Sail
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY’S ALUMNI MAGAZINE
2014

LEIFA JENNINGS
Cobalt, Celeste, Cyan and Me

www.swansea.ac.uk/alumni
CROESO/WELCOME
TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF SAIL

I can hardly believe that a year and a half has gone by since I took up my role as Head of Development and Alumni Relations.

In that time I’ve got to know not only the institution, but my colleagues who make up this wonderful University.

What is clear to me is that there are many talented students and staff in Swansea, as well as a huge number of successful and supportive alumni around the world.

During my first 18 months I have purposefully engaged with alumni in the Middle and Far East as well as Canada and across the UK.

In these countries I have talked about live projects for which we need sponsorship and philanthropic support, as well as discussing how we can best assist our alumni in a fast changing world.

With that in mind, my colleagues and I are determined to engage with all of our alumni so that we collectively support the University’s prime aim: to position Swansea as a strong research-led UK top-30 University by 2017, which can aid wealth creating activity and be a major driver for economic regeneration.

As you know, the University’s ambitious Campus Development Programme is already well underway - one of the largest knowledge economy projects in the UK and within the top five in Europe. The programme involves the creation of a new Bay Campus, a brand new £450 million development on the eastern approach to the city which will welcome its first students in September 2015, together with the transformation of our existing Singleton Park Campus.

Our ambition in the next five years leading up to our centenary in 2020 is for the Development and Alumni Office to grow, improve its services with additional resources and to develop relationships with our alumni to explore how, together, we can help the University to grow and achieve its strategic aims.

I am aware that many of you are already helping to support our students through mentoring, through donating towards scholarships and capital programmes and through helping new graduates to find employment once they leave Swansea, for which the University is very grateful.

There are many ways in which your help is already making a difference towards the future ambitions we have here at Swansea. The most important thing is that we share that future together.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Michael Rees, Head of Development and Alumni Relations

If you would like to find out more about how you can work with us to help our current and future students, please get in touch by emailing DARO@swansea.ac.uk, or calling +44 (0)1792 295156.

Visit swansea.ac.uk/alumni to find articles from the magazine in Welsh
The University’s ambitious Campus Development Programme is already well underway.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Earlier this year we launched the new online portal, The Swansea Network. Here’s a quick outline on how to register and log on, then update your details and find your friends...

To register or log on to The Swansea Network visit: https://alumni.swan.ac.uk/

» If you are already registered, then enter your email address and password. [Ref image 1]

» First time users, click on ‘New user registration’ and complete the registration form. Please allow up to 3 working days for your new registration to be processed. [Ref image 2]

» Once you have logged on you can then update your details.

» Note, in order to be visible on our ‘Find a Friend’ section to fellow alumni, you must un-check the ‘Private’ column on the right hand side. [Ref image 3]

» You can make all or part of your name visible, and then decide whether you are happy for your email address to also be made available for your friends to contact you. If you do not want others to contact you, ensure your contact details are ticked ‘Private’. [Ref image 3]

Please keep in touch, and if you have any queries, email DARO@swansea.ac.uk

Help us to save resources. Contact us to receive the magazine electronically in the future at DARO@swansea.ac.uk
Scientists have been puzzled by the apparent ‘greening up’ of the Amazon forest during its annual dry season. However, the Amazon is not as green in the dry season as researchers previously thought. Swansea scientists have found that a trick of the light skews the satellite images. The research, carried out with NASA, was published in ‘Nature’.

The finding will help scientists develop a more accurate picture of changes in the Amazon, which is more important now than ever, given the enormous role the Amazon plays in regulating carbon dioxide, and influencing climate change.

NASA’s Terra and Aqua satellites make daily observations over the huge expanse of Amazon forests. The research team were investigating why previous satellite images seemed to show that the forests became greener during the dry season each year from June to October. More greenery indicates productive, thriving vegetation, which would not be expected at a time of limited rainfall.

The new research shows that the apparent greening of the Amazon in the dry season is an illusion - the forest does not become greener at all. It just looks that way due to a combination of shadowing within the forest canopy and the way that satellite sensors observe the Amazon during the dry season, which can create false “hot spots” in images.

Swansea researchers, working with NASA, developed a mathematical model which predicts how a forest will be seen from space, and how leaf area can be measured. One of the Swansea team, Dr Jackie Rosette, spent 2 years at Goddard Space Flight Centre, working closely with NASA colleagues.

Professor Peter North from the Department of Geography at Swansea University, one of the authors of the research paper, said:

“The Amazon is so vast that it’s only from space that we can properly observe it, so it’s very important that the satellite data gives us as accurate a picture as possible. Our model has helped to identify the flaws in the previous interpretation. As a result, we can be much more confident that what we are seeing is a real pattern across the Amazon, not a trick of the light. Having an accurate picture of the Amazon is essential if we are to understand its key role in shaping the climate.”

Aboard the NASA satellites are sensors called MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) which measure the amount of infrared light reflected from the Amazon. Scientists use the ratio of red and near-infrared light as a measure of vegetation.

The research implies that the previous hypothesis of increased productivity during dry seasons is likely to be false, and Amazon productivity may be more limited by water availability than sunlight. This is critical for predicting the response of the Amazon to future climate change.
NEW SWANSEA BIOCHEMISTRY RESEARCH FINDINGS
MAY HELP FUTURE FIGHT AGAINST CANCERS

A major piece of Swansea University-led research was published in February in the top ranked journal The Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America, better known as PNAS.

The work, led by Professor Steven Conlan (pictured) and Dr Deyarina Gonzalez from the University’s College of Medicine, has unravelled a complex molecular mechanism controlling the regulation of genes.

The research, funded in part by a Cancer Research UK grant to Professor Conlan, has unravelled a complex biochemical mechanism involving “Mediator”, a “molecular switchboard” found in organisms from yeast to man.

Mediator is made up of over 20 proteins that form a very large complex, and is needed to activate, or turn on, genes. The Swansea team has found one of the ways the “switchboard” can turn off its own function and therefore shutdown the expression of genes.

The research by Professor Conlan and Dr Gonzalez demonstrates how a cascade of molecular events enables Mediator components to dynamically regulate the function of the Mediator complex, and in turn to control large sets of genes.

Put more simply, now the team understand the molecular mechanism controlling the regulation of genes and have found out the very distinctive steps along the pathway, they can focus on whether they can develop a drug that can “block” the steps in the mechanism they’ve uncovered, which may ultimately lead to the prevention of further development of cancer in patients.

The work was undertaken in collaboration with groups at the University Medical Centre in Utrecht, The Netherlands, and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Germany.

Professor Steve Conlan said:

“We are still in the very early stages of this research, but these findings are an encouraging start and open the way for developing targeted interventions (or drugs) to control gene expression in human diseases.

“In particular, Dr Gonzalez and I, together with our colleague Dr Lewis Francis, who co-led Reproductive Biology and Gynaecological Oncology research in Swansea’s College of Medicine, will now take these findings and apply them to our research into endometrial (uterine) and ovarian cancer, which will have the ultimate aim of preventing the further development of cancer in patients.”

RESEARCH AS ART

The front cover image was submitted as part of Swansea University’s Research in Art competition with the abstract below:

COBALT, CELESTE, CYAN AND ME

This photo shows a rail of blue theatre scrubs, ready to be worn. It is a visual representation of how it feels to be a medical student entering the operating theatre for the first time. Everyone else has a role to play and a place to be, but as a student you stand there, bright red “Student!” lanyard around your neck, feeling like you definitely don’t fit in. My research project on theatre etiquette aims to create a piece of work to inform new students of the unwritten rules of the operating theatre, hopefully allowing them to feel more confident the first time they enter the operating theatre environment.

By Leifa Jennings
FUNDING BOOST BRINGS WELSH-DEVELOPED HI-TECH DIABETES AID A STEP CLOSER TO REALITY

Research at Swansea University to develop a hi-tech diabetes aid which could save patients’ lives by sending an SMS alert to emergency personnel if they suffer a hypoglycaemic attack has received a further funding boost.

The research to develop an easy to use, minimally-invasive, low cost continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) system has been awarded a further grant of more than £114,600 from the Welsh Government, through its EU funded Academic Expertise for Business (A4B) programme.

The work led by Dr Vincent Teng, a nanoelectronics expert from the University’s College of Engineering, began in autumn 2011, following an initial project grant of £470,000 from the A4B programme.

The first project has already made significant progress towards a CGM device and this further funding will enable Dr Teng to continue working on a second project until the end of 2014, bringing the device closer to reality through the development of a preclinical trial prototype device.

The second project involves scientists and the state-of-the-art facilities at the University’s Centre for NanoHealth (CNH) to develop this next-generation device.

The device is based on the novel application of nanotechnology and micro-needles, and it allows painless, continuous monitoring of glucose levels that is useful in managing and controlling the disease.

The use of wireless technology will enable readings to be relayed from the sensor to a mobile device and it will also provide an emergency alert to the patient’s nominated next of kin or medical personnel if the patient is in danger of suffering a hypoglycaemic attack.

Dr Teng, who leads the Nanoelectronics Research Group within the Multidisciplinary Nanotechnology Centre in the College of Engineering, said:

“The technology we are developing at Swansea aims to address a significant challenge for healthcare - supporting diabetics to effectively manage their own condition while not isolating them from their care providers.

"An effective monitoring system will reduce the risk of health complications associated with diabetes, enhancing the patient’s quality of life. We are delighted to receive this further funding from the Welsh Government through the A4B programme, which brings the realisation of this device and the positive effects it will have on patients’ lives a step closer."

The monitoring system being developed at Swansea University will also have the capability to be adapted for other chronic conditions, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer and asthma.

Picture: Dr Vincent Teng of Swansea University’s College of Engineering examines nanowire biosensors using state-of-the-art fabrication techniques, at the Centre for NanoHealth facilities.
During my studies, I enjoyed the wide variety of subjects we covered from accounting and law to industrial relations. The staff were very supportive and I learnt a lot from the case studies.

What does your job entail?
Our primary product categories are watches, jewellery and leather goods. I am responsible for the entire distribution side of our business in China including sales, marketing, operations, finance and HR. We have 400 direct retail and partner-managed shops and counters in China employing over 600 staff.

My university degree was an important stepping stone in my career path, giving me a good grounding in all aspects of general management. I still apply some of the theory I learned at Swansea in my daily business life.

The most challenging part of my role is hitting the numbers. When you work for a quoted company you have to hit the numbers every quarter and if you don’t you have to explain. China is a very important market for Fossil so it receives a lot of attention from our global and regional teams as well as the stock market. You need to remain motivational for your staff and manage the pressure.

The most rewarding part is interacting with people - my team, customers and suppliers. Seeing my team grow both in experience and confidence gives me a kick. I also get to travel to many interesting places and work with amazing brands!

What advice do you have for current students and new graduates?
During your time at university make sure you socialise and become involved in different activities. Don’t just stay within your department or hall of residence. University is as much about developing your interpersonal skills as your technical skills. Understand your strengths and your passions and focus on them.

What are your favourite memories of your university years at Swansea?
Living in Mumbles with a great group of friends, several of whom I am still in touch with today - almost 25 years later.
At Swansea, we believe that education should be about transforming lives and changing communities, and we are committed to attracting the most talented students, regardless of their geographic, social or financial background.

The significant changes to the way that universities are funded by the government and the considerable uncertainty in the level of funding available to the sector in future years, means that like many other institutions in the UK, Swansea will need to generate other income streams to ensure it advances its position as an internationally renowned research-led institution. Against the wider economic backdrop, there will be challenging times ahead for the University.

The support we receive from alumni and friends will not replace government funding, but will allow Swansea to embark on projects and activities that may not have gone ahead, further enhancing its reputation and opportunities for students and researchers.

Supporting Swansea will help ensure that students continue to benefit from an outstanding education, with the finest facilities and services that add value to the student experience. It will also benefit the University’s world-class research and help achieve the vision of developing an international reputation for research, teaching, and collaborative links with industry.

Swansea University is a registered charity and depends on the support of its alumni, friends and funding bodies. Your support can help us to achieve our aims and can make a difference to the generations who will help us shape the future.

THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Gabriel Pankhurst who graduated with a first class honours degree in History and Politics was awarded the Alumni Scholarship in 2013.

During his time at Swansea, Gabriel has been a very active member of the Discovery Student Volunteering scheme, working on many of their projects including ‘Rascals’ which supports disadvantaged children and also the Food Co-operative. He was honoured with a Millennium Volunteers Award for his contributions to charity.

On receiving the alumni scholarship, Gabriel said, “I come from a low income background and would not have been able to continue my studies without receiving the scholarship. I am very grateful to those alumni who have donated to the Swansea Fund as it has enabled me to pursue the course I enjoy and fulfil my academic potential.”

HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP

University fees are now more expensive than ever, and are simply unaffordable for many. By supporting scholarships at Swansea, you could have a transformational impact on somebody’s life.

£10 per month could pay a student’s tuition fees for a week
£20 per month could buy a student’s course textbooks
£40 per month could fund a vital PhD research project for a month

Without the support of our alumni network, many of our brightest and most talented students would have been unable to study and enhance their employment prospects.

THE STORY SO FAR...

So far, donations from Swansea University’s alumni and friends have helped to change the lives of our students across a range of academic disciplines.

322 PEOPLE HAVE DONATED

FACTS & FIGURES

Your generosity has made all of this possible...

322 Individual Donors
928 Donations made
Donations totalled £783,006
15 Scholarships awarded

Please consider making a donation if you can. It will make a difference!
The College of Medicine was recently awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) to support the College’s medical electives programme.

The grant will give students the financial capacity to undertake exciting and impactful electives both in the UK and overseas, and ensure that the experience contributes towards a rounded medical education. The electives programme forms a vital stage in the development of medical students and allows them to experience medical practice in a broad variety of contexts.

The HSF’s CEO Paul Jackson and Trustee Mark Davies visited Swansea’s Institute of Life Sciences to present the cheque in May.

OAKDALE TRUST

Swansea University has been awarded a grant of £9,000 by the Oakdale Trust as seed corn funding to support early stage medical research projects.

The grant will be provided in three annual instalments of £3,000, which will support three projects per year. In total, therefore, the grant will support nine projects over three years and allow potentially crucial medical research to be delivered at Swansea’s College of Medicine.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A WILL

Whatever your circumstances, you should not put off making a Will. Having an up-to-date and well-drafted Will in place is the only way to make sure that family, friends and good causes will benefit from your estate in the most appropriate and tax efficient way.

Many people wrongly assume that those closest to them will automatically inherit everything in the event of their death.

However, the rules of intestacy will dictate how their estate will be distributed even though this may not accord with their wishes. By making a Will and keeping it up-to-date, you choose who has the legal responsibility of sorting out your estate and you can ensure that you have made appropriate provision for those whom you wish to benefit.

Many people choose to make a gift to a favoured charity in their Will. Under current legislation and as an incentive to charitable giving, those who wish to leave a significant charitable legacy can structure their Wills to take advantage of a 36% reduced rate of inheritance tax. This rate is applied to the taxable estate (rather than the usual rate of 40%) and can lead to a substantial inheritance tax saving, benefiting not only the charitable beneficiaries of the Will but also the non-charitable beneficiaries such as relatives and friends.

This article was written by Awen Mellick, Associate Solicitor at Morgan Cole LLP.

If you require further information on how to leave a gift in your Will to Swansea University, please contact Sally Thurlow at DARO@swansea.ac.uk or telephone 44 (0)1792 295156.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Making a donation to the Swansea Fund couldn’t be easier. You can make a recurring or one-off donation by visiting alumni.swan.ac.uk/donate

Alternatively, if you prefer, you can complete the form at the back of this magazine.

Please note the donation form applies to UK residents. If you live outside the UK, please donate online.

Further information can be found on the University web pages at Swansea.ac.uk/alumni/supportingswansea

Thank You
OUR GLOBAL GRADUATES

Swansea's collaboration across the pond
The University’s relationship with Texas began as part of a UK-wide initiative to foster collaborative research in biomedicine, nanotechnology and informatics, and since then Swansea has expanded its collaborative activity to encompass student and staff mobility across its academic colleges.

Current partners include Texas A&M University, the University of Houston, the University of Texas at Austin, the Methodist Hospital Research Institute and Rice University where complimentary teaching and research interests are fostering research and teaching collaborations, knowledge transfer, the sharing of infrastructure, academic staff exchange and student mobility.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard B. Davies said: “Our globalisation strategy emphasises the importance of strategic partnerships with strong universities elsewhere in the world. In addition to undergraduate, postgraduate and academic staff exchange programmes we are interested in joint activities which can extend from collaborative working with industry to shared appointments of academic staff.

"We are particularly excited about the opportunities this offers for increased student mobility. Swansea has run overseas exchange programmes for many years and we have seen how educationally beneficial it is to study in another country and we know how positively employers view this type of overseas experience.”

Undergraduate student exchange
The University’s partnership with Texas gives students the opportunity to study overseas and enhance both their student experience and employment prospects.

The College of Engineering offers a unique exchange programme in Medical, Chemical and Environmental Engineering which allows students to study in Texas for a semester in place of a semester in Swansea.

Ameya Vaidya, a Medical Engineering student from Gwalior in India, undertook a semester exchange at Texas A&M University:

“My expectations were quite limited but once I got there I fell in love with the place. The campus was beautiful and people were super-friendly.

“The experience changed my outlook and my goals quite significantly - it’s an experience that I’d very much recommend to any student.”

St Francis of Assisi - lone peacemaker in the Middle East
A new research project focusing on St Francis of Assisi and his role as a lone peacemaker in the Middle East is the first to benefit from a Texas Fellowship established by the University’s College of Arts and Humanities.

The fellowship, which funds staff mobility between Swansea and partner universities in Texas, facilitates research collaborations between staff with complimentary research interests, and sees Swansea academics spend a semester in Texas and their Texas counterpart spend a semester in Swansea.

The first staff to benefit will be David Britton, an award-winning dramatist and director from the English Department’s Creative Writing Programme who will travel to Texas in January to work with leading St Francis of Assisi expert, Professor Janet McCann.
Teaching collaboration in the College of Medicine
Students undertaking Swansea’s new Professional Doctorate in Medical Education will benefit from the University’s links with Texas in a reciprocal agreement between the University of Houston and the College of Medicine.

The agreement has seen the College of Medicine’s Dr Phil Newton and Professor Andrew Grant teaching on the University of Houston’s Executive Education Doctorate in Professional Leadership and in return students on Swansea’s new Professional Doctorate in Medical Education will benefit from the expertise of staff from the University of Houston’s College of Education.

Energy Safety Research Institute
The University’s new Bay Campus will be home to the Energy Safety Research Institute (ESRI) which has strong links to a number of partner universities in Texas.

The £38 million investment, which will build on the University’s research expertise in petroleum and chemical processing, is a constituent member of the Global Energy Safety Institute founded in Houston in 2011, a sister Institute of the Energy and Environmental Systems Institute at Rice University, Houston and an associate of the National Corrosion Research Centre at Texas A&M University.

ESRI will be led by Professor Andrew Barron from Rice University in Texas who has joined the team as part of the Welsh Government’s Ser Cymru (“Wales Stars”) programme which aims to attract world-class scientific talent to Welsh universities.

THE DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM HAVE BEEN BUSY OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS MEETING ALUMNI ACROSS THE GLOBE.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Iwan Davies joined Dr Ceri Davies from the College of Engineering and Michael Rees, Head of Development and Alumni Relations on a visit to Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Brunei to showcase the new Bay campus and the strategic vision of the University (below). Whilst in Brunei, Swansea University’s Honorary Fellow Pehin Dato Seri Satia Lim Jock Seng and his staff generously hosted a dinner. (below)

Director of Marketing, Internationalisation and Development, Catherine Mullin and Development Officer Dr Mahaboob Basha visited Doha, Qatar where they met with alumni alongside the British Ambassador to Qatar. (above)
HOW I BECAME A CEO
By Fiona Withey

Dr Fiona Withey graduated with a PhD in Biochemical Engineering in 1995. Fiona is the Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors at Biotec Worldwide Supplies Group. Based in Bridgend, South Wales, Biotec provides clinical trial supply services to the global pharmaceutical industry. Fiona has day-to-day responsibility for running the company and defining and driving the overall strategy. Swansea University’s Alumni Relations Manager caught up with Fiona to discover how the University prepared her for her working life.
Why did you decide to study at Swansea University?
I experienced a very warm welcome at the University during the interview process and knew that studying at Swansea was the right decision for me - something that I have never regretted!

Also, following a final year undergraduate project I had a deep interest in fermentation technology which I wanted to progress in an academic environment. After turning down places to study PhDs at two other universities, I accepted the opportunity to study for a doctorate in Swansea that was partly funded by an industrial partner. This gave me the unique opportunity to spend several weeks a year in ‘the workplace’ and gain valuable commercial experience. I was incredibly fortunate to be offered a full time position with the company as soon as I graduated.

Studying for a doctorate in Swansea gave me a unique blend of academic and commercial experience. Swansea also offers a fantastic balance of academic learning and social life. I subsequently returned to Swansea in 2012 and took part in the LEAD Wales programme.

What are the most challenging and rewarding parts of your job?
Being a service company, our people are incredibly important to us. The most challenging but also the most rewarding part of my job is to ensure that we have the right people in the right roles and to support their personal and professional development to achieve and exceed their goals. We’ve shown that people in the right job for their skill set will be far happier in their role and be motivated to consistently perform to the best of their abilities.

Another rewarding part of my job is that Biotec often supplies life-saving medication across the world. It is critical that we ensure that the patient receives the right medication, at the right temperature and at the right time. Knowing that we were instrumental in this process and that the patient has made a recovery makes my job so worthwhile!

What advice do you have for current students and new graduates?
Preparing for interviews is crucial and is a common downfall for job applicants. Demonstrate that you have read about the company and understand the role and importantly what you can contribute. And don’t give up, especially if you are a woman in a scientific industry!

What are your plans for the future?
I am proud of my and my company’s achievements including the Queen’s Award for Enterprise (International Trade), Western Mail Company of the Year (<£9M), Chamber of Commerce Export Awards and the Fast Growth 50 Award for four consecutive years. Biotec has ambitious plans for growth over the next 3 years and I’d like to build on the success that we have already achieved and take the business through the next stages of the journey. Most importantly we are all going to have a lot of fun during the process!

Finally, what are your favourite memories of Swansea?
I spent three years living in Mumbles, a beautiful village by the sea, so it has to be the ‘Mumbles Mile’ and Cinderellas!

This £8 million revolutionary programme is supported by the Welsh Government and delivered by Swansea University’s Department of Research and Innovation and Bangor University’s Business School.

LEAD Wales is a 10-month Leadership Development programme designed with leaders and owner-managers of small and medium sized businesses and social enterprises in mind.

It has a proven track record of delivering improved business performance for past delegates and in a recent report announced it had helped Welsh businesses create more than 1,600 jobs in its first three years.

For further information visit leadwales.co.uk
A major element of these ambitious and exciting plans is to focus on student employability by embedding a full year’s industrial work placement into the degree programme. This new scheme provides students with first-hand experience of a potential career path and the chance to engage with employers at an early stage.

Recent research by High Fliers has found that 37% of vacancies from top graduate recruiters will be filled by graduates who have already worked for their organisations. This is a telling indication that participation in work placements is rapidly becoming the key to graduate employability.

The placement schemes were officially launched in January with two events, one at the Senedd in Cardiff and the other at Tower Bridge in London. Business leaders from across the UK and overseas attended to hear about the benefits of the schemes and to offer their support. A major success story was highlighted by Business Management student, Alexander Dodd Jones, the first to secure a 12 month placement with Nike Western Europe. Alexander has been working for the HR department in Nike’s Netherlands headquarters and returned to the UK to share with employers his experiences of a work placement, his professional and academic development and the confidence he has gained. Katie Langan, HR Manager for Nike, Western Europe, and Alexander’s line manager, also attended to give the employer’s perspective on the benefits of employing a student through this scheme.

The School is actively recruiting students onto the new 4-year programmes of study and looking for businesses both locally and nationally to assist with developing exciting placement opportunities for the future. Support from alumni is a key part of the engagement process and it is very much anticipated that the successes of the past can go on to support and inspire those of the future.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you could support the School of Management and its students please contact Liz Robbins, Head of Student Mobility at somplacements@swansea.ac.uk.
Many alumni will have lived or visited Hendrefoelan Student Village during their time at Swansea.

Just as Swansea University is expanding now with the acquisition and development of the Bay Campus, the institution (formerly University College of Swansea) in the 1960s and 1970s also saw a period of growth and expansion. Hendrefoelan House, once the home of Lewis Llewelyn Dillwyn, a Welsh industrialist and MP, and 121 acres of its associated estate were bought for £90,000 in June 1964.

In 1971 the site was opened up by the construction of a new entrance off the Gower Road to enable its residential development to begin. Initially the house itself (now Grade II* listed) had been used as a postgraduate student residence. Then in 1973, the whole of the education department and the collegiate faculty moved to the site.

Throughout the seventies, accommodation was developed for some 725 students. In the 1980s the original stable block was restored and refurbished in order to house the South Wales Miners’ library, supporting university activities and the community across South Wales. By this time the self-catering Student Village had its own amenities and today accommodation is provided for up to 1,644 students.

As mentioned in last year’s edition of Sail, Swansea University is developing a new campus to include purpose-built halls of residence. The sale of Hendrefoelan forms an integral part of the sustainable business plan for financing the campus developments at the Bay Campus as well as Singleton Park Campus. These developments are also a crucial part of the commitment to improving student experience.
2014 will see Swansea University’s College of Medicine mark its 10th Anniversary. From its beginnings as a Clinical School, in 2004 the College welcomed its first students onto the Graduate Entry Medicine programme - a fast track degree that trains graduates of any subject to become competent, confident and compassionate doctors.

Following many years of successful collaboration with Cardiff University’s School of Medicine, the Graduate Entry Medicine programme is now taught entirely here at Swansea University and this summer will also see the first cohort of students graduate from Swansea in this special anniversary year.

Over the ten years, the College has grown significantly and is now also home to a range of genetics and biochemistry degrees as well as host of other taught and research degrees made possible by the ever-growing, world-class facilities and centres of excellence that we have here at the College of Medicine.

In 2007, the doors opened to the Institute of Life Science, (ILS) valued at £100 million. This first phase was the single largest investment ever made by the Welsh Government on any university campus. The ILS is a premier purpose-built medical research facility and was a collaboration between the University and the Welsh Government, together with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) Health Board, IBM and other industry and business partners.

The state-of-the-art building houses over 200 professional specialists in medical research, with four floors of wet laboratories, and accommodates business incubation space and devices laboratories to facilitate technology transfer. It also brought a High Performance Computing infrastructure through an effective collaboration with computer giant IBM.

The second phase of the vision, which opened on Singleton Park Campus in 2011, saw a further 6,000 square metres of facilities which built upon the capacity, expertise and infrastructure for the benefit of the health and wealth of the nation. ILS Phase Two houses a range of fully operational business incubation units, a Clinical Research Facility incorporating jointly-located clinical trials and imaging suites working in close collaboration with the local NHS and Siemens; NHS Informatics Research Laboratories; The Farr Institute - CIPHER; High Performance Computing (HPC) in collaboration with IBM and Fujitsu; and the Centre for NanoHealth, an open access R&D facility dedicated to the advancement of health care through the application of nanotechnology.

In recent years the College has also become the home for the EPSRC UK National Mass Spectrometry Facility, based in the College’s Grove building, which offers comprehensive mass spectrometry service for university research groups throughout the UK.

The ILS provides a research environment for the College which offers an interdisciplinary approach to translational medicine, from basic laboratory science to health care delivery, and an innovative approach to building the knowledge economy. The College has four core themes to its research; Biomarkers and Genes; Devices; Microbes and Immunity, and Patient & Population Health and Informatics.

There is considerable overlap between these themes, with many members of the College contributing to more than one theme, and many research projects that cut across theme boundaries. The ILS is an environment in which collaborations develop naturally between researchers working on diverse topics.
Mi fydd ‘Y Llyfrgell’, nofel Dr Fflur Dafydd, uwch-ddarlithydd mewn ysgrifennu creadigol ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe, yn cael ei haddasu fel ffilm fel un o canlynol ‘Sinematig’ Asiantaeth Ffilm Cymru.

Bu Fflur yn gweithio gyda'r Asiantaeth Ffilm ers pedair blynedd yn datblygu'r sgript pan ddaeth y cyfle i wneud cais am gyllid drwy gynllun ‘Sinematig’.

“Dwi wrth fy modd fy mod i, a’r cyfarwyddwr Euros Lyn, wedi ennill y cais i gynhyrchu ein ffilm er mwyn ei ddod â gwyliad drwy gynllun ‘Sinematig’,” meddai'r awdur a enillodd Wobr Goffa Daniel Owen am y nofel yn 2009.

Y ddau brosiect arall fydd yn cael eu datblygu ymhellach yw ‘Just Jim’ gan Craig Roberts a Pip Broughton, a ffilm arswyd ‘The Lighthouse’ gan Chris Crow, Michael Jibson a David Lloyd.

Meddai Fflur ei bod wedi gweld y sinodi penodol ym随 a ffilm fel rhan o gynllun ‘Sinematig’ Asiantaeth Ffilm Cymru. Y ddau brosiect arall fydd yn cael eu datblygu ymhellach yw ‘Just Jim’ gan Craig Roberts a Pip Broughton, a ffilm arswyd ‘The Lighthouse’ gan Chris Crow, Michael Jibson a David Lloyd. Meddai Fflur ei bod wedi gweld y sinodi penodol ym随 a ffilm fel rhan o gynllun ‘Sinematig’ Asiantaeth Ffilm Cymru.
SWANSEA TO HOST
PREMIER ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The IPC Athletics European Championships - Swansea 2014 - the biggest para-sport event ever to be held in Wales - will take place at the Swansea University International Sports Village between 18th - 23rd August and will see around 600 of Europe’s best athletes compete for honours as they make their way to the Rio Paralympic Games in 2016. Featuring a wealth of Paralympians, World Champions and record holders from over 40 nations, organisers hope to make this the greatest European championships to date.

Paul Thorburn, Swansea University alumnus and Chair of the Swansea 2014 Organising Committee said: “Swansea 2014 is an incredibly exciting event for the city and for Wales. The Championships will captivate fans from across Europe as the very best athletes from across the continent battle for gold medals and world records. We want as many people as possible to experience this historic event first hand and we have increased the capacity of the venue, making sure that our pricing is as accessible as possible. Our aim is to achieve full stadia across the week, ensuring a truly world-class experience for athletes and spectators alike”.

The Championships will build on the impact of the 2012 Paralympic Games and put Wales firmly on the map as a nation that can deliver successful, high profile disability sport events.

The successful bid for the Championships, submitted by Swansea University - who will physically host the majority of the Championships - was based on a strong partnership approach involving The Welsh Government, The City and County of Swansea, Disability Sport Wales and British Athletics. The bid promised to deliver a world-class event by combining extensive expertise in the delivery of the high profile championship events with considerable knowledge in the management and support of elite athletes.

Hosting training camps for both Mexico and New Zealand Paralympic teams, Swansea has already shown its ability to deliver for disability sport in the build up to London 2012. Staging the Championships will help build on this legacy and support Swansea University’s commitment as a leading sporting facility and continue the City’s dedication to inclusive sport.

Swansea University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard B Davies, said: “We are pleased that the IPC has recognised that Swansea University, working with its partners, can deliver a high profile Championship event and acknowledges our commitment to disability sport.

“Wales is a proud sporting nation and nowhere is that pride more evident than when it comes to Paralympic and disability sport. Successive generations of Welsh Paralympians, coaches and support staff have contributed towards the success of our British teams.”

The IPC European Athletics Championships have never taken place in the UK before so we are proud that Swansea is leading the way in building on the momentum of the 2012 London Paralympic Games and raising the profile of disability sport across Wales and the UK. We look forward to delivering both a successful athlete-centred Championship as well as a legacy that the whole of Wales and Europe can share and be proud of.

- Tickets are available from www.swansea2014.com, Swansea City Tourist Information Centre and Penyrheol Leisure Centre.
- For more information about the 2014 IPC Athletics European Championships go to www.swansea2014.com

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Swansea University beat Cardiff University 19-15 at a closely fought match for the Varsity Cup on 9th April at the Millennium Stadium.
Swansea University has become a hub of activity in this, the centenary year of poet Dylan Thomas’ birth, celebrating the life and works of the city’s most famous son in a variety of ways.

The seventh International Dylan Thomas Prize, now sponsored by Swansea University, is the largest literary prize in the world for young writers and opened for entry on St David’s Day, 1st March 2014. The prize is the largest in the world for young writers aimed at encouraging creative talent worldwide.

Professor John Goodby, a world authority on Dylan Thomas and Director of the Dylan Thomas Research Project within the Centre for Research into the English Literature and Language of Wales (CREW), has taken centre stage this year. He recently gave a lecture on the life and work of Thomas at the Cheltenham Poetry Festival and as adviser to the BBC he has appeared on several programmes including ‘All Things Considered’ on BBC Wales which explored the religious dimension to Thomas’ work.

Arts and Humanities Research Council funding worth £86,000 enabled Professor Goodby to visit Buffalo, New York, Austin, Texas and other archives in preparation for the first complete and chronologically-presented volume of Dylan Thomas’ collected poems, to be published later this year. John Goodby is also author of The Poetry of Dylan Thomas: Under the Spelling Wall (2013). He is a Fellow of the English Association, and advises the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Literature Wales and other bodies marking the centenary of Dylan Thomas’ birth.

Professor Goodby said:

“Dylan Thomas is a poet who speaks to the present in a vivid way. His unique status as a cultural icon is part of what interests me.

“Thomas’ poetry was more translated than that of any other English language poet of the twentieth century apart from T. S. Eliot, and Dylan Thomas societies flourish as far afield as the USA, Canada, Japan, Poland and Australia.”

In September, Swansea University will host Dylan Unchained, an international conference which invites an array of scholars and poets to engage anew with the poet who ‘sang in [his] chains like the sea’.

Swansea University’s poets, novelists, dramatists and critics are taking their work to the wider world through literary festivals, including Hay, during 2014.
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