-risk drinkers in poorer communities also smoked, were overweight and had unhealthy lifestyles.



These combinations create enormous stresses on people's bodies, overwhelming their ability to limit the health harms caused by alcohol. In affluent areas, less than 1% of increased-risk drinkers also reported all three other health risks.

"Drinkers from deprived areas were also more likely to drink spirits and beer than wine and more likely than those in non-deprived areas to drink their alcohol in fewer but heavier drinking sessions. Such behaviours can increase risks of injury and heart disease compared to people who drink the same amount of alcohol over more occasions."

# TEACHING AND LEARNING



## GREAT NSS RESULTS FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING

Bangor University's students gave the University an overall satisfaction rating of 90% in the 2016 National Student Survey (NSS), placing the University among the UK's top 15 non-specialist universities, the traditional institutions who offer a broad range of subjects.

The University rivals institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge universities by delivering the same levels of student satisfaction for the third year running. Senior staff at the University put the success down to the high standard of teaching and the student experience at Bangor University, along with the University's focus on identifying and addressing any problems that may arise for individual students.

Prof Oliver Turnbull, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), said: "These results reflect the excellent standard of teaching available at Bangor University and are a wonderful endorsement of our activities and our values. Our repeated success is an impressive result for us as an institution."

The NSS results are drawn from a poll of around half a million graduating students from UK universities. They provide the most comprehensive feedback on the

student experience at each institution, drilling down to school, course and programme level and also drawing on broader information about areas such as teaching and assessment and feedback.

The results showed the University at 4th in the UK for the academic support given to students; and placed in the top 20 for both teaching and assessment and feedback.

Seven subjects achieved a 100% satisfaction rate, placing them at the top of their subject table in the UK: English Studies; Geology; Journalism (1st in the UK for the third consecutive year); Linguistics; Medical Technology; Music; and Ocean Sciences.

A further seven subject areas are top 10 in the UK: Psychology (4th in UK); Electronic Engineering; Agriculture; Media Studies; Finance; Philosophy; and Iberian Studies.





## FROM UNIVERSITY TO EMPLOYMENT

Dr Caroline Bowman and Dr Steve Hosier conducting mock interviews with students.

While managing the transition from university to full time employment can be something that many students find themselves unprepared for, students at Bangor can take advantage of dozens of initiatives developed by Bangor academic staff to prepare themselves for life after university.

The School of Psychology provided a more 'real' experience of consumer psychology by undertaking a major consultancy project with a range of different businesses. In the last two years, students have worked in small teams guided by an experienced business consultant on research briefs

from companies such as Cadbury, Unilever, Tesco and LateRooms. Students developed psychological interventions to address a range of business needs, from selling more chocolate in corner shops to effective advertising on the internet, to reducing last-minute hotel guest cancellations. These projects help students' CVs come to life and allow them to understand and overcome some of the challenges of working with businesses.

To prepare for a daunting interview, Dr Caroline Bowman enables students to complete a mock interview so that they can learn to identify which elements of their academic expertise might be

relevant to their dream position. The interview not only allows students to apply their academic knowledge, but also encourages them to think of ways to market their transferable skills, particularly focusing on ways that set them apart from other students who may have the same skills set. These interviews provide students with comprehensive individualised feedback so that they may learn to tailor their responses in the most suitable way for the multitude of career paths open to them.

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Bangor University's students play an especially active role in the University's leadership and in the development of its academic programmes. This is achieved by working in partnership with the student body and the Students' Union on a range of innovative projects.

This academic year, the University's commitment to student engagement has been reflected in the creation of a new senior academic post: Director of Student Engagement. Each academic School has appointed a Director, who takes the lead on ensuring students' voices are heard and acted upon in their School. Directors are all members of their School's senior management team.

The Directors ensure that new students feel welcome and settle into their new life at Bangor. They work with Peer Guides during Welcome Week and throughout the year to make sure that students have the best experience possible.



Surveys have been developed for new students to complete prior to their arrival in Bangor. This helps the Directors understand the students' expectations of University life, and how they can be best helped to achieve this.

Directors also work closely with Course Representatives, getting involved with staff-student liaison meetings and helping the Course Representatives take their peers' suggestions and comments forward.

Dr Lynda Yorke, School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography with Peer Guides and new students during Welcome Week.

## BANGOR INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Bangor University signed a 10-year partnership agreement with Oxford International Education Group (OIEG) to launch Bangor International College (BIC), an embedded college on the University campus, which will teach the first stages of a range of integrated undergraduate and postgraduate degrees for international students at Bangor University.

The partnership is anticipated to double the University's current international student body within the next four to five years, starting with an inaugural intake of around 50 students in September of 2016.

BIC will be offering Year 0 in a range of courses in the areas of Business, Law, Media, Social Sciences, Psychology, Computer Science and Electronic



Engineering. BIC will also offer an Incorporated Masters route in Business studies.

Whilst Oxford International holds responsibility for the academic provision, all quality assurance and maintenance of quality standards for all teaching at

Mr David Brown, CEO and one of the founders of OIEG with Bangor University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes, during the BIC signing ceremony.

the Bangor International College remains strictly with Bangor University.

# INTERNATIONALISATION





Chevening Scholars on a trip in the Snowdonia National Park.



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Bangor University's International Education Centre signed a range of partnership agreements with reputable academic institutions across the world during the academic year.

Academic pathway agreements, which allow students to transfer credits from a partner university towards Bangor programmes, were signed with Abbey College Nigeria for Business Studies, Law and Psychology; with the Management Development Institute of Singapore and Ngee Ann Polytechnic Singapore for Psychology, and South and City College UK.

Articulation agreements which allow students from another institution to be considered for Bangor University programmes were established with the Emirates Institute for Banking

and Financial Studies UAE for Banking and Finance studies, with Huanghuai University China for Business Studies, and with Georgian College Canada for Business Studies.

Memoranda of Understanding were signed to explore potential collaborations between Bangor University and Ho Chi Minh City University of Law Vietnam for Law courses; Universidad Catolica de la Santisima Concepcion Chile for Ocean Sciences, the University of Ghana for Environment, Natural Resources and Geography, Sun Yat-Sen University China for Ocean Sciences, Shanghai University China and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UNISZA) Malaysia for Law programmes.

Professor John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor with Prof Datuk Dr Yahaya Ibrahim, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia (UniSZA) with representatives from both institutions during an MoU signing ceremony.

## CHEVENING SCHOLARS

Bangor University hosted a group of Chevening Scholars studying for Masters Degrees at universities across the UK. The scholars enjoyed a weekend of culture and outdoor activities in an area of stunning natural beauty in the UK. The group learned about the history and culture of Wales from experts at Bangor University, they visited Caernarfon Castle and Snowdonia National Park, and enjoyed an evening of traditional Welsh folk dancing, at a 'twmpath'.

One Chevening scholar, Emil Kosi Amoah from Ghana, who just completed an MSc in Environmental Forestry at Bangor University, was one of only six Chevening scholars throughout the UK to receive the Gold Award for completing 75 hours of volunteering. The award recognises the scholars' volunteering efforts during their time in the UK.

A farewell ceremony for the Chevening Scholars was organised to wish them all the best for the future, and it was fantastic to hear how much they had all enjoyed their year at Bangor University.





# WELSH MEDIUM

## LEADING THE FIELD FOR WELSH-MEDIUM HIGHER EDUCATION PROVISION

According to the latest figures, Bangor University is still leading the field in terms of its Welsh-medium provision. More students study the majority of their courses through the medium of Welsh at Bangor than at any other Welsh university.

Of all those students studying 40 or more credits through the medium of Welsh, 34% are doing so at Bangor University.

Professor Jerry Hunter, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh-medium and Civic Engagement) said:

“More credits are studied through the medium of Welsh at Bangor than any other Welsh institution and it’s now possible to study elements of every academic subject on offer here in the language – from single modules to full degree programmes.”

“Our Welsh students have ample opportunities to meet, study and

socialise with students from all corners of the world. This is an integral part of a university experience and we’re extremely proud of the opportunities to expand horizons we offer here at Bangor.”

The statistics also show that full-time equivalent numbers of those studying through the medium of Welsh are significantly higher here than at any other institution and that in fact Bangor’s own numbers are the highest they’ve ever been.

Not only is there a general increase in uptake of Welsh-medium provision across the University, significant increases have been seen in subject areas where the provision is still relatively new, such as Psychology, Sports Science and Healthcare Sciences. In addition, 70% of all Bangor University staff have Welsh language skills.



## PROMOTING THE USE OF WELSH IN THE WORKPLACE

The Welsh in the Workplace Strategic Plan was launched on St David's Day. The Plan outlines how the University will assist and support staff to develop their language skills and use them more often at work. An important component of the strategy is the Welsh Language Mentoring Scheme.

Ruth Snape had this to say about being mentored: "The mentoring scheme has been a great help to join in with the office chit-chat and has highlighted that there is no need for my colleagues to switch to English when I'm about. My mentor and I work in the same building and we try to speak Welsh with each other for an hour a day."

Mairwen Owen commented on her role as a mentor: "It's nice to walk into the Library and be greeted with "bore da" instead of "good morning". Staff have increasingly been asking me to send emails to them in Welsh. The goal was to create confidence among the learners, and I'm sure that we have done so."

The Welsh Language Mentoring Scheme is seen as a breakthrough. The plan is supported by PhD research from the School of Psychology and Canolfan Bedwyr. The intention is to create evidence-based research for the best way to support staff to use Welsh at work. Eventually, it is hoped that the basis of this evidence will influence bilingualism in workplaces across Wales and beyond.



Mairwen Owen (left) and Ruth Snape.

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CANOLFAN BEDWYR

Established in August 1996, Canolfan Bedwyr is celebrating 20 years of its innovative work throughout 2016/17 with a range of events. Canolfan Bedwyr, within Bangor University, provides services, research and technology for the Welsh Language. It was named after the late Bedwyr Lewis Jones, Professor of Welsh Language and Literature at the University, and officially opened by his widow, Mrs Eleri Wynne Jones.

Initially, with two members of staff, Dr Cen Williams, the centre's first director and administrative officer Eleri Jones, Canolfan Bedwyr's work focused on providing language training for staff and students and developing the University's Bilingual Policy.

Over the years, the work of the centre has developed to include translation, terminology, software, language technology and language planning in all its diversity. As well as responding to the needs of the University itself, the centre has also been sharing its expertise with a host of organizations, institutions and companies. Today, the centre employs more than twenty members of staff.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The app *Geiriaduron* has been



downloaded more than **71,000** times

*Cysill* on-line is used to check text



**850** times daily



CANOLFAN  
BEDWYR  
1996 - 2016

The Translation Unit translates close to

**4 million** words annually



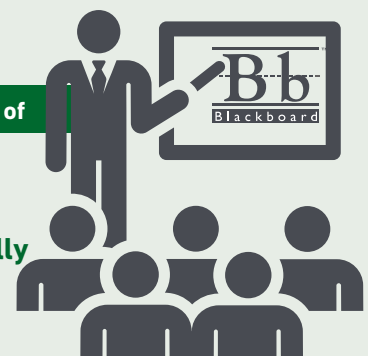
**215+** teachers & lecturers



have completed the Sabbatical Scheme course since 2007

The Welsh language version of

**Blackboard** the virtual learning environment, was initially translated by Canolfan Bedwyr



# COMMUNITY



## OPEN DOORS AT PONTIO

The Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre.

Pontio, the University's new Arts and Innovation Centre, opened its doors in early December 2015, with the Centre's teaching and learning spaces used for the first time, and the Students' Union relocating to the building shortly afterwards.

The UK Government's former Director General of Knowledge and Innovation, Sir John O'Reilly, launched Arloesi Pontio Innovation and gave the inaugural public lecture where he spoke about the need for engineers to embrace creativity with the addition of 'A' for Arts into the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) agenda.

As well as teaching and learning facilities, the Centre has seen an eclectic arts programme, offering everything from big drama productions in Theatr Bryn Terfel to a range of films, from Academy-Award nominated blockbusters in 3D to the National Theatre Live series of live broadcasts, special releases and arthouse films in the 200-seater cinema, comedy nights in the Studio and

much more. Tens of thousands visited the centre to enjoy everything from an opera based on mindfulness to school and community concerts and a Welsh-language panto.

Highlights included 11 sold-out performances of the powerful drama *Chwalfa* by Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, which traces the history of the Penrhyn Strike with community participation bringing an added dimension to the drama. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra returned to Bangor after a 20 year break to join the pianist Llŷr Williams on the Bryn Terfel stage. Several renowned performers such as Christy Moore, Only Men Aloud, Ruby Wax and big names in comedy such as Rich Hall and Russell Kane kept us entertained – with a full theatre every time.





Celebrating individual responses to a universal problem using a creative workshop led by artist Lisa Carter (on the left).

## NEW DEMENTIA NETWORK

With an increasing number of people living with dementia across north Wales, it can be challenging to find out what support is available and how to access it. The North Wales Dementia Supportive Practice Network was established following comments by carers taking part in a study at the University's Dementia Services Development Centre and is supported by the Bangor ESRC Impact Acceleration Award. The Network aims to bring practitioners, academics, health and social care professionals and people affected by dementia together to share best practice and to collaborate on new ways of working.

Led by Dr Catrin Hedd Jones, the Network involves meetings for those working with and living with dementia, their friends, carers and families. Over 70 individuals have already attended meetings held at Wrexham, Denbigh and Porthmadog.

The meetings included a creative workshop inspired by the challenges of signage. This was led by artist Lisa Carter and gave members an informal opportunity to discuss and share experiences. The views and experiences of people living with dementia were especially important.

Dr Jones said: "We received positive feedback from our first meetings. Delegates found the meetings very helpful and carers appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss the support that is currently available. Members also shared their 'top tips' about how to support people living with dementia. We hope that members will forge new working relationships and that innovative new support will develop from discussions facilitated in the meetings."





Left to right: Aniemma Ubong (student), Sophia Ingham (who ran the 'repair café'), Medi Alaw Williams (student) and Mischa Ingham-Thomas.

## LOVE YOUR CLOTHES

Students, staff and the wider community banded together to generously donate around two tonnes of unwanted clothing as part of 'Love Your Clothes Bangor' – an event held by Love Your Clothes, the University's Sustainability Lab and the Students' Union, aimed at highlighting the environmental impacts of clothing going to waste.

'Love Your Clothes Bangor' challenged the local community to dig deep by rummaging through their wardrobes and dropping off unwanted clothing at the Love Your Clothes pop-up shop in the Deiniol Shopping Centre. Roughly 220 bags of clothing were received from the public – completely smashing the ambitious one tonne target that was originally set.

One tonne of the mountain of clothing collected was donated to Age Cymru, British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru

and Antur Waunfawr, who supported the event. Around one tonne of clothing was swapped and distributed to the local community, finding new loving homes for previously unwanted clothing.

Dr Einir Young, Director of Sustainability at Bangor University explained:

"Most people were quite shocked to see what a tonne of clothes looks like and surprised that we'd been able to collect two tonnes in such a short time. This demonstrates how many of us have unwanted and unloved clothes hiding in our wardrobes, taking up valuable space. We hope that the experiences gained of repairing, upcycling, creating new garments out of old and swapping our own unloved items with others to give the clothes a new life and ourselves a cheaper new outfit, will catch on.