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As the University continues through the process of its on-going transformation through merger with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, there are many opportunities for exciting developments and joint initiatives.

Working in partnership with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, the Government of Wales and with other academic and civil institutions in Wales, the transformed University will continue the long historic tradition of developing and delivering educational services which will celebrate the distinctiveness of Wales and support the aspirations of a dynamic country which plays its part on an international stage.

One such partnership is the creation of a vibrant new multi-million pound university campus in Swansea on the SA1 Swansea Waterfront. This prime waterfront location in the heart of the city will transform the educational experience for staff and students, connecting academia with innovation, enterprise, businesses and the community. Phase one is already underway with plans to create a vibrant Waterfront Innovation Quarter, which will encompass the Dylan Thomas Centre and business incubation buildings in Technium Square. More information about the development can be found within this magazine.

Within a period of strategic change, and as we look to the future, we should not forget our past. The University supports, and is responsible for, a range of academic and cultural initiatives which reflect the very best of the history and legacy of the University of Wales. The creation of Adduned Cymru – The Wales Pledge ensures that these services are safeguarded, and further information about how the various charitable trusts and strategic initiatives will work will be available later on in the year.

Alongside these developments, it has been another busy year for the University, and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the other activities which have taken place during the past couple of months, and the achievements of our Alumni members.

Professor Medwin Hughes DL DPhil DPS FRSA
Vice-Chancellor

Welcome from your Alumni Officer

Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of Campus.

Encompassing such a broad range of people, the University of Wales Alumni Association includes members who have held a University of Wales (UW) award for many years, as well as students who have only just graduated and were in attendance at the recent Graduation Celebrations in Cardiff. Some will have studied at an institution in Wales, and others will have studied for their UW award at one of our UK and international Collaborative Centres.

Whenever you graduated, or whatever institution you attended, we hope you feel proud of your connection with the University and we are keen to ensure that the Association continues to grow, supporting our members and facilitating better two-way liaison and communication.

This magazine aims to keep members up to date and informed about University news and the achievements of fellow Alumni, and I very much hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Campus.

Jocelyn Keedwell
Communications Officer (Alumni)
alumni@wales.ac.uk

On the Cover
Situated in the Maritime Quarter of Wales’ second city Swansea, the Dylan Thomas Centre is one of the city’s most iconic buildings. Opened in 1825, the University took over the lease of the building in 2011 significantly investing in renovations at the Centre.

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CAWCS Reader delivers prestigious John V. Kelleher Lecture

Organised and hosted by the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures of Harvard University, the Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium has been attracting students and scholars from around the world since 1981.

Welcoming papers dealing with any aspect of the Celtic languages, their literatures and their cultures in any period, the Colloquium is held each year in October, and opens with the John V. Kelleher Memorial Lecture.

This year, Dr Ann Parry Owen, Reader at the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS) and project leader of The Poetry of Guto’r Glyn project, was invited to deliver the 11th Kelleher lecture on her work on medieval Welsh poetry.

The John V. Kelleher Lecture commemorates Harvard’s first professor of Irish Studies. John Kelleher was a distinguished scholar and legendary teacher in many areas, and in inviting the Kelleher Lecturers, the organisers seek out the finest scholars in the world of Celtic studies, and speakers whose range and depth is worthy of John Kelleher’s legacy.

Entitled “An audacious man of beautiful words” Ieuan Gethin (c.1390–c.1470), Dr Parry Owen’s lecture discussed the little-known fifteenth-century gentleman-poet of Baglan, near Swansea. Ieuan Gethin was described by a contemporary as a prifardd (chief poet), and was very accomplished at composing in cynghanedd, the downfall of many a lesser poet who often sacrificed sense and meaning at the expense of fulfilling the technical requirements of the metre.

Speaking about her subject matter, Dr Parry Owen explained: “Whereas the mainstay of the professional poet’s output was traditional praise poetry and elegies composed under commission, an amateur gentleman-poet, such as Ieuan Gethin, had more freedom to sing on topics that appealed to him. Only ten of his poems have survived, but each one is a gem, giving us a unique insight to many aspects of life in fifteenth-century Wales.”

CAWCS’ links to the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures of Harvard University goes back to the early days of the Centre. Professor Catherine McKenna, the Harvard Chair of Celtic Studies, collaborated on the Centre’s first research project, The Poets of the Princes.

Speaking about her time in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr Parry Owen said: “The audience appreciated the wide scope of the topics covered in the poetry, as well as their entertainment value. I feel really grateful to the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard for inviting me, and for their extremely generous hospitality.”

Continuing with the process of merger with its sister institution in Wales, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, in March the University launched a new merger website using the newly created .Cymru/.Wales domain name.

Designed to sit alongside our existing website, the new website has been created specifically to keep interested parties and stakeholders up to date with the latest developments and news about the merger, as well as to provide information about joint initiatives and projects. The website is still in development, and will continue to grow and evolve.

Our main website (www.wales.ac.uk) will remain an important source of information for those who wish to keep up to date with University news, as well as hosting invaluable Alumni resources and information.

The University is keen to hear views from as many people as possible on both the new website and the strategic direction of the University, taking them into consideration as it consults on a range of proposed strategic initiatives.

The Stakeholders’ Voice section on the new website provides an opportunity for people who have an interest in the University to offer their comments.

Please visit www.university.wales
In October 2014, as part of a season of programmes commemorating the First World War on BBC Radio Cymru, Dr Marion Löffler, University of Wales Research Fellow, co-researched and presented a programme which took on the thorny subject of racism and jingoism at the outbreak of war, recounting the October 1914 expulsion of German residents from her adopted home town of Aberystwyth.

Produced by independent company ‘Unigryw’ for BBC Radio Cymru, Bravo Aberystwyth tells the story of Hermann Ethé, a German Professor of Eastern Languages at Aberystwyth, who was hounded out of the town by a jingoistic mob in October 1914.

Hermann Ethé was 70 and had worked and lived Aberystwyth since 1876, one of the first members of staff at the ‘College by the Sea’. He was forced to leave overnight, never to return to his chosen home town, and died two years later. He was not the only German to receive such treatment, but the names of the cooks and waiters in sea-side hotels who were driven away, were not recorded.

Speaking about the programme, Dr Löffler explained:

“We made the programme to commemorate a darker and therefore neglected side of the First World War in Britain. Foreign nationals, especially Germans, of all classes and religions were persecuted in the towns and cities of England and Wales during the ‘Great War’. Even the royal family was affected by this, changing their name to Windsor. For those less elevated than them, losing work and home to be branded an enemy alien often had catastrophic consequences. The programme expresses our wish that nobody will ever have to leave Aberystwyth or any other town in Wales at 2 o’clock in the morning, fearing for their lives.”

A great success, the programme was shortlisted for a 2015 Celtic Media Festival prize, where it was selected by a panel of five judges out of 60 entries from all the Celtic countries to compete for the prize of Best Radio Documentary.

An annual high point for practitioners, students and researchers in radio, television and the new media in Cornwall, Brittany, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Festival’s aim is to promote the languages and cultures of the Celtic countries on screen and in broadcasting. The Festival was held in late April where attendees came together for three days of seminars, screenings of new productions and awards ceremonies at Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland.

Speaking about being selected for the prize’s shortlist, she said:

“Being short-listed for the prize was an honour and a great achievement for a Welsh-language radio programme. We did not win, but being show-cased in Inverness meant gaining publicity so that, for instance, a Gaelic radio station is interested in producing our programme in Scottish Gaelic. Following our programme, Aberystwyth Town Council commissioned a tri-lingual commemoration plaque in English, German and Welsh which will be unveiled later this year. Aberystwyth may thus be the first town in Britain to remember the darker side of British patriotism during the ‘Great War’.”

Bravo Aberystwyth, was originally broadcast in October 2014, 100 years after the expulsion of Herrmann Ethé.
Alumna wins Wales Drama Award

In December, writer, performer and alumna Kelly Jones was announced as winner of the 2014 Wales Drama Award. Originally from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Kelly has been living and working in Wales since 2007, graduating from the then Swansea Metropolitan University (SMU) with a degree in Performing Arts and Theatre Management.

The biennial Wales Drama Award is presented by BBC Wales and National Theatre Wales, in partnership with BBC Writersroom. It was launched in 2012 and this is only the second time it has been given. The award is offered to any writer residing in Wales, and aims to encourage writers who feel passionate about the stories they want to tell, and who have something to offer audiences across the length and breadth of Wales and the wider UK.

Speaking about winning the award, Kelly explained:

“You know I still can’t quite believe it! When I submitted the play it was a first draft, rough and ready - I didn’t think it would make it past the first read. I am so thankful for the award and feel very lucky to have been given this opportunity. I’ve been writing for a few years now and for someone to go actually you are good at what you are doing, really pushes you to trust yourself and abilities.”

Writers were asked to submit a full-length script in any medium, unperformed or unproduced, in the English language and at least 30 minutes long. Kelly’s script, which won the award was a play called TAMMY. It explored issues considered taboo in society and the consequences and effects that non-discussion can have on a family, drawing on Kelly’s own life experiences growing up in Dagenham.

Kelly was exposed to the theatre scene at school, making use of her proximity to London and seeing lots of performances at the Royal Court Theatre. With drama her favourite lesson at school, and her love of plays and the written text, she always knew she wanted to be involved with performing but wasn’t sure in what capacity. As she explains:

“I think deep down I knew I wanted to write and perform but it was the fear of failure that stopped me at first and the not knowing how. I think that’s why I choose SMU. The course was based on different techniques and approaches to making your own work, it was about playing, trying and finding out what works and doesn’t work for you. I really enjoyed my time there and felt it gave me the opportunity to really test and stretch my creative muscles.”

After Graduating, Kelly started making her own work and showing bits at scratch nights and local festivals. After moving to Cardiff, she seized upon the opportunity to meet with the Literary Manager for the Sherman Theatre which resulted in her joining their writers group. Other opportunities followed through National Theatre Wales (NTW) with Kelly being mentored by playwright Tim Price and invited to go on NTW’s artists summercamp, an invite which helped Kelly decide to quit her job and focus on writing fulltime.

“It was the scariest thing I have ever done and a risk that paid off because I think I knew that it had to. I was self-employed, which at that time to me meant unemployed. I applied for everything going and was successful in getting Arts Council Wales funding for a project of mine, which led to me applying and getting selected with another project to be a part of The Yard Theatre in London NOW’14 collection. The Drowned Girl premiered at The Yard and is a play that I am really proud of; it was the show that I started working on at Summercamp.”

As a part of the Wales Drama Award, Kelly won a prize of £10,000 and received an opportunity to develop her ideas with BBC Cymru Wales and NTW. She is now currently working with the development team at BBC, being mentored by TV writer Lucy Gannon and about to write a seed commission for NTW. She is also preparing for a Welsh tour of The Drowned Girl and pending funding, a new play of hers is due to be performed for a 3 week run in Wales this autumn.

Speaking about her career so far and how she got to where she is, Kelly explains:

“I feel incredibly lucky to be where I am today. When I was first starting out I’d watch others success and feel a little stressed about why they were the lucky ones. I soon realized that this business isn’t about luck; actually it’s all about hard work, making the most of every opportunity, taking risks and being true to yourself.”

For more information about Kelly and her work, please visit her website www.kellyjonestheatre.com/
Another successful Graduation celebration was held at the end of April at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay. This year the celebrations took place over just the one day, though the attendance was still high with over 1,000 students and their guests travelling to the event.

Presided over by the Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wales, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Medwin Hughes, the procession included representatives from both the University of Wales and our merger partner the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The proceedings saw each graduate personally greeted by the Vice-Chancellor as well as being treated to fantastic performances by Romanas Kudriasovas, a singer from the Welsh International Academy of Voice.

As well as celebrating the achievements of our students, the University also awarded degrees on an honorary basis to two people in recognition of their achievements and services to their respective fields of work.

Dr R Alun Evans - Doctor of Literature honoris causa, for services promoting Welsh culture and language, both as a broadcaster and as a champion for the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

On learning he was to receive an honorary degree, Dr Evans said:

“It is a great honour for me to accept this degree from the University of Wales in recognition of a contribution to broadcasting and to the culture of my country. In 1963 the same degree was conferred upon my predecessor at the BBC in North Wales, Dr Sam Jones. This honour makes me, as it made Sam half a century ago, a ‘very happy man’. I look forward to sharing the occasion with my family.”

Lord Elystan Morgan - Doctor of Laws honoris causa, for services to Welsh political life and to the legal system in Wales and for his support for the University of Wales.

Speaking on receiving news of his honorary degree Lord Morgan said

“The University has a dominant role to play in the life of Wales and I am deeply grateful for having been honoured well beyond my deserts.”

The University is delighted to recognise the achievements and contributions that Dr R Alun Evans and Lord Elystan Morgan have each made in their respective fields, and is very proud to welcome them both as Honorary Graduates of the University of Wales.
Romanas Kudriasovas performs during the ceremony.
Wales’ second city Swansea has played an important role in the development and expansion of the University, with its presence in the city becoming more prominent of late. The city is also playing an important role in the plans of our merger partner the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) with plans to create their vibrant new multi-million pound university campus on the SA1 Swansea Waterfront. A prime location, there are a number of exciting developments and joint initiatives taking shape.

Dylan Thomas Centre
The Dylan Thomas Centre, in Swansea’s Maritime Quarter, is one of the city’s most iconic buildings. In 2011, the University took over the lease of the building and has significantly invested in renovations at the Centre. Now a multi-purpose venue open to host a range of events and functions, the new facilities at the Centre include incubation space for businesses that are interested in establishing a presence in Swansea, and the warm and welcoming ’1825 Café’.

2014 brought about a very special celebration for the nation as it celebrated the centenary of one of its most celebrated and creative figures – Dylan Thomas. As the international focal point for Dylan fans and scholars, the Centre played host to a range of artistic and cultural projects throughout the year, as well as hosting the Centenary Gala Dinner where the newly refurbished and expanded Dylan Thomas Love The Words Exhibition was opened, which has since attracted streams of visitors and high praise.

SA1 Development
With its close proximity to the city centre, and a prime waterfront location, the SA1 development has been identified by UWTSD as the ideal location to develop a new campus providing modern education and research facilities and recreational opportunities for students.

Phase one is already underway with plans to create a vibrant Waterfront Innovation Quarter, which will encompass the Dylan Thomas Centre and business incubation buildings in Technium Square.

Working in partnership with the Welsh Government, the University plans on revitalising an area which has played a pivotal role in the history and maritime heritage of Swansea, forging a range of new connections between learning and enterprise; research and industry; and between government and education. Harnessing the natural landscape of this treasured part of the city, it aims to provide a distinctive university experience that ensures the sustainability of the Swansea Bay City Region and its communities which include its staff, students and graduates.

The Wales Centre for Advanced Batch Manufacturing (CBM)
The Wales Centre for Advanced Batch Manufacturing, known as CBM, is a new initiative that has been jointly established by the University of Wales and UWTSD. Situated in Swansea’s maritime Quarter, it is a core component of the Innovation Quarter in the University’s SA1 development.

CBM’s research and development activities are centred on the creative application of advanced technologies and techniques across a wide range of manufacturing sectors including automotive, aerospace, medical engineering and craft sectors.

Driving innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship among small companies engaged in low-volume manufacture, the Centre also works with large international organisations in the development of new products, processes and materials.
Speeches and Articles

1968-2012,

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

For the first time, the speeches of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales have been made available in a two volume set in a collaborative project by the University of Wales, the University of Maryland and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Professors David Cadman and Suheil Bushrui have brought together a selection of speeches and articles by The Prince of Wales covering a period of over 40 years, gathered together under headings that cover his principal interests and activities: the natural environment, expressed as farming, forestry and fisheries, and then as climate change; architecture and the built environment; integrated medicine and health; society, religion and tradition; education, The Prince’s Trust and Business in the Community.

Published in April, these volumes, intended as a work of reference, show The Prince of Wales as his ideas, knowledge and experience develop, from his first speech at twenty years old in 1968, to his more recent speeches up until 2012.

What is most noteworthy however is that though the style of the speeches and articles may have changed over the years, the overall message has remained consistent, not only in terms of environmental degradation and climate change, but also in matters relating to healthcare, urban form, organic farming and the need for greater respect and understanding between religions, which speaks volumes for The Prince’s passion and commitment to what he believes, even in times when his ideas have been seen as unconventional.

Speaking about the publication, Professor Medwin Hughes DL, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales and University of Wales Trinity Saint David explained:

“This volume successfully brings together the collective wisdom and inspiration of a transformational thinker who has placed the concept of stewardship at the heart of his commitment to service and for supporting a sustainable world.”

A collaborative project, the Dean of the University of Maryland, added:

“There is much to enjoy in these volumes and much to engage national and international debates about some of the most vital topics of our age.”
In October 2014, Bhawana Ghimire was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN), the Country’s official governing body of the sport. The first woman CEO to run a national cricket Board in the sub-continent, she aims to take Nepal cricket to the top of its game.

Bhawana has already had great successes since her appointment, establishing a central contract system with 22 senior players and signing a record breaking sponsorship deal with Nepal Telecom. She has also been hailed by the local media, fans and International Cricket Council (ICC) for working with Cricket Australia and successfully organizing the Phillip Hughes Tribute match, in memory of the late Australian cricketer.

A native from the Argakhachi District in Nepal, Bhawana studied for her undergraduate degree locally before continuing her studies in Wales attending Bangor University. Graduating with an MBA from the University of Wales in 2009, specialising in banking and Finance, she went on to work firstly with the Punjab National Bank in London and then with an Asset Management Company in the Middle East, where she was involved in work relating to Formula One, the English Premier League and La Liga in Spain.

Speaking about her love of cricket and her role within CAN, Bhawana explains:

“When it comes to soccer and cricket, I have always been passionate about the game. When I saw the vacancy in the newspaper for the CEO role, I applied for it without any hesitation. I was very
clear with my strategic vision to develop Nepalese cricket, and my previous experience and academic qualifications helped to secure the role.

“My role as CEO is similar to that in any other organisation, however since it is the first of its kind in CAN, I have to plan everything myself with close consultation to my board. I am involved with everything from preparation of plans and budget, to their execution and follow up. I have to coordinate with Government entities and International Boards, and maintain a good rapport with corporate sectors and sponsors. I am also in close contact with players, fans and media to collect feedback.”

The devastating earthquake which affected the whole Country in April naturally had an effect on Nepal’s cricket infrastructure, but the sport’s primary concern was to reach out to the people and play a role in the relief efforts.

“It was most terrifying thing which my generation had witnessed, and it has affected millions of people” Bhawana explains. “After watching events unfold over the first two days, on behalf of CAN we started a campaign to distribute relief materials to the victims.”

Bhawana and team members visited some of the worst-affected regions to distribute relief material such as tents, food and sanitary items, as well as donating their salaries and raising money for the relief effort. Headed by Bhawana, CAN also started the #BatForNepal campaign, a series of international fundraising matches to support rebuilding initiatives in communities and also the reconstruction and maintenance of its own cricketing infrastructures.

Speaking about the #BatForNepal campaign, Bhawana explains its purpose:

“We want to prove that cricket can change lives and contribute to our society. We are very proud that many international communities have shown interest to support this campaign, and are greatly honoured that the Cricket Association of Malaysia is organizing a Nepal vs World XI Fund Raising Match on the 9th of August. Similarly, Thailand Cricket, Hong Kong Cricket Association and many other international communities are very supportive of it.”

Already achieving so much in her short time at CAN, Bhawana realises the importance and power of sport in helping to re-build communities, and is determined that CAN leads by example:

“After this devastation, we want to utilise the strength and popularity of cricket into the rebuilding and re-habitation process – because it is our common duty now. We have two primary challenges. First, rebuilding Nepal and then rebuilding cricket in Nepal. CAN will work on both challenges.”

More information about the Cricket Association of Nepal can be found on their website – www.nepalcricket.org.np
MBA Programmes
Available full-time, part-time, and online, a range of MBA programmes offer students the opportunity to focus on specialist areas of management - from Banking and Finance, to International Fashion Management.

Executive MBA Programme
With monthly block teaching arrangements, this programme provides managers and budding entrepreneurs with a high degree of flexibility enabling them to continue their career from anywhere they need to be, while pursuing their studies.

DBA Programme
Available full-time and part-time at the London and Lampeter campuses, part time delivery is via three residential per annum in Lampeter or London. This programme allows students to take their professional development to the highest level.

MSc Digital Marketing and MSc Logistics
Both programmes are available full-time and part-time and offer students the opportunity to focus on highly current areas of Business Management.

Other programmes available at the London Campus
BA Business Management
BSc Cloud Computing

The MBA programmes are also available at the UWTSD Swansea campus.

Please note that International students who require Tier 4 sponsorship can only study full time.

Further Study Opportunities with our Merger Partner

The University of Wales is currently in the process of merging with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD). As part of this exciting expansion and development, a number of further study opportunities have been created, and UWTSD is now inviting applications for an exciting suite of postgraduate programmes available at their new London campus.

These already include MBA, Executive MBA, and DBA Programmes, with two new Masters programmes added this year - an MSc in Digital Marketing and an MSc in Logistics.

With excellent staff offering extensive personal attention and support, students at UWTSD in London engage in cutting-edge academic study and debate, while taking advantage of the many opportunities afforded by one of the most culturally and economically vibrant cities in the world.

Programmes start in February, June and October (subject to viable numbers).

To find out more information about their London Campus and the programmes on offer, please visit the University of Wales Trinity Saint David’s website: www.uwtsdlondon.ac.uk

If you would like to register your interest in receiving more information about the programmes, please complete the relevant form on their website, or email info.london@tsd.ac.uk
Alumni Association

Branches and Sections

Classics - One of the year’s highlights for the Classical Section is the meeting held on the National Eisteddfod field. In 2014, at the Carmarthenshire Eisteddfod, a good number came together to listen to the Right Hon. Denzil Davies, former MP for Llanelli, speak on Classical Education in Carmarthenshire in the fifties. In a masterly address the lecturer first related how studying Latin and Greek had opened windows in the realm of learning and imagination for him as a boy. He then proceeded to describe the continuing influence of classical writers, especially Plato, on his own career and intellectual development, quoting extensively from Crito and the Republic in the Welsh translations of Sir Emrys Evans (the Section’s first President, 1951-1958). This year, at the Montgomeryshire and the Marches Eisteddfod in Meifod, Dr Iestyn Daniel will lecture on Gildas and his translating. The meeting will be on Monday, 3 August 2015, 12.00 – 1.00pm, in Societies Pavilion 1. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Ethnology and Folk Studies - Because the Welsh Settlement in Patagonia is celebrating a major milestone in its history, namely the 150th anniversary of its establishment in 1865, the Ethnology and Folk Studies Section decided that we would not hold our own day conference this year, but that we would join with the Culture of the 18th and 19th Centuries Section and the Wales-Argentina Society to support a two-day conference on the Settlement organised by the Cardiff Centre for Welsh American Studies. The death of Trefor M. Owen in February was a great loss to ethnological studies, both in Wales and internationally. He was the Honorary President of our section and one of its main founders. We are organising a one-day conference in his memory in St Fagans on Saturday, 21 November 2015. Tecwyn Vaughan Jones and Erywn Willam will speak on aspects of his life and contribution, and Rhys Jones will talk about the influential ‘school’ of geographers and anthropologists at Aberystwyth to which Trefor Owen belonged.

Liverpool - Three very well attended meetings were held in 2014 starting in March with Professor Ken Roberts of the Sociology Department, University of Liverpool speaking on the intriguing title of ‘Sociology and Frank Sinatra’. The talk examined the interplay between modern popular music and the social and emotional lives of changing audiences over some sixty years. In April Professor Helen Fulton, University of York, gave a lecture on ‘Troy in Wales: Cultural Transmission in Mediaeval Britain’ tracing the many influences acting on mediaeval Welsh literature. In May Dr Ben Rees, at short notice, took his audience on a wide ranging survey of the contribution which the Welsh made to the development of Liverpool.

Philosophy - In October last year the annual conference was held at the National Library in Aberystwyth, with a varied programme and interesting contributors on the theme The Need for Roots. The poet Grahame Davies spoke about Simone Weil, the philosopher and author of the book of that name. Also there were interesting discussions on language rights by the Lawyer Emyr Lewis and the relationship of the philosophy of Heidegger with language by the evergreen Ned Thomas. These two papers will appear as chapters in a volume in memory of Dr Meredydd Evans, who died aged 95 in February this year. Mered was Life President of the Branch, and one of its most loyal members over the years, who had been active until the very end, particularly in ensuring the appointment of a philosophy lecturer for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. His loss will be deeply felt, and we look forward to celebrating his life and contribution with the launch of the volume at the National Eisteddfod.

Swansea - The Christmas meeting and AGM of the Branch was held in December. After general branch business and elections, Mrs Christine Beynon addressed the meeting on the subject of her father-in-law, Professor Sir Granville Beynon, a world renowned physicist who held the Chair of Physics at Aberystwyth for many years. At the March meeting, the Branch was addressed by Dr Don Williams who spoke on the Physicists of Myddfai, bringing a modern slant to the history of the Llandovery area by referring to the modern day eminent physicians and doctors who had originated from this area. At our Annual Dinner in May, the after-dinner speakers were Philip and Janet Negus who spoke to us on the subject of Voluntary Service Overseas, sharing some of their own experiences in Indonesia. A warm welcome awaits any UW graduates in the Swansea area who would like to join us and full details of the Branch can be obtained from the Secretary, Robert Barnes - rob.joan@btinternet.com.

Theology - The guest lecturer for the Section’s annual lecture was the Rev John Owain ab Ifor Jones, minister at the United Church of Bute, Rothesay. Born in Rhyl, Owain was raised in Caernarfon and studied theology in Edinburgh. The topic of his lecture held at y Moriaen, Aberystwyth was “Why now?” The Flourishing of Nationalism and the Decline of the Church in Scotland since 1963. A large audience was in attendance to hear the lecture in the run-up to the imminent Referendum on independence in Scotland. The main strand of the lecture was a reflection on the renowned analysis of the political theorist Tom Nairn of the nature of Scottish nationalism, and the lecturer questioned the concept and expression of Scottish identity and why political nationalism had grown there so recently. The lecture will appear in the 2015 issue of Diwinyddiaeth - a copy can be obtained by contacting the editor, Professor Euros Wyn Jones, Y Coleg Gwyn, Ffordd Ffriddoedd, Bangor, LL57 2EH.

Branches already in existence

UK Regional Branches
- Bangor
- Carmarthen
- Liverpool
- Swansea

International Branches
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Italy
- Japan
- Sri Lanka
- USA
- 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