



Prifysgol Cymru
University of Wales

Summer 2011

Campus

The Magazine for University of Wales Alumni

-  HRH The Prince of Wales' Home Visit
-  Bangalore Alumni Event
-  Philippe Bestenheider: Industrial Design
-  Graduation Celebration 2011
-  Honorary Graduates

Campus



With thousands of students graduating from over 120 different institutions each year, the University of Wales Alumni Association is growing at a fantastic rate, increasing networking and collaborative opportunities.

My name is Jocelyn and I am the new Alumni officer for the University of Wales. So much has already happened since I started in January and I hope you enjoy reading about all the latest news and events over the next few pages.

In order to ensure that all members get the most up to date news and events (and also to ensure the University does its bit for the environment), we are planning on making the majority of our future communications electronic - therefore it's vital to ensure that we have your email address! Make sure your details are up to date by registering now at www.wales.ac.uk/alumni

If you have news, photographs or alumni events which you would like to share then we would love to hear from you.

This is your magazine and I would welcome any comments or suggestions on any aspect of both this, and the alumni association itself.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Jocelyn Keedwell
Communications Officer (Alumni)

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marc Clement

Welcome

from the Vice-Chancellor

A week is a long time in politics; here in the UK, this has also become true of higher education, as the sector continues to work out how best to manage the issue of tuition fees and the differing expectations of various stakeholders. The only real certainty seems to be that of change.

Change is particularly high on the HE agenda in Wales, where the university institutions are being urged to come closer together in order to be as effective as possible in the current challenging climate. In response to this call, the University of Wales is taking proactive steps, with partners from its existing alliance, towards the creation of an expanded institution which will enrich student experience, strengthen academic activity and build Wales's global standing. If this move is successful, the resulting, enhanced University of Wales will be perfectly positioned to deliver the Welsh Government's vision for higher education, to bridge educational boundaries by working with further education partners and to support business development through incubation programmes and research collaborations.

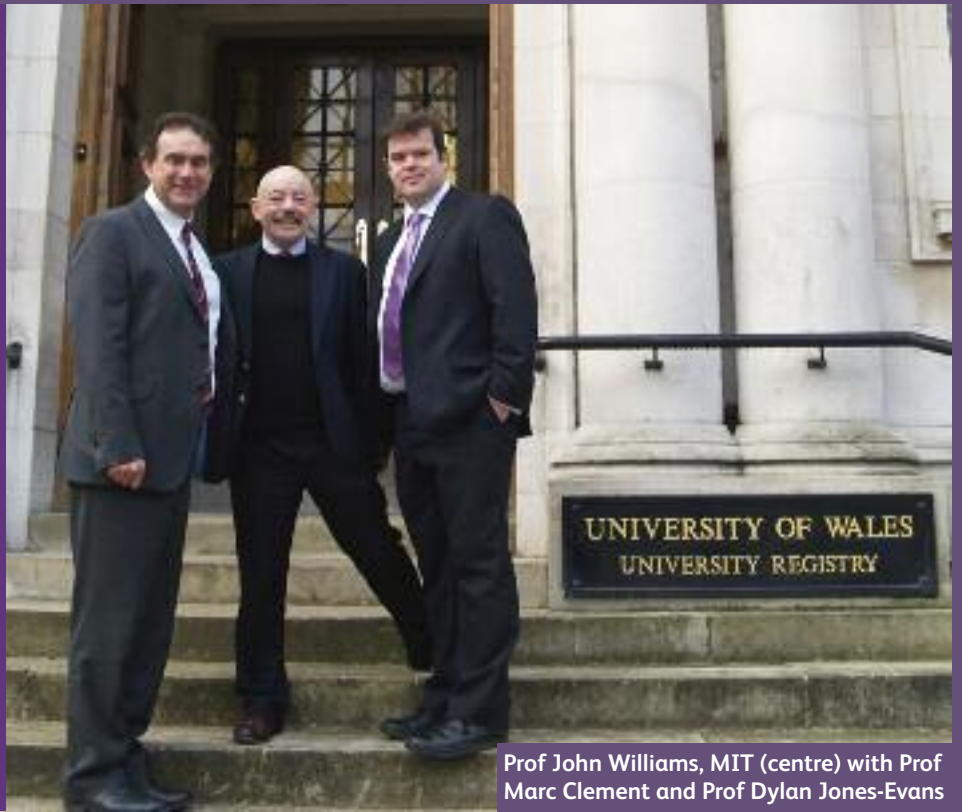
Positive changes are also taking place within your alumni organisation, in particular the appointment of a dedicated Alumni Officer to improve the service we can offer to alumni. Another area of change is the need to ensure we are as green as possible – although this means that Campus will be primarily an electronic publication in future, we are very happy to send a printed copy to anyone who requires one.

This issue of Campus is packed with articles about just some of the developments and activities which have taken place at your University during the past year. We have tried to include something to suit everyone's taste, from a student visit to the home of HRH The Prince of Wales, the University's Chancellor, via a poetry reading by the winner of the University-sponsored Dylan Thomas Prize, to our newest alumni enjoying the celebrations of their graduation. I hope that you will enjoy reading about them all.



MIT and the University of Wales

partner to develop
cyber-security
research and
education



Prof John Williams, MIT (centre) with Prof Marc Clement and Prof Dylan Jones-Evans

Back in March, The University of Wales signed an agreement with the Geospatial Data Centre (GDC) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Engineering System Division to work together to develop solutions for cyber security research and education.

The agreement is one of the main outcomes of a major summit held in Cardiff to discuss key issues in the critically important and growing area of Cyber Security. With leading academics from some of the world's top universities such as Harvard University and the University of Oxford in attendance, delegates met at the National Museum for Wales for the first ever geospatial cyber-physical supply chain summit, hosted by the University of Wales.

They were joined by representatives from the United Nations, US Department of Defense, Northrop Grumman, Microsoft, IBM and Sonalysts.

Organised by the University of Wales Global Academy and MIT's Geospatial Data Centre, the summit discussed specific aspects of the cyber-security threat, including environmental security, supply chain management and high performance computing.

Professor Marc Clement, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, was delighted

that the University of Wales was able to host this unique and ground-breaking event with colleagues at MIT and saw it as a major coup for Wales:

"Part of the mission of the Global Academy is about bringing the best of the World to Wales, and we have had a wonderful event over the last two days that will make a real difference to the discourse on the growing importance of cyber security in all aspects of our lives".

Following the event, Professor John Williams, Director of MIT's Geospatial Data Centre, said:

"The summit has been a tremendous success. The conference has concluded that a multidisciplinary team is necessary to address the problems of cyber security and that the UK and the US would need to produce many thousands of experts in this field over the next few years. That's why the Geospatial Data Centre at MIT and the University of Wales have signed an agreement to jointly develop solutions for cyber security leadership and training, an agreement that will place Wales at the forefront of developments in this area."

"An agreement that will place Wales at the forefront of development in this area"



Dr Andrew Martin speaking at the conference

Geospatial Data Centre MIT



Welsh Innovation Office to open in Silicon Valley

In a move that hopes to propel innovative Welsh companies into the heart of the American venture capital market, the University of Wales announced in May that it had opened an office in San-Jose, the self-proclaimed 'capital of Silicon Valley'.



Wales is now part of this with the initiative of University of Wales locating a foothold in downtown San Jose."

When Professor Dylan Jones-Evans, Director of Enterprise and Innovation of the University of Wales, first heard about the IIC, he was very impressed by its concept and thought that Wales ought to have its own equivalent. Speaking about the new venture Professor Jones-Evans said;

The University of Wales was invited by The Irish Innovation Centre (IIC), a launch-pad organisation for Irish start-up businesses in Silicon Valley, to base itself within the Centre in a nod to a shared Celtic heritage and entrepreneurial spirit.

Together with its affiliate organisation, the Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG), the Centre offers a wealth of resources to technology companies making the difficult transition across the Atlantic, including office space, legal and

administrative help and media/ PR support.

John Hartnett, founder of the IIC and chief executive of the ITLG, welcomed the decision by the University of Wales to locate an office in Silicon Valley. "Connecting Welsh technology companies to Silicon Valley is crucial to accelerate Welsh innovation. Silicon Valley is home to the world's largest technology companies as well as the number one location for Venture Capital funding.

"It will be an office for Wales, for Welsh business and for high-technology firms that want to have a presence in Silicon Valley. Our aim is for Wales to have a foothold in the area through working closely with the Irish Innovation Centre to help a few companies to go over there and see how it works. If we are successful, then there may be the possibility of replicating the concept for Welsh companies."

Appointment of UW Research Chair at Glyndŵr University



In September last year, Professor Richard Day of Glyndŵr University was announced as the second recipient of a University of Wales Research Chair.

Based at the Advanced Composite Training and Development Centre, a partnership between Airbus, Glyndŵr University, Deeside College and the Welsh Assembly Government, Professor Richard Day is a graduate of both Bristol and London universities. He obtained his PhD in Physics from the latter before moving to the University of Manchester where he spent 23 years in the School of Materials.

The sponsorship of the Research Chair is part of the University of Wales's aim of supporting the economic, social, cultural and intellectual well-being of Wales and enhancing the research capacity of higher education in Wales.

On receiving the University of Wales Research Chair, Professor Day said:

"I am honoured to have been awarded this prestigious appointment following my recent move to Glyndŵr University. As is fitting for the aims of both the University of Wales and Glyndŵr University, my research interests are industry focused. I look forward to working with a wide range of industries in Wales to develop and exploit composites to the benefit of the economy."

Professor Day delivered his inaugural lecture as University of Wales Research Chair in February, taking his place among other notable speakers participating in Glyndŵr University's 2010/11 Professional Lecture Series. The lecture explored the history of composite material use in aircraft, from the Wright Flyer to modern day jumbo jets.

Alumni Association Branches and Sections

With students in over 120 international and UK based collaborative centres, University of Wales alumni can be found in wide-ranging professions all over the world, forming a valuable and truly international alumni network.

Within the organisation, there are a number of alumni branches and sections in the UK and overseas. The aim of these branches is to help foster communications between the University and its alumni. They create a local alumni community,

providing links for fellow alumni moving into the area, and networking opportunities through social events.

The University is keen to maintain links with all our alumni, wherever they are in the world, enabling them to keep in touch with each other and feel part of a wider international community. To this end, we actively encourage the formation of alumni branches.

If there is no established international alumni branch in your area and you would like to start one, or if you are part of an active branch that is not listed, please contact alumni@wales.ac.uk for further information and advice.

Branches already in existence

UK Regional Branches

- Bangor
- Carmarthen
- Liverpool
- Swansea

International Branches

- Germany
- Italy
- Sri Lanka
- Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Subject-related Sections (UK Based)

- Classics
- Culture of the 18th and 19th Centuries
- Ethnology and folk studies
- Philosophy
- Theology

Information on how to contact or join these branches can be found on the website at www.wales.ac.uk/alumni

Focus: German Branch

Helmuth W Stahl

At least once a year, we have a big get-together for all our members, currently totaling over 200. This year it took place in Dresden on the 9th April. We call the event a symposium as it comprises presentations and discussions of business related issues by high profile speakers during the day, followed in the evening by a more social occasion in a location chosen for its atmosphere.

The first presentation was given by Mr Andreas Grünewald, head of the Münchener Investment Club, on the topic of global developments in financial matters. He emphasised throughout the growing importance of China for all future aspects. The second topic dealt with the small number of female top executives in Germany's largest companies. Mrs Gabriele Stahl, Partner at Odgers Berndtson, presented her findings, which led to a lively discussion.

The final topic at this year's symposium was "Bridging new shores" which

described developments in manned space flight. It was given by an engineer whose company specialises in unique solutions for the European Space Agency, and who talked about the needs of astronauts living in a totally artificial environment while in space. The day ended with another highlight, namely a get-together in the historical Taschenbergpalais followed by a special dinner (as celebrated during the times of Augustus the Strong) in the famous Sophienkeller.

Another important event for all new graduates from Germany (after the official Celebration Graduation at the Millennium Centre on Friday 6th May 2011) was a welcoming party in the evening at Henry's Bar & Cafe in the middle of Cardiff, organised by the Allfinanz Academy along with our Alumni Club.

More information about the German Branch can be found on their website – www.alumni-wales.de

Helmuth W Stahl

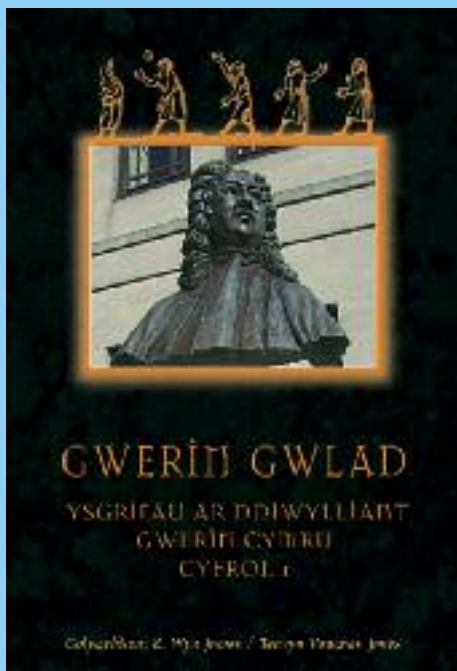


Branches and Sections News

Swansea - The Swansea branch held its annual luncheon meeting at Sketty Hall in May. Following lunch, a presentation was given by the Head of Communications at the University of Wales, Shone Hughes. Mr Hughes updated members on recent events at the University, and possible future plans.

Culture of the 18th and 19th Centuries

- The section held its annual conference in July at Gregynog. The one-day conference was based around the theme of 'The Methodist Revival and the First Ordained in 1811' and had a number of high profile and knowledgeable speakers present.



Ethnology and Folk Studies - Recent activity has focussed on publishing two volumes on the collection and study of folklore in Wales from the eighteenth century onward. The volumes, in a series entitled *Gwerin Gwlad*, are edited by E. Wyn James and Tecwyn Vaughan Jones and published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch. The first volume, published in 2008, received glowing reviews and included essays by prominent names in Welsh ethnological studies. Many of these essays began life as lectures to the Ethnology and Folk Studies Section. The eagerly-awaited second volume, which takes the story from the Victorian Era to the work of the National History Museum at St Fagans, is scheduled to appear in late 2011.

Theology - The Theology section held its summer conference in May when members attended a lecture by the Revd

Professor Densil Morgan of the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David, held in Y Coleg Gwyn, Bangor.

Italy - Due to the enthusiasm of Ms Hellen Vera Chilelli, a graduate from the John Cabot University in Rome, an Italian branch of the alumni association is in the initial stages of forming. All University of Wales alumni are invited to join.

Carmarthen - The Carmarthen branch held its annual joint lecture with the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David, in May. Professor Medwin Hughes, the University's Vice-Chancellor, spoke about the exciting developments that have taken place at the newly formed university and about the proposals for the future.

Middle East & North Africa (MENA)

In May, the formation of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) branch of the Alumni Association was announced. The branch is still in the initial stages of formation and all interested alumni in this region are urged to register with contact Lokesh Mishra (tmlokesh@hotmail.com). Members will be able to stay up to date with education news and take advantage of various entertainment and corporate networking opportunities.

Bangor - We look forward to welcoming guests to an event held at the University of Wales stand at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham. Taking place between 1.30 and 3.30pm (lecture starts at 2.30pm) on Tuesday 2nd August, the focal point of the session will be a lecture by Professor R. Gareth Wynn Jones. The subject will be Professor Charles Evans FRS, founder of the Biochemistry Department at the University of North Wales, Bangor, where he and his wife, Dr Antice Evans conducted innovative research into the connection between cancer and bracken in North Wales. Receiving the highest honour possible for a scientist in Britain, being made a Fellow of the Royal Society, he lost none of his intrinsic characteristics as a courageous Welshman and colourful character from the Arfon countryside.



Professor Charles Evans

Sixty years of classics

Professor Ceri Davies

2011 is a notable year in the history of the Classics Section as we celebrate our sixtieth anniversary.

The Classics Section was established in a special meeting held at the National Eisteddfod at Llanwrst in 1951, with its aim to promote and maintain interest in Greek and Roman culture through the medium of Welsh. Lectures were arranged regularly on the National Eisteddfod field and one-day courses and talks were arranged for individual schools. There was collaboration with other societies in meetings and conferences and, since 2007, the Section has met annually for a day of courses and discussions at Gregynog.

The Section has also promoted and sponsored publications, starting in 1954 with *Straeon Tad Hanes*, an anthology of the work of Herodotus translated by Professor T. Hudson-Williams. The most ambitious publication entered into by the Section was the Latin-Welsh Dictionary in 1979, an 800 page volume edited by Huw S. Thomas.

From the outset the Section was fortunate in its leaders. Its first president was Sir Emrys Evans, who is mainly remembered for his Welsh language versions of several of the most important works of the philosopher Plato. The person who ensured the establishment of the Section, and who acted as its main facilitator for many years, was Professor J. Gwyn Griffiths. He was the Section's first Secretary from 1951 to 1972, and was then elected President, a post he held until 1992.

The Section will celebrate its diamond jubilee in a special meeting at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham. The celebratory meeting will be led by the current President, Mr John Ellis Jones who has been an officer of the Section since its establishment, serving as Treasurer for over forty years, and a dynamic President since 1992.

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to join us in our celebrations at Wrexham. The meeting will be held at the Associations' Pavilion (Number 2) on Monday 1 August at 12.00.



HRH The Prince of Wales receives a home visit from his students

In April, students studying towards University of Wales degrees were invited to meet HRH The Prince of Wales at his Welsh residence, Llwynywermod, near Myddfai in Llandovery.

As Chancellor of the University of Wales, the Prince maintains close links with the University and its students by extending an annual invitation to a select number of budding scholars to learn more about their studies and aspirations for the future.

Each year, Welsh universities offering University of Wales degrees nominate students to meet their Chancellor. This year, there were students representing Swansea Metropolitan University, University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC), University of Wales Newport, Glyndŵr University, University of Wales: Trinity Saint David, Bangor University, Swansea University and Aberystwyth University.

Having met the Prince, Aldo Tagliabue, a student of Swansea University said: *“My experience of meeting HRH The Prince of Wales was great. I found him a very nice and open-minded man, who was really interested in meeting each one of us in a familiar and genuine way. I will remember this event all my life.”*

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Professor Marc Clement, added: *“His Royal Highness, as Chancellor of the University, takes a keen interest in all our activities, and we are delighted that students of the University of Wales are able to meet him at his home in West Wales and to talk about their university experience and their hopes for their future careers.”*

“I will remember this event all my life.”



Alumni Links strengthened in Bangalore

In March the second Welsh Assembly Government Reception for Alumni and Networking was held at the Leela Palace Kempinski in Bangalore, India.

With over 130 guests travelling from all over Southern India, many members of the University of Wales alumni association were in attendance. It proved to be an excellent networking opportunity with contacts from education, business and industry present.

The event was hosted by Rebecca Fairbairn, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Deputy High Commission, with Dr Peter Noyes, Chair of Wales International Consortium and Vice-Chancellor of University of Wales Newport, as key speaker. The evening included a wonderful dinner provided by the Leela Palace Hotel, “Team Wales” photos which everyone made sure to be in, and a prize draw with prizes including a Rugby shirt, signed by the Welsh National Rugby Team.

Om Jain, alumnus of the University of Wales and prize winner, commented on the evening: *“Attending this event was a great opportunity. I am proud to be part of the University of Wales alumni as it not only connects people, but connects cultures and promotes cross border relationships”.*

The event was a huge success and a great opportunity for all those who attended. Virginia West, Director of Wales International Consortium, said, *“It was fantastic to see so many alumni from universities in Wales at the reception, which was very useful for business contacts as well as being great fun. We were all disappointed when the evening had to end around midnight”.*



International Graduation Ceremonies



RITS Graduates

Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS)

Our Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Enhancement, Professor Nigel Palastanga, was in Singapore last November to share in the graduation celebrations of successful University of Wales students at the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS).

Family members and guests witnessed over 100 students receive their academic scrolls of achievement at the Orchard Hotel in Singapore, where they were welcomed alongside Professor Palastanga by MDIS President Dr Eric Kuan, and guest of honour Mr Zainudin Nordin, Mayor of Central Singapore District and MP for the Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC.

Professor Palastanga was very pleased with the high level of academic standards maintained by MDIS and the University of Wales. He also praised the students and remarked:

“The greatest accolade, though, belongs to you, the students. Your very significant achievements mean that you, together with your friends and family, have every reason to feel proud today”.

The ceremony ended with a shower of confetti, followed by a photography session and lunch.

Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen (RITS), China

The University's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Enhancement, Professor Nigel Palastanga, joined in the graduation celebrations of the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen (RITS) in November. Joining RITS staff Penny Peng and Anny Song, Professor Palastanga welcomed students who had successfully completed their MBA studies into the University of Wales Alumni Association.

The day was a joyous occasion full of colour, smiles and celebration.

Parexel Akademie, Berlin

Parexel Akademie, Berlin, recently celebrated their first ever graduating cohort of University of Wales students, who had successfully completed their BSc in Clinical Research.

In attendance was Dr Roger Marshall, the University of Wales representative and Moderator, as well as luminaries of the German pharmaceutical industry and academic staff from Parexel Akademie.

The proceedings were led by Dr Heidrun Bruchmann, the Director of the Akademie, who in her inaugural



Parexel-Akademie



MDIS President with Professor Palastanga

graduation address spoke of a deep affection for her students for whom she had guided and fretted over throughout the course of their studies.

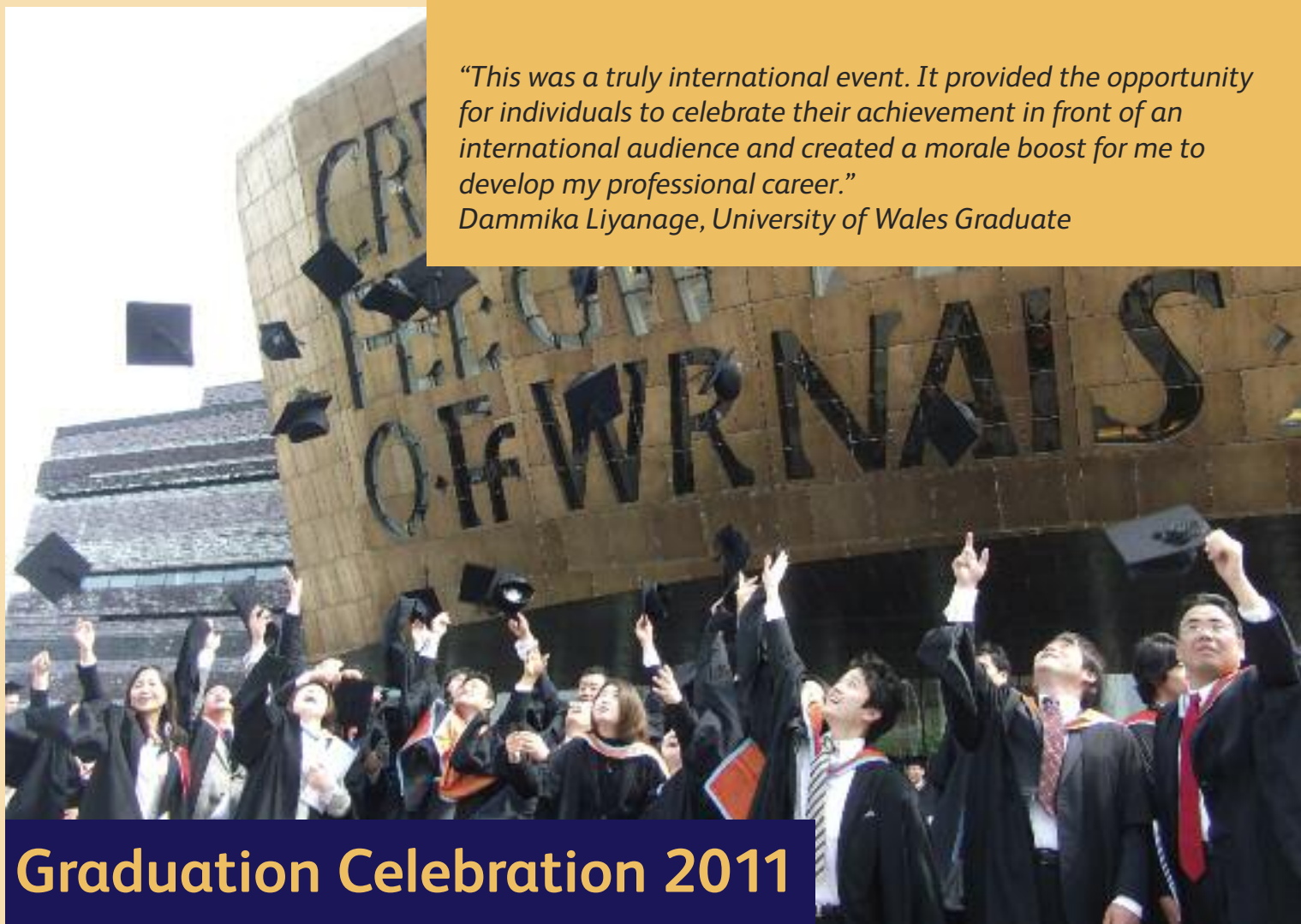
Class representatives, Anne Koester and Cédric Lingfeld, spoke warmly of the course and its influence on their development:

“We feel proud to be part of something new, challenging and exciting. We wish to thank the staff for all the support that we have received and for helping us to develop into young professionals with a solid knowledge of clinical research.”

Dr Ulf Schneider (Senior Vice-President and CAO, Parexel) acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the entire team and wished the students long and successful careers.

All present on the day were in agreement that it had been a great occasion where the culmination of a tremendous amount of work for both staff and students was celebrated.

“This was a truly international event. It provided the opportunity for individuals to celebrate their achievement in front of an international audience and created a morale boost for me to develop my professional career.”
Dammika Liyanage, University of Wales Graduate



Graduation Celebration 2011

Over 1,000 graduates and their guests joined the University of Wales to mark the end of their studies in graduation celebrations spread between Cardiff and London.

On Friday 6th May, scholars from across the globe descended upon the iconic Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

Presided over by the Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wales, each student was personally greeted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Marc Clement, along with the Chair of the University’s Council and other senior officers of the University of Wales.

The ceremonies were also streamed live on the University’s web pages enabling friends and family who weren’t able to make the journey to Cardiff to see their loved ones’ shining moment on stage in the spotlight.



University of Wales 2011 Honorary Graduates



Due to the popularity of the celebrations, an additional ceremony was arranged the next day in London for graduates of Kensington College of Business (KCB). Over 400 graduates gathered at the historic Freemasons Hall in London.

Graduates attending both celebrations made the journey from a vast array of countries. The multicultural congregation is testament to the University's strong international ties. Since its inception in 1998, this vibrant event has continued to grow in size as graduates and their families and friends from across the globe gather together and join in the celebrations.

Don't forget – Register your email address to ensure you receive all future communications from the University of Wales Alumni Association. Go to www.wales.ac.uk/alumni

As part of the graduation celebrations, the University of Wales welcomed two prominent Welsh figures to the Wales Millennium Centre. The Right Honourable Lord Justice Thomas and former HSBC boss and financier, Dyfrig John CBE, both received honorary degrees during the proceedings in recognition of their achievements and services to their respective fields of work.

Having read law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Lord Justice Thomas began his career as a Commonwealth Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School. In subsequent years he distinguished himself as a member of the Queen's Counsel and as Judge of the High Court of England and Wales, before being made President of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary.

Originally from Crymych, in North Pembrokeshire, Dyfrig John has had an international career in banking spanning 38 years. Originally joining HSBC Bank Plc (then known as Midland Bank) as a graduate management trainee, his last position before he retired in June 2009 was as Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of HSBC Bank plc. His work has taken him to India and Malaysia, and won him many accolades in his industry, including a CBE.

On receiving his honorary degree, he said: *"After 40 years spent in the finance world working in the UK, US, India and Malaysia, it is a huge honour to be recognised on my own doorstep by the University of Wales. I had immense pleasure and pride in accepting the Honorary Degree alongside so many students from countries where I had worked and visited many times. I wish them every success as they embark on their own careers with the confidence that a University of Wales degree will, I am sure, give them."*



Lord Justice Thomas (centre)



Dyfrig John CBE

Newly-formed Faculty marks a first for University of Wales



Amid the revelry of the graduation celebrations, academics from varying fields of expertise gathered to launch the University of Wales's first ever Faculty division.

Headed by the University's Pro Vice-Chancellor of Learning, Teaching and Enhancement, Professor Nigel Palastanga, the Faculty is made up of three schools: Arts and Humanities, Business and Law, and STEM subjects. Work will primarily be geared towards

supporting the University's work in its collaborative provision.

Each school is presided over by a Dean who, in turn, is supported by lecturers and staff from within the Faculty itself and also from Alliance institutions who act as moderators.

The School of Arts and Humanities is chaired by its Dean, Professor Linden Peach, an established scholar in literary studies. The purpose of the school is to promote and develop teaching and

research in these areas within both the University itself and the University's collaborative centres

Nigel Foster, former Professor of European Law, is Dean of the School of Business and Law, which has been established to support the activities within the fields of Business and Law undertaken by the University's collaborative centres.

Leading the School of STEM is Dean Simon Haslett, Professor of Physical Geography. An elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Geological Society of London, Professor Haslett hopes to underpin the University of Wales's validation and quality assurance activity in STEM subject provision.

Speaking about this exciting new development within the University, Professor Nigel Palastanga said; *"For the first time in its history the University of Wales has its own academic staff. The role of the Faculty will be to support our many collaborative centres and to work with universities in the Alliance to strengthen teaching and research to the benefit of Wales."*

2011 University of Wales Teaching Fellows Announced

In recognition of their services to teaching excellence, Dr Jo Smedley and Assistant Professor Silvia Pulino have been announced as recipients of the 2011 Teaching Fellowship Awards.

Dr Smedley, Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching in Newport Business School at the University of Wales, Newport, has had a learning and teaching focused career in higher education spanning over 25 years. She will use her money towards the development of learning support projects across the University of Wales network.

On receiving her award Dr Smedley said: *"I am passionate about providing a high quality student learning experience through exploring and implementing innovative learning approaches. This Fellowship will enable me to widen the scope of this work."*

Silvia Pulino is currently an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at John Cabot University, and also coordinates a Career Services Centre.

Professor Silvia Pulino said: *"This award is an important milestone in my academic career, and I look forward to using it to develop an online, interactive course in global entrepreneurship aimed at non-business students. I strongly believe in the use of technology as a means to break down barriers and bring communities together."*

The scheme was established to promote and enhance the profile of learning and teaching in the University's Alliance Partner Institutions and Collaborative centres by recognising and celebrating individuals who make an outstanding contribution to the student learning experience.

Professor Silvia Pulino



Dr Jo Smedley

University of Wales Dylan Thomas Prize Winner returns to Wales

At the beginning of June, poet Elyse Fenton made the journey from her home in Philadelphia for a whistle stop tour of Wales, where she took time out to visit the University of Wales shop in Cardiff to read from her award-winning collection, *Clamor*. It was standing room only as many came to listen.

For these poems, written during her husband's deployment in Iraq, Elyse won the 2010 University of Wales Dylan Thomas Prize - the first poet to have won the £30,000 accolade since its inception in 2006.

Speaking before the reading, Elyse explained to her audience that her inspiration for writing poetry comes from an immersion and fascination in language and not from any strong objection to war.

"There was no real political reason for my writing this material" said Elyse, "it's the language which drives me. I wasn't even paying attention to the potential of an audience when writing this, it just felt necessary and urgent and it wrote me while I was writing it."

Dylan Thomas



The University of Wales
Dylan Thomas Prize



Receiving her prize in 2010



Elyse Fenton

The University of Wales Dylan Thomas Prize founder, Professor Peter Stead, said:

"I am thrilled that the Dylan Thomas Prize was finally awarded to a poet. Like Dylan, Elyse's work conveys vivid images and a fascination with words. We had a real insight into the nature of poetry in today's reading. Indeed, none of this would have been possible without help from the University of Wales; together we're not only taking Wales and Dylan Thomas to the world, but also bringing the world to Wales."

Speaking of the opportunities that the University of Wales Dylan Thomas Prize had brought her, Elyse commented:

"To now find myself in the international spotlight is a little unnerving because I didn't set out for this at all. The Dylan Thomas Prize has gotten me an international readership; it's allowed me to think of myself as a professional writer, which I've never before been able to do. For the most part it's just thrilling!"

The following day Elyse, joined by the 2006 Dylan Thomas Prize Winner Rachel Tresize, gave a reading at the Hay Festival of Literature which capped off her brief stay in Wales. Her visit not only allowed her to reach more people with her work, but also spend time in Swansea, exploring the old stomping ground of Wales's most revered literary export.

"Finding Dylan"

The City and Council of Swansea are running a new writing competition in association with the University of Wales Dylan Thomas Prize.

"Finding Dylan" is a chance for school children in Swansea who are leaving primary school this year (ages 10-11) to share their experiences of childhood with the world in the form of an essay, story, poem or diary. The entry, of no more than 1,000 words, must relate to one of the following themes; "My Summer", "My Team", "My Swansea", or "My Wales", and the winner will receive a trip to Disneyland in Paris.

As so much of Dylan Thomas' work involves a nostalgic look back at childhood, there is particular relevance to the competition, which will also raise the important topic of literacy in Swansea schools and get children freely expressing their creative ideas.

More information and application details are available on the Dylan Thomas Prize website - www.dylanthomasprize.com/dyland



Philippe Bestenheider: Industrial Design



With many of its Masters courses validated by the University of Wales, Domus Academy is the first post-graduate design school in Italy. It attracts a fascinating and diverse community of highly talented and motivated design students with many who complete their Masters Degree at Domus Academy becoming prominent figures in the world of design, fashion and business.

Amongst them is Philippe Bestenheider, who in 2000 was awarded a Masters Degree in Industrial Design. Now a highly

respected and well known furniture designer, Philippe spends his time between Switzerland and Milan designing for companies including Moroso, de Sede, Pallucco, Fratelli Boffi, Varaschin, Frag and Nilufar Gallery.

Born in Sion, Switzerland, Philippe first graduated from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich with a degree in architecture and worked for studios both in Switzerland and the US before going on to further his studies at Domus Academy.

On graduating, he secured a job with the Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola and, until 2006, was a Senior Designer in her office in Milan designing for brands such as Alessi, Molteni and Agape.

In 2007, he set up a studio of his own. One of his first clients was the Italian design company Moroso for whom his 'Nanook' chair – a bold hexagonal 2D graphic, folded into a seat – made him the one to watch in 2008. Not only this -

in 2010, 'Nanook' won the highly respected Italian national award for innovation 'Premio dei Premi', which was presented to him by the Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, and in September 2010 it was featured in the ADI Index 2009, a compendium of significant designs selected by the Italian Design Association.

Philippe has a passion for geometrical systems and sees nature and science as a great source of inspiration. He has gained a wealth of experience in the world of design, creating original and innovative, yet practical collections, which have made him stand out as a truly exciting and talented designer.

For more information on Philippe Bestenheider and his designs, please visit his website - www.philippebestenheider.com

More information about Domus Academy and the courses it offers can be found on its website - www.domusacademy.com



Alumni Benefits and Services

Over the next couple of months, we are planning to develop the alumni pages on the website. As part of this, we are hoping to be able to offer members benefits and discounts for a range of services and products.

We'd like to hear your views on what kind of benefits and services you would find

most useful to have, and would like us to try and secure. In addition, if you yourself feel you have a service or benefit that you would like to offer other alumni members then please do get in touch.

Please contact alumni@wales.ac.uk with your suggestions, comments or proposals.

Alumni Golf Society

Plans to form a Golf Society for alumni members are currently in their initial stages.

To register your interest and to be kept informed of progress, please contact alumni@wales.ac.uk

Welsh Composer awarded research grant

Cited as being one of the most promising Welsh composers of his generation and a key figure in current Welsh music, Dr Guto Pryderi Puw was one of this year's recipients of the Thomas Ellis Memorial Fund award.

Now a Music Lecturer at Bangor University, he studied there with composers John Pickard, Andrew Lewis and Pwyll ap Siôn where he gained his MMus degree in 1996, and a PhD in composition in 2002.

Guto was appointed as the first Resident Composer with BBC National Orchestra of Wales (BBC NOW) in 2006 and held this position until 2010. Three large scale music pieces were composed and developed during Guto's time with the Orchestra and were performed across the country. Neuadd Brycheiniog in Brecon, Neuadd Prichard-Jones in Bangor, the Royal Albert Hall in London, and concert halls in Modena, Brescia and Bergamo have all played host to his music.

His work has won widespread praise from national music critics; *Concerto for Oboe* won the BBC Radio 3 'Listeners' Award' at the British Composer Awards in 2007, and *Reservoirs* was nominated for a Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2005.

Until recently there were no studio-based recordings of the compositions which resulted from his residency at BBC NOW. However, the £1,500 research grant that Guto received has been put to good use as recording of the works have now been completed with the BBC NOW. The recording will be released on the Signum label in the near future.

Speaking of winning the award, Guto said:

"Producing a CD of my orchestral compositions has created a comprehensive collection of my recent creative output and is an important contribution to my research profile. This wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the University of Wales."

In addition to his teaching and composition, Guto is Chairman and Artistic Director of the Bangor New Music Festival, and conductor of Côr Cyntaf i'r Felin, a Welsh-language choir based in Y Felinheli near Bangor.



Dr Guto Pryderi Puw

A selection of other scholarships and prizes awarded by the University of Wales this academic year

Aberfan Children's Scholarship

Awarded in January, this year's recipients were Charlotte Elizabeth Donegan, currently studying for a degree in Psychology at Swansea University; Ruth June Williams, who is doing a BA in Education at the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David; and Curtis Colcombe, a student of Sport and Physical Education at UWIC. They each received £1000 to help support them through the next phase of their studies.

Thomas Ellis Memorial Fund

This was awarded in both January and June this year to 3 separate recipients, who all happen to be at Bangor University. January's recipients were Music Lecturer Dr Guto Pryderi Puw and PhD student Gwawr Ifan. They received £1,500 and £1,000 respectively. Leila Salisbury, also currently studying for her PhD in Music, was awarded £750 in June.

D Afan Thomas Memorial Award for Music

Awarded in March, this year's prize went to two exceptional musicians. Receiving £1,500 was Jordan Price Williams, 3rd year student of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) and Gwawr Ifan, PhD student of Bangor University and previous winner of the University of Wales Thomas Ellis Fund, received £500.

The Gareth Jones Memorial Travelling Scholarship

Both Jen-Ping Chiu, a Swansea University graduate, and Jason Edwards, a graduate from Aberystwyth University, were awarded this year's scholarship in June. Each received £3,000 which will enable them to travel as part of their research and continue with their schemes of study in preparation for work in journalism.

Further information about all scholarships, grants and prizes awarded by the University of Wales, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found on our website

Visit – www.wales.ac.uk/Scholarships



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The University Shop, located in the heart of Cardiff's castle quarter, features a wide selection of high quality merchandise such as clothing, jewellery and gifts carrying the University's logo.

As well as merchandise, the shop is perfect for the general book lover as well as the more seasoned academic reader, with a broad range of books and journals published by the University of Wales Press available to purchase.

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