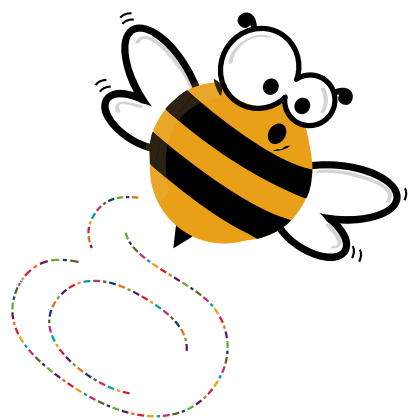
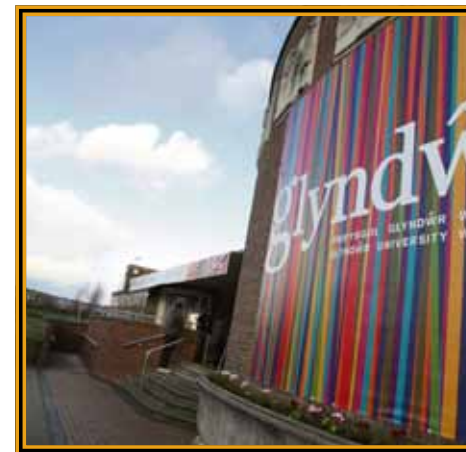


Buzz



The Glyndŵr University Staff Newspaper

Autumn 2013



The Sky's No Limit



A daring trio jumped out of a plane to raise money for a children's hospice and realise the ambition of a caring student.

Psychology lecturer Helen Coleman, graduate teaching assistant and PhD student Kay Roberts and postgraduate student Charlotte Evans took-on the skydive in aid of Hope House Hospice.

Glyndŵr University Psychology student Sarah Davis had planned to make the tandem jump but was refused permission by her doctor because she has brittle bones. The 28-year-old, from Oswestry, was devastated at the news but thrilled that Kay, Helen and Charlotte – known as Charlie – successfully made the leap last Saturday at Tilstock Airfield, near Whitchurch.

The group have raised more than £700 for the cause but are hoping to break through the £1,000 barrier with the support of Glyndŵr staff.

Full story - turn to page 2 ►



(L-R) Charlie, Sarah, Kay and Helen

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Baby boom! - page 8



Glyndŵr University Vice Chancellor, Professor Michael Scott, welcomed hundreds of new students to the institution during Freshers' week.

Speaking at the William Aston Hall on Wrexham campus, Professor Michael Scott said Glyndŵr interacted with its students "probably better than any other university."

"We have students on the executive committee, the Senate, the Board of Governors and we are involved with students all the time," he said.

"We are very proud of our student interaction and we are all part of one community." He went on to speak of the progress which has been made by the University since its inception five years ago.

Prof Scott added: "There's been a revolution in my lifetime where people like you

and me can go to university. Glyndŵr University has only been around for five years but we're doing some remarkable things.

"You might ask why did you buy a football stadium – but the answer is simple. The football club plays a huge part in the town and it was in trouble and in need of help, so we stepped in to safeguard the future of the Racecourse.

"We're a community university in a working class town, this is our role. We're not a university with a lot of money.

"People believe universities shouldn't be located in places like Wrexham so we've got a responsibility to demonstrate how great we are, to be proud

of who we are and to succeed.

"We welcome you all and hope that you thoroughly enjoy your time here."

New Students' Guild President Luke Murphy also welcomed students at the traditional opening event – repeated twice to cater for the University's growing student numbers.

"We're delighted to have so many new students starting with us," said Luke. "The atmosphere around our campuses is great, people are always there for each other, and you'll struggle to find a friendlier University.

A week-long programme of Freshers' events started with a welcome party at the Centenary Club.

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VC's View – with Vice Chancellor Professor Michael Scott

Hello and welcome to the second edition of Buzz, the Glyndŵr University staff newspaper.



It's been a while since Buzz made its debut but from this day forward it will be published three times a year – every January, May and September.

It's been quite a summer here at Glyndŵr, with operational and academic departments working hard to recruit new students, organise Open Days and prepare for the imminent semester.

Things haven't been easy; I've banged the drum over past months for everyone to "recruit, recruit, recruit" and was pleased with the response.

My plea was met with diligence and a clear focus, but we must not rest on our laurels or lower our guard.

The next cohort of students will already be debating which university to attend in 2014/15 and the majority will make their decision in the weeks before Christmas.

We have to anticipate, not react. We must be prepared and cater for their needs. We must sell ourselves and encourage them to 'be part of the legend' that is Glyndŵr University.

We have so much to offer. Hitting student targets is vital but so is my desire for everyone at our campuses across North East Wales and London to show confidence and positivity.

From the mirrors being polished by scientists at St Asaph for the world's largest telescope to our cutting-edge facilities in Wrexham – the Goldstein Library, Centre for the Creative Industries and Glyndŵr University Racecourse Stadium among them – we are world-leading and should fear nobody.

We achieve this while offering those who would not have chosen higher education an opportunity to grow as part of the Glyndŵr family.

Make no mistake, this year is going to be a challenge, but we have the strength and vision to break down the barriers before us and take the next step as a university, a university built on solid foundations, constructed and lauded for innovation, our commercial ties, global partnerships and the role we play in our community.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, which is packed with columns, competitions, events, celebrations, stories and looks ahead to coming months with reflection on the strides we've made this year.

When you reflect on all we've achieved over the last 12 months be proud and please continue to strive for better... as the 'world's local university' we must think about our future and learn from the past to look to the future.

Continued from page 1

Helen said: "Although we accepted and undertook this challenge to support our student's endeavours and raise money for a charity which means a great deal to her, when I got into the plane I finally realised what a terrifying yet exhilarating experience I was letting myself in for.

"I must say the skydive was quite simply awesome, though I have promised my family it was a once in a lifetime experience!

"We would really like to express our gratitude to the staff and students at Glyndŵr University for their contributions; we have been overwhelmed with the level of support received so far.

"A special mention must be made of Maureen and Bill Proctor who have helped so very much to raise funds, and our family and friends – thank you everyone."

Kay added: "So far we have raised over £700 for Hope House Hospice, moving closer to our £1000 target every day.

"The JustGiving page is still open and accepting donations, so please feel free to log on to it and donate.

"Thanks also to the expertise and professionalism of the instructors at Skydive Tilstock, the whole experience was exhilarating. It is something I would definitely recommend."

Sarah, originally from Leicestershire and now living in Oswestry, thanked them for attempting the 10,000ft drop for such a worthy cause having herself raised thousands of pounds for Hope House with sponsored swims, walks and fancy dress events.

She said: "I was really disappointed to be told I could not take on the jump by my doctor because the calcium levels in my bones are so low. I try and do something for Hope House Hospice every year so to find out I couldn't after setting my heart on this challenge was very disappointing.

"When I told Helen and Kayleigh they were devastated for me; they then went on to say they'd do it on my behalf which

is just amazing, and then Charlie offered to help as well – I was overwhelmed."

She added: "I'm so grateful to them. This is a charity that's very close to my heart so I was delighted they raised so much money and was there on the day to spur them on."

To sponsor the Glyndŵr Psychology Skydive visit www.justgiving.com/GlyndwrPsychologySkydive and help them to reach £1,000.



EVENTS

Saturday October 12
Jimmy Carr: Gagging Order
7pm; 10pm
William Aston Hall £25

Tuesday October 15
Vienna Festival Ballet – Snow White
7.30pm
William Aston Hall £12.50-£18

Saturday October 19
Rhos Male Voice Choir
7pm
William Aston Hall £10-20

Wednesday October 23
Jethro
7.30pm
William Aston Hall £19.50

Thursday October 26
Adam Hills – Happyism
8pm
William Aston Hall £16

Friday November 8
Fron Male Voice Choir
7.30pm £12

Saturday November 9
Roy Chubby Brown
William Aston Hall
7.30pm £20

Friday November 15
Bellowhead
William Aston Hall
7.30pm £22.50

Tuesday November 19
Circus of Horrors
William Aston Hall
7.30pm £15-20

Saturday November 23
Wrexham Symphony Orchestra
William Aston Hall
7.30pm £8-15

Tuesday November 26
Alan Davies – Life Is Pain
William Aston Hall
8pm £20-25

Friday November 29
Jamie Smiths MABON
Catrin Finch Centre
8pm £15

Monday December 2
Significant and Joyous Moments in the Mountains with Doug Scott CBE
Catrin Finch Centre
£15 (includes £10 donation to the charity Community Action Nepal)

December 7- 28
Sleeping Beauty
William Aston Hall
Various times £10-16

COMPETITION

To celebrate the re-launch of Buzz, we're giving away two pairs of tickets to the Vienna Festival Ballet on Tuesday October 15 and two pairs of tickets to Jethro on Wednesday October 23. Both are being held in the William Aston Hall. To enter, answer one of the following questions and email press@glyndwr.ac.uk, using either Jethro/Ballet as the subject. Please include your full name and a contact telephone number.

Q. With which UK county is Jethro famously associated?
Q. Vienna is the capital of which European country?

Closing date for entries - October 11



NEWS IN BRIEF...



Downton Abbey director Brian Percival says his time studying in Wrexham 'inspired' him to BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning success.



A former student at Glyndwr University's North Wales School of Art and Design, Brian is now recognised as one of the top directors in the UK having steered the ITV soap opera to global popularity.

The Liverpoolian is currently preparing for the release of new movie *The Book Thief* with Academy award-winner Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson, having previously helmed some of the most critically-acclaimed short films and TV dramas in recent years, including *Pleasureland*, *North & South*, and *About a Girl*.

However, winning the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing for a Mini-Series, Movie or Dramatic Special in 2011 – a prize earlier picked-up by the likes of Tom Hanks and Mike Nichols – was the pinnacle of his career, a career that began in North Wales more than 30 years ago.

His memories of Wrexham are vivid and pleasant; it was a happy time and one he remembers fondly.

"I was very happy, after being in full time employment for a couple of years I completely embraced this new and creative world I was stepping into," said Brian.

"It was a wonderful experience, learning to see the world in a completely different way. It was like someone opening a book for me for the first time and I loved it. I was inspired."

A former student accommodation complex in Wrexham was transformed into a library featuring more than 13,000 books collected by a New York scholar who was forced to leave the United States in the 1960s due to his left wing views.

The Goldstein Library documents the vast literary interests of Leonard Goldstein and his wife, Marilou.

Professor Goldstein, who left the United States with Marilou during the McCarthy era, arranged the bequest of his library to Glyndwr University in 2011 through a desire to keep the collection together.

Following his death, aged 89, in March 2012, the books were transferred from his home in London to safe storage.

They were relocated to the refurbished Plas Coch Hostel, on Glyndwr's Wrexham campus, in December.

The collection is predominantly made up of literature, social and political history texts but includes books on topics as diverse as photography, architecture, crime fiction, theology and philosophy. Around one third of the collection is in German.

German enthusiasm piloted Glyndwr University students to a staggering 24 first class degrees in engineering.

The Wrexham University revealed that its growing number of German students helped to raise the engineering department's already high standards and motivated UK and international counterparts to new skill levels with their "professional and committed" attitudes.

Together they racked up 24 first class degrees; 24 upper second class degrees, 13 lower second class degrees and one third class degree.

The average figure for UK students gaining a First on an aeronautical and mechanical engineering degree is roughly 10%; at Glyndwr University the figure was nearer 35%.

Professor Peter Excell, Dean of Arts, Science

and Technology, said the University's prestigious engineering curriculum and cutting edge facilities – including a Merlin Flight Simulator and supersonic wind tunnel – helped attract the cream of overseas engineering to north east Wales.

The Wrexham University's close ties and reputation with industry giants Airbus, Toyota, United Utilities, UPM Paper, Tata and others had also played a major role, he added.

"A number of industry-oriented colleges in Germany have, for some time, made arrangements to feed their best students into Glyndwr's undergraduate engineering programmes," said Prof Excell.

"They come with some German government funding but, until recently, they confined themselves to short engineering programmes that fitted the funding structure.

"Glyndwr staff recognised the outstanding ability of many of the students and pointed out that they were well qualified to succeed on a full honours degree programme if they could find the small personal investment needed.

"Many of the best students took up this suggestion and this year has seen the first substantial crop of these students coming through the honours programme."

A world-class advanced engineering hub has pumped £350,000 into new technology.

The Engineering department at Glyndwr University in Wrexham has unveiled a raft of new cutting-edge machines in time for the forthcoming academic year.

As well as an £80,000 Hurco 5-axis CNC mill, the University has also invested in a 3D printer, a CNC lathe, student lathes, a welding bay, tools and benches, pillar drills and a complete refurbishment of the Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering workshops.

Workshop supervisor Arfon Hughes, himself a former apprentice and metal turner at the North East Wales Institute (NEWI) in the 1980s, said the modern facilities will set Glyndwr apart from other higher education institutions working in advanced engineering.

He said: "These machines are a big selling point for the Engineering department and will give students here a real edge.

"Anyone wanting to work in the automotive industry or advanced manufacturing would look to work on this equipment. As well as being a vital part of the curriculum going forward they could also be used by existing companies wanting to train their workforces in the latest technology."

Glyndwr University will welcome more than 50 new Chinese students a year, generating £500,000 as part of a deal with one of its Far East partners.



The Wrexham University and Guangxi Normal University (GXNU) will jointly deliver Childhood Care and Education and Journalism,

Broadcasting and Media courses.

The two institutions formed an alliance in 2006 and have successfully taught joint programmes in Art and Design for several years.

With permission from the Chinese Government, which has been granted, they will run the new programmes from 2014, with more than 50 students travelling to study in north east Wales every year.

A delegation from GXNU, based in the province of Guangxi, visited Glyndwr University to sign the deal.

Glyndwr University is satisfying more students than ever before.



The 2013 National Student Survey (NSS) announced the Wrexham University has seen a 5% increase in overall student satisfaction to 82%.

The UK's leading student study also revealed several courses at Glyndwr achieved a staggering 100% satisfaction rate: Fine Art, Education and Childhood Studies, Learning Support: Teaching and Learning, Families and Childhood Studies, and Occupational Therapy.

And more students in these areas were satisfied than the previous year: Art & Design, Biology & Environment, Communications, Computing, Sport & Exercise Science, Psychology, Humanities, Business & Management, Applied Social Sciences.

Despite celebrating its fifth anniversary just months ago, Glyndwr University is outperforming many of its rivals and was above the Wales average in these categories – academic support, personal development, practice placements, and assessment and feedback.

Students were asked a total of 22 questions on a range of issues, from the facilities provided to the level of communication and feedback from teachers.

Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Helen James was delighted with the results and thanked staff and students for helping the Wrexham institution to its best ever NSS results.

"The 5% rise in student satisfaction is fantastic news and tribute to the hard work and dedication of everyone here at the University," she said.

"These results prove that we're moving in the right direction and having so many courses deliver 100% student satisfaction is also pleasing, as well as increases across almost every subject. It's tremendous news."

Four applied arts students from Glyndwr University completed their studies with a prestigious project after being given the opportunity to help create a crown for the 2013 National Eisteddod of Wales.

The students formed a support team for Flintshire artist and silversmith Andrew Coomber, who was commissioned by the Flintshire & Denbighshire branches of the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) to design and manufacture the bardic crown for the event in Denbigh.

The design is inspired by the colour and imagery of the agricultural Vale of Clwyd and Moel Famau and reflects lyrical qualities of the landscape in harmony with modern technology and materials.

With the agreement of the Eisteddfod and the FUW, the project was run as an externally funded educational project with the four Glyndwr University students on board.



Morven Browne, Sarah Jones, Jess Bryant and Lisa Rún Guðlaugsdóttir all graduate from the BA (Hons) Applied Art course at Glyndwr University this year.

Glyndwr University proposed a new £150,000 playing surface for a world-famous football ground.



The Wrexham –based institution is applying for funding to renovate the Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium's playing surface.

A complete overhaul would cost up to £750,000, so the University and Welsh FA are exploring available funding streams in a bid to extensively renovate the pitch in time for the beginning of the 2014/15 season.

The work would include new and improved drainage and irrigation facilities at the landmark, the world's oldest international football ground and home to Wrexham AFC and North Wales Crusaders rugby league team.

A report commissioned by Glyndwr University from the Institute of Groundsmanship revealed the pitch is "well maintained" given the "volume of play" – more than 80 games a year excluding training.

The study also stated complete reconstruction "carries high risk" in terms of cost and disruption to both clubs' playing programmes and advised renovation or an intensive end-of-season maintenance programme to provide a surface suitable for "high level and international football".

Groundsman Paul Chaloner worked hard over the summer to improve the ground and is benefiting from up to £30,000 worth of new equipment.

Paul said: "Before Glyndwr University bought the stadium two years ago we didn't even have a lawnmower, we had to borrow one, so we've come a long way since then.

"The surface gets very little chance to rest due to the amount of football and rugby matches being played on it but the overall issue is funding; hopefully we will be able to obtain grants that will allow us to make these improvements."

A fifth biennial conference on Internet Technologies and Applications welcomed delegates from across the world.

Organised by the university's Creative and Applied Research for the Digital Society group, ITA 13 was held at the University's Wrexham campus in September.

As well as workshops and fringe events, the conference featured keynote talks from Professor James D. Foley, Stephen Fleming, Chair in Telecommunications

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia; and Associate Professor Anthony L. Brooks, Director of SensoramaLab, Aalborg Universitet, Aalborg, Denmark.

Dr Richard Picking, Reader in Human-Computer Interaction and chair of the conference, said: "This high-profile event was great for the University, the local economy and it put north east Wales on the international map as a centre of academic research."

For more information, visit www.ita13.org.

The new Glyndwr University Showreel is now available on the university's You Tube channel at www.youtube.com/glyndwrniversity. The video is bilingual and showcases facilities and life around campus. It has been produced by Minimal Media, a video production company set up by a group of Glyndwr University graduates, and was shot over several days during the summer. DVD copies of the showreel are available from marketing for use at recruitment events. Please email press@glyndwr.ac.uk if you'd like a copy.



North Wales School of Art and Design - Regent Street

The summer started with the opening of the much-anticipated graduate show at the NWSAD, running from May 31 until June 11.

Fine Art's Katie Brute, who goes by the artist name Katie Cyfenw, was selected for the Graduate 2013 exhibition at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff, curated by Pete Fowler, who spent months travelling around Wales selecting what he considered to be the best graduate art work from each institution.

Katie's work was also featured in a review of the show on the BBC website.

She said: "I was so shocked to find out my work had been selected by Pete Fowler and was going to be on show in the Millennium Centre.

"It was a huge honour to represent Glyndŵr and the Fine Art department, which is just fantastic. The past three years here have been life-changing for me."

A selection of work from the graduate show then moved to launch a new arts initiative, Un Deg Un, a pop-up arts space located at the old JJB Sports store in Wrexham.

The exhibition opened to the public in July and ran until September, attracting more than 2000 visitors.

NWSAD is continuing to work closely with Un Deg Un and is looking to host workshops, exhibitions, studio spaces and projects for current students and graduates in the coming year.

This year the Glyndŵr Collective features 37 artists associated with the Regent Street site, including undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates, lecturers and demonstrators.

Two of the members, Sue Liggett and Karen Heald, are also currently exhibiting at the Oriol Sycharth Gallery.

In-Between-Ness: Using art to capture a sense of self runs until November 4 and features the artwork of participants in their research project.

They hope to raise awareness of mental health issues and how creativity can help sufferers of depression and memory loss to express themselves.

For information, visit: www.in-between-ness.co.uk

GREEN ISSUES

with Dr Jan Green, senior lecturer and change strategist in Business Management.

The word 'green' has several meanings within a business context.

It is a good example of how language evolves and changes over periods of time – the result being the potential for misunderstanding and misinterpretation leading to ineffective communication.

'Green' may be used to suggest an element of naivety or a novice approach. The word also depicts freshness and renewal as evidenced in the spring.

Initially the hue of green is pale and delicate before moving through the spectrum of colours to a bright and vivid shade of mid-summer. In the autumn, green becomes dark and disintegrates until the deep shades of the ever-greens dominate the landscape before the cycle begins again in the spring.

In business, green is now used as a prefix to depict sustainable practices and has extended into many working practices including purchasing, marketing, logistics, systems and energy.

So how does Business and Management teach green practice when potentially the message may be interpreted as one that does not enhance business performance?



Two areas are relatively easy to address. The first is effective change practices.

Change creates a directional propeller that generates sufficient turbulence to the status quo to such an extent that changing practices and routines is the only way to remove the origin of the disturbance. This requires change – simple, isn't it?

The second area is strategy. Are we so busy that asking this question, on a Monday, results in this reply: "I don't know yet, I haven't got through Tuesday?"

Business must look longer term. Students will be addressing the global issues of fracking and water supply in their assignments this academic year to encourage a longer term view of sustainability.

A crucial green issue is what is happening to bees; way back when, in 2010, it was estimated that the essential role bees play in pollination of around one third of the world's crops, for free, was valued at \$214 billion per annum worldwide to the agricultural sector.

Is it pesticides, is it climate change, is it genetically modified crops? In a world where classic economic supply and demand is being challenged in some quarters business needs to do more than live in the world as it is and look ahead to develop green strategies for future generations.

Follow me on Twitter at @JanHNCStuff to join in the debate.

Under the Spotlight

The Centre for the Child, Family and Society – with Karen Graham, Professor of Childhood and Family Studies

The Centre has enjoyed a remarkable period since opening in 2011.

We've brought together a lively and exciting, working childcare and research facility for the benefit of the whole University. Work is focused on supporting developments in policy and practice related to the needs of the child, family and society. Through our work as a community of researchers, academics and practitioners our aim is to continually support local, national and international efforts to improve the wellbeing of families.

The Centre is in a building designed to house a research facility and a childcare setting. The University works in partnership with Active Childcare, which runs two nurseries, one of which is based at Glyndŵr.

The nursery at the Centre employs 30 staff committed to providing excellent childcare and supporting the work of the university.

We work with numerous external partners on a range of diverse projects. A recent project involved the North East Wales Carers Information Service and the Prince's Trust. Together we responded to the needs of carers in employment by writing and rolling out a Carer Friendly Employer Recognition Award launched last year by the Health Minister for Wales.

This award encourages employers to take small steps that make a positive difference to carers in the workplace, often helping carers to remain employed and preventing them from sliding into poverty. For some organisations this support can be as simple as providing a telephone contact point in workplaces that do not ordinarily allow mobile phone use or

allowing carers to set up support groups in their own lunchtime. We were touched to receive some lovely feedback about this award how it has helped some carers stay in employment.

We have also worked with local health professionals to launch the Academy of Care Practitioners, a professional body providing advice, guidance and training and development opportunities for those in the childcare and health care professions.

Life at the Centre was extremely busy over the summer.

We welcomed numerous international visitors including Kimberly Witte, an academic from Florida Atlantic University who was keen to look at curriculum frameworks and outdoor education.

I co-presented on children's rights at the Education Diplomacy conference with World Forum colleagues from Washington and Chicago, and we were delighted to welcome Dr Susan Linn as a Visiting Professor during the last semester.

Susan, from Harvard Medical School, is involved in the children and technology project being undertaken by myself and Dr Debbie Roberts, Reader in Health at Glyndŵr University.

During August I spent time in Mumbai, India, working on education resources for parents with the purpose of improving educational delivery to young children, as part of my role as a consultant to Podar Education.

Myself and Peter Graham - Director of Active Childcare Ltd - were invited to present to the Association of Childhood Educators, where we were also made Honorary Fellows of the organisation.

September saw the beginning of a new and busy and exciting academic year as we look forward to contributing to the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) conference in November and the World Forum in Puerto Rico in May 2014.



Take a SIP!

Do you want to develop a strategic relationship with an external organisation that will benefit the role of your department

The Strategic Insight Programme (SIP) provides funding of up to £2,500 to develop meaningful strategic collaborations between universities in Wales and external organisations.

The programme is now entering its third year at Glyndŵr University and continues to go from strength to strength.

SIP placements are open to all university staff, academic and non academic, to facilitate learning about each other's organisation, helping to identify and scope future collaborations.

It is especially useful to staff looking to work with new organisations for the first time, or work with existing contacts on new activity. It's open to public, private and third sector organisations in Wales, the UK and internationally.

The application process is very straightforward, so whoever you want to work with, SIP can help.

For more information, contact Samantha Clutton on 01978 293183 or the central office on 01443 65427. Alternatively, email admin@siprogramme.org.uk or follow @siprogramme on Twitter.

Do you have a story for Buzz? Email press@glyndwr.ac.uk or martin.williams@glyndwr.ac.uk

The Graduate

Middle East move secures Microsoft award for alumnus

A Glyndŵr University alumnus won a prestigious award for his work at one of the world's leading technology firms.

Hamid Butt, 38, was handed the Microsoft Gulf Market Impact Award 2013, for his contribution to the company's success in two categories – impact and growth.

He was given the award for his work in securing several new business deals worth a collective \$10 million.

Hamid graduated with a degree in Business Information Systems Management from the Welsh institution, has been working at the firm's Middle East subsidiary for the last five years as a Senior IT Service Delivery Manager, alongside top companies including Accenture, IBM and Serco.

Hamid, who moved from Kenya to the UK when he was five, said that his university experience shaped his life and equipped him with the skills needed to pursue a career in technology.

He said: "Studying at Glyndŵr University was a turning point psychologically and helped lay the foundation stone on which I built my career. It's where I matured not just academically, but socially and emotionally too."

"The university gave me the tools, the context and the direction that helped me better navigate my career path. I always got great advice and guidance from those around



me. There were many people at the university who were invested in my success and would happily give their time and energy to help me achieve my successes."

Hamid also reflects fondly on his social life at the university and says: "I had a great circle of friends and to this day am in touch with a lot of them. At university there was a great balance between the social and academic work."

Speaking of his award, he said: "It feels sublime to win this award, it's an honour and a pleasure to be recognised at a continental level in a global company like Microsoft. There are regularly a lot of great success stories in a company that has over 100,000 employees worldwide, so to be picked out from the plethora of good work is a great feeling of achievement and success. It's a testament to hard work, dedication, self-belief and support from my loved ones."

Glyndŵr University's Helen James, Director of the School for Undergraduate Studies said: "It's always positive to hear what Glyndŵr alumni are up to and this is a particularly impressive example of a student who's gone on to achieve great things. Seeing a past student win an award for a global company like Microsoft is a fantastic achievement."

"We're continuing to develop our links with industry and establishing ourselves as a leading new university with one of the best graduate employability rates in Wales. I have no doubt this will be one of many success stories of this nature in the years to come."

In each issue The Graduate will profile alumni from across the globe. Do you know a former student who's gone on to forge a successful career, in the UK or overseas? Email press@glyndwr.ac.uk

Admissions - with Andy Phillips

The 'Clearing' period for admission to a university is often thought of as starting on A level results day (typically the middle of August), and finishing a few days later.

As multiple tutors from across Glyndŵr University's subject areas will confirm, this definitely isn't the case.

Admissions teams will start work on these Clearing applications for UK and EU applications from July 1 each year, and won't stop until after enrolment and certainly well into October.

A-Level results day itself was a busy day of course, with press coverage in the Edward Llwyd Centre throughout the day from newspapers and TV and a high volume of telephone calls, drop-in visitors and enquiries to our new web-chat service from applicants interested in our courses.

We were able to make the vast majority of offers over the telephone and 50 offers were made on A level results day alone.

The new four-year 'Kick-Start' degrees proved to be a particularly helpful offering, and many applicants were very, very happy that we could accommodate them on one of our courses this year when they had not quite achieved what was asked of them elsewhere.

This year has been a testing one for admissions departments across UK HEIs of course, with a drive across our own university to increase student numbers for September.

We've seen an increase in the amount of people expected in September as a result and this is down to the efforts of every department – from Student Recruitment to Marketing and Press, Careers to Student Services for example, and from each academic area.

Twitter, Facebook, and the University website have all given applicants new ways to contact us and apply for a place.

As this is an admissions column of course, the efforts of Karen Thomas, Sue Galley and Dave Mills should be highlighted here - they were absolutely vital in ensuring the whole process was coordinated effectively.

Similarly, I must mention the efforts of the student ambassador team (Raven, Leanne, Nicky, Steve and Susan) who worked with us throughout the period and allowed us longer opening hours, with the team available up to 14 hours a day and at weekends including Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday.

The process wouldn't have worked without their help.

Careers Centre? No thanks, it's not for me

by careers advisor Andrea Hilditch

The shrug of the shoulders, the avoidance of eye contact, the muttering of 'I'm too busy...er, I'll think about it next year' as a student shuffles past – we've seen them all. And it's ok. Really, we're not offended, not in the slightest.

We know Glyndŵr Careers Centre can't possibly help every single person and we know our students all have very different needs, hopes and ideas. We know deadlines might be looming or viva dates awaiting and you may have your sights on that 2:1 or 1st classification.

But for those who do stop and have a chat, we pull up a comfy chair, we offer a free cup of tea and we'll listen while you talk.

It's the essential 'me time' many students need. Whether that's helping a younger student to think about her reality as a future teacher, whether it's helping a confused engineering student to prioritise their next steps and find information, or whether it's listening to the single mum on



a Criminal Justice course who never expected to be here and needs to factor in finding experience with her studies and childcare - we understand how much it takes to be here.

Our mission is not to tell students what they should or shouldn't do. Our mission is to be open to all, to challenge and to encourage exploration.

We'll never repeat the Reed advert proclamations, "I know. You should be a neuroscientist!" That's just not us.

So, next time you see us on our road shows around campus, or you pass the poster in the corridor, or you almost delete the email, whoever you are, think about just stopping to chat for a while. Work experience gaps, interview nerves, career indecision, application panic, last minute changes of mind, yearning for promotion, sideways steps - we have a place in the Careers Centre for it all.

Students, potential students, academic or operational staff and even graduates - we are human, we aren't that scary and we don't laugh at your ideas. We're just like you.

Glyndŵr University's new charity campaign goes from strength to strength

The University's 1887 restaurant will host a cheese and wine evening in aid of Glyndŵr Giving on Thursday December 5, from 6pm.

The inaugural Glyndŵr Giving event, held during the summer, gathered more than £7,500.

More than 100 members of the north east Wales business community joined Vice Chancellor Professor Michael Scott, Chairman Sir Jon Shortridge, and University staff at St David's Park, Ewloe.

Guests were treated to a three-course meal, music, dancing and entertainment from comedian Martin Gold.

The new fundraising arm was created earlier this year to support and preserve higher education in the region.

The appeal looks at four core areas; campus development, academic excellence, student experience and community engagement.

Commercial and fundraising manager Suzanne Riley was pleased with the

response to Glyndŵr Giving and thanked everyone who attended on the night.

She said: "The Glyndŵr Giving summer fundraising ball was a huge success with a full house of guests attending from across the industry and educational sector in North Wales and the North West."

"Everybody joined in the celebrations and gave generously to the Glyndŵr Giving fund."

She added: "As a University we are delighted with the support we received and would like to thank all of our sponsors, guests and staff of the University for giving their time and everyone who gave giving generously to support us through monetary donations and raffle and auction prizes."

Donations via the raffle and auction helped the team raise £2,660, while additional income with sponsorship saw the overall tally top the £7,500 mark.

For more information, or to support Glyndŵr Giving visit the website: www.glyndwr.ac.uk/en/Fundraising



Northop

Campus-based Horticulture Wales has had a summer to smile about following a string of recent successes. The project, which works to improve business supply chains for growers of fruit and veg, flowers, plants, trees, and herbs across Wales, has secured an additional £100,000 funding from the Welsh Government.

The cash boost brings the total sum invested in the initiative to £1.74million and guarantees it will run until at least next November. July's Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells, Europe's largest agricultural festival, saw Horticulture Wales officially launch 'Cooking with Welsh Horticulture'. A handy free recipe book packed with 35 mouth-watering meal ideas, it aims to inspire the nation's chefs, caterers, and café owners to use more Welsh-grown, in-season fruit and veg.

The summer has also seen the project extend its popular range of 'Grow to Love' cards. Now covering 20 Welsh-grown fruit and vegetables ranging from old favourites like cabbage and broad beans, through to more unusual varieties such as kohlrabi and kale, each individual postcard contains fun facts, recipe ideas, and tips on how to prepare the produce properly. The free cards have proven to be a great way for farm shops, farmers' markets, and retailers to encourage customers to try – and hopefully 'Grow to Love' – a wider selection of fresh produce.



London

International Tourism Management students from GUL took a field trip to Canterbury over the summer and visited museums, touristic attractions and had a city tour to understand culture exchange. The trip also helped them to identify some of the vital tourism factors that play a pivotal role in strategic decision making and planning.

The campus was also visited by Patricia Yates, Director of Strategy and Communications of Visit Britain, who gave a presentation on 'Ways of Promoting Tourism' following the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, held in the city.

And one of the highlights of past months was the GUL pool tournament. The winners took home a medal and a certificate and will now compete against other colleges. They also plan to host an all-female pool competition in the coming months.



The Glyndŵr University Equestrian Club also enjoyed a busy summer having been set up earlier this year. Members from both the Wrexham and Northop campuses took part in a range of equestrian activities including a quiz night and learning about carriage driving at Erddig. The club aimed to attract members from the novice rider through to those more accomplished, as well as those not actually wanting to ride. A comprehensive list of events is currently being drafted, so if you want to learn more about horses, develop your skills, or just mix with those who have a similar interest, email equestrianclub@glyndwr.ac.uk

Staying with horses, students were invited to submit ideas for a new central equine information system through an initiative called Advancing Equine Scientific Excellence (AESE), led by the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and British

Society of Animal Science (BSAS). Both organisations are keen to re-establish a central information system to allow users within the equine industry to keep up-to-date with horse-related matters. Glyndŵr University was one of eight institutions shortlisted by the AESE team to contribute to the new central equine information.

Second year Equestrian Psychology Students Linda Bleasdale and Beth Czismadia submitted a pilot study after consulting with local owners, riders and businesses within the industry. They initially presented this report to a panel of industry experts at the BEF Headquarters at Stoneleigh park, and were then selected along with students from two other institutions to present to representatives from the Equine Sector Council, DEFRA and BEF.

Rosie MacDiarmid, lecturer in Equestrian Psychology at Glyndŵr, said: "We are delighted that the students' work is to be used to inform what will be a key tool within the equine industry. At the same time, the project gave them extremely valuable skills and knowledge which will serve them well in the equine industry and beyond when they graduate."



Campus Round-Up

The North East Wales 'knowledge corridor' encompasses Glyndŵr University's campuses in Wrexham, Northop and St Asaph. The University is growing all of the time, and with GUL (Glyndŵr University London) enjoying another busy year the future looks very bright for the institution. Here's the latest from our other campuses.

St Asaph

Researchers have made huge strides in reaching the next milestone in polishing mirrors for the European Southern Observatory's (ESO) European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT), which at 39m will be the largest optical and near-infrared telescope in the world when it's unveiled in Cerro Armazones in Chile in 2023. More news is due in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Technology Manager Ian Baker visited the largest optical telescope in Asia, at the remote Lijiang Observatory at an altitude of 3215m. This complex instrument was designed and built in the UK by engineers now involved in the demanding projects undertaken at Glyndŵr University St Asaph. The telescope has been in reliable scientific operational since 2007 and is used by the global scientific community for cutting edge research.

Glyndŵr was requested to assist the observatory staff with the servicing of the 34 tonne telescope, which included servicing of the electro mechanical assemblies, precision actuation devices and culminated in the re-coating of the 2.4m diameter primary optic which weighs in at 2.25 tonnes. The university has built up a team of specialists capable of delivering solutions for high and ultra-precision optical systems through its involvement with the ESO project and many others for both ground based and aerospace applications. This expertise was clearly demonstrated to the Chinese Academy of Science and plans are being developed for further collaborations at both an academic and technical level.



A dramatic play highlighting fire safety won a prestigious prize for Glyndŵr University drama students

Senior Lecturers in Theatre, Television and Performance, Elen Mai Nefydd and Huw Garmon, picked up the Community Partnerships Safety Award from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service at a ceremony in Rhyl.

The University joined forces with the fire service and Wrexham County Safety Office to create a play focusing on arson and its impact on the community.

Crossfire was acted-out by Level Five students and directed by Huw.

The show played to secondary schools and teenagers from four local pupil referral units in the 'old union' building on the Plas Coch campus.

The performance was followed by an interactive workshop.

Receiving the prize, Elen said: "We're delighted to receive this award and really enjoyed the ceremony. We've worked in partnership with the fire service for three years now; the first project was a series of student safety adverts for Facebook, and then earlier this year our students' performances of Crossfire highlighted fire safety."

"We joined forces with Wrexham County Safety Office to create a play focusing on arson and its impact on the community. On the back of these initiatives we plan to work together again in the future."

"North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is making a bid for funding so we can take Crossfire out on tour, and we're also looking to develop a corporate drama together. The future is looking very bright and it's also very rewarding for us to be able to work together for the good of the local community and to try and push the message of fire safety among school pupils and the public."

On the night, Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Harry George Fetherstonehough OBE, and chair of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies, also presented a Loyal Service award to a member of the support staff who completed 20 years' service.

Seven Community Awards were also presented at the ceremony in order to recognise members of staff and the community who have worked hard to improve community safety in North Wales.

Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer said: "Receiving a medal is an important occasion for every firefighter and this ceremony collectively represents over 100 years of commitment and dedication to the Fire and Rescue Service in North Wales. All recipients can take pride and satisfaction in receiving their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals or Loyal Service Awards."



■ Pictured are senior lecturers in Theatre, Television and Performance, Elen Mai Nefydd and Huw Garmon from Glyndwr University, with Cllr Meirick Lloyd Davies (centre)

Student recruitment

- with Andy Cairns, Team Coordinator, Partnerships, Recruitment & Admissions

While the students have been away it's been a busy summer for the Student Recruitment and Widening Access team.

Through our annual summer recruitment campaign - taking place each year between May and August - staff and student ambassadors from Glyndŵr University have attended more than 40 events across North Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire to promote the exciting courses and excellent opportunities available here.

Highlights of the campaign included the Oswestry Show, Shrewsbury Flower Show and the National Eisteddfod of Wales, held in Denbigh, all of which were fantastic events and garnered a huge amount of interest for the University.

The team also provided a huge amount of support to local schools and colleges on A level results day, with some members travelling out to locations across the region, whilst our colleagues in admissions fielded calls throughout the Clearing process.

Coinciding with Clearing, we held one of the busiest open days we have ever had.

Taking place on Saturday August 17, we had a tremendous number of visitors and the atmosphere across campus was positively buzzing.

The most recent open day, on September 14, was also well attended, with more than 150 people descending on the Wrexham campus.

Visitors came from as far afield as Germany and everyone our staff spoke to on the day commented on the helpfulness and friendliness of those in attendance, as well as how pleasantly surprised they were by the courses and facilities Glyndŵr University has to offer.

We are now starting the new academic year and are eager to get to work again with our colleagues in schools and colleges, promoting the opportunities and services available at Glyndŵr and raising the aspirations of young people across the region.

The next open day takes place on Saturday October 5 from 10am until 2pm and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. As well as being an informative and entertaining day for prospective students and their families it's a good opportunity for all departments to work together and highlight the great academic and social offering we have here.

For information, visit: www.glyndwr.ac.uk/en/Howtoapply/VisitGlyndrUniversity/OpenDays

Student Scene

- with Students' Guild President Luke Murphy

Glyndŵr University is a close knit community. The atmosphere around our campuses is great, people are always there for each other and you'll struggle to find a friendlier place to live and learn.

Our students are of all ages, all backgrounds, and come from all over the world: it's that diversity that makes Glyndŵr an exciting place to be. One thing is for sure though, our students are driven, determined and they definitely know how to have a good time!

And Wrexham really has the best of both worlds in terms of its location. There's loads going on in the town, or within an hour you can be in Liverpool City Centre or in the heart of the Snowdonia Mountains. You're not going to run out of things to do when you're here.

To make the most of life here the secret is really to not be scared and to get involved! We've got lots of clubs and societies, ranging from Equestrian to Bollywood Dancing so there really is something for everyone.

We've got a great Athletic Union and this year we're putting all our energy into our sports teams to make sure there are more opportunities for our students than ever before. Joining a team, society or a club is a fantastic way to meet people, to try something new, and for students to really broaden their horizons during their time with us.

We also have a huge amount of events planned for



this year, so keep your eyes on the Guild's website, our Facebook, and look for our posters around campus to find out more.

There can't be many jobs as diverse as a Guild President. One day I'm picking kits for our sports teams, the next I'm representing our students at a national conference, and another I'm out until sunrise making sure our student nights are a success.

Of course there are big things we're going to achieve this year too. Developing and building on our sporting success at Glyndŵr is something I'm passionate about, and this year I'm going to be working to ensure that our Athletic Union goes from strength to strength.

But ultimately the whole job boils down to making sure every one of our students is happy. Whenever a student needs anything, whatever it might be, they can always come to us - it's what we're here for.

A date for your calendar...

Staff Christmas Party 2013

Friday 20th December - 7.30pm - 12.30am
at the Centenary Club

There's no hiding in the world of social media

If you don't like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter – why ever not?

For businesses, including universities, social media is an important tool to communicate with an audience that you may never have been able to tap into before as well as spreading the news about your good work and success to the wider world.

At the start of the summer, the Marketing and Press team at GU held a successful social media café giving you some hints and tips about how to either get started on social or improve your success rate. We are always on hand to help further and will be setting up some more drop in sessions in the near future... watch this space!

Our university branded social media accounts are growing at a rapid rate and at the time of going to print, our GU Facebook and Twitter account – which is run by the Marketing and Press team – has a combined 14,000 followers/likes. That's a lot of people, hey?

However, if you know anything about social media, it's not all about numbers. It's the way you engage and interact with those people who choose to follow you or in this case Glyndwr University.

But nowadays as well as using social media to catch up with friends and your favourite celebrities, it is more recently being used by some to highlight their disappointment of a service they may have received from a particular company or business.

A recent example of this saw a disgruntled customer taking to Twitter, fed up with the way British Airways was handling the issue of his father's lost luggage. But rather than just put out a normal tweet, he paid to have one promoted.



His tweet said: "Don't fly @BritishAirways. Their customer service is horrendous."

Six hours after the tweet went live, and was picked up by news websites, it had been read by thousands of Twitter users, retweeted and commented on. No surprise that the Tweet was acted upon and the luggage was returned within hours.

This is just one example which shows the power – and often how harmful – social media can be to businesses and public bodies so it's never been more important to keep good customer service at the forefront of everything we do.

Business can't hide in the world of social media, do something wrong and you are more than likely going to hear about it first on social media and be pulled apart by an unhappy customer for all on the world wide web to see.

But now let's not get scared. There are a lot of businesses out there thriving because of the good comments they are receiving on social media and we'd go as far as to say that us as a University are in that category now too.

The majority of the feedback and comments we receive on our main GU accounts is positive and we will continue to build our relationships with these people both on and offline to raise the university's profile.

So spread the word! If you're not doing so already, follow us on Twitter at @glyndwruni and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/glyndwruni and be the first to hear about the latest news, developments and events.

Tweets of the Term

We've picked out a few of the recent comments Tweeted to us from our lovely followers:

- **Hannah Watson:** I still can't believe that I'll be in @GlyndwrUni accommodation in 5 days. 12 months ago I was doubting whether I'd get into uni... #mad
- **Cheryl Bowley:** Oh forgot to tell you, got a place a @GlyndwrUni in September, #maturestudent studying at 41!! #excited

- **Kieran Jones:** Halls finally sorted @GlyndwrUni i will see you on the 16th september!
- **Babz Masters:** @GlyndwrUni I got my place in uni! :-)
- **Damian Wynn Conde:** Just met some flat mates and some flat neighbours! Looking forward to getting this started now! Diolch @GlyndwrUni :) #BringItOn
- **Anastasia Pavelenko:** 18 days left. Can't still believe that @Curl_N and I will start our new live in #glyndwr soon. Hope it will be great there (: @GlyndwrUni

The Money Doctor - Jenny Jones

All of the staff in the Student Funding and Welfare office at Glyndwr University can be classed as 'Money Doctors'.

I've been in the post for less than a year but budgeting advice will nearly always come into conversations when students are applying for funding.

When students are in financial distress and need to apply for the discretionary fund that is available in emergencies, budgeting will definitely come into the conversation, because understanding how to manage your money and having financial capability is the only way to take control of your spending, rather than have it take control of you.

If students can understand the difference between essential and non-essential spending and transfer that knowledge into how they spend their money they will have a life skill that will be with them beyond university.

Sadly people often learn about budgeting after

they get into financial difficulty and with a view toward getting the message out there as early as possible, my role as Money Doctor is to visit schools and talk to children about their money and how to manage it.

My first school visit was a baptism of fire. Driving a pool car on a snowy January morning, when I hadn't driven in 14 months, to a school year assembly of over 250 pupils to give my first power point presentation.

It went fine, and after I'd had a quick cry I wasn't nervous at all.

I find that I am quite passionate about getting the message out there, that learning how to manage your money is important and never more so than when you are living away from home, probably for the first time, at university and you are then handed the largest amount of money you have ever had to manage.

Concern about finances is a big deal when you are working and have a mortgage/rent and bills to pay, but worrying about money as a student can often result in the belief that you can't afford to continue studying.

The Funding and Welfare team here at Glyndwr University work hard to make sure that every student who applies for funding gets all they are entitled to.

The Money Doctor is here not just for potential student but for the present student community and staff to understand about how to budget and make your money go further.

Visit the Money Doctor Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MoneyDoctorAtGlyndwr

There has been a baby boom at Glyndwr University in 2013

Among the new arrivals over the summer were little Finley Gough and Siena Bella Murphy.

Finley's proud mum, Business Development Executive Laura Gough, said: "He weighed 7lb 2ozs and was born at Wrexham Maelor Hospital on May 6.

"Having Finley is the greatest thing that's ever happened to me. Being a mum has taught me so much already... mainly how to function on less than five hours sleep a night!"

Marketing Officer Emma Jones knows the feeling, having given birth to 8lbs Siena on August 18.

She and partner Mike "can't stop smiling" and were "thrilled" when she finally arrived.

"We think she is just perfect in every way and we can't stop looking at her," said Emma.

Do you have a good news story for Buzz or a celebration you'd like to share? Email press@glyndwr.co.uk



■ Laura and Finley



■ Emma and Siena

NEWS IN BRIEF...

The leader of the Wales Orthodox Mission has given his backing to a new agreement between Glyndwr and a Ukrainian university.

Archimandrite Deiniol, administrator of the Mission, visited Glyndwr University as it signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Chernigov State Technological University.

The agreement will see the two institutions work closely on research and developing new undergraduate and postgraduate degree pathways.

Students from the Ukraine have been spending time studying in Wrexham for the past three years and the agreement will strengthen these existing links.

Father Deiniol has offered to be available to provide spiritual support to students from eastern Europe during any time spent

in Wrexham and congratulated Glyndwr University on signing the agreement.

He said: "I feel a great deal of civic pride at my home town now having the splendid, innovative, forward-looking university which Glyndwr is, and I feel great joy and honour being in touch with the University and offering some small collaboration.

"That this includes collaboration with Ukrainian students and academics and Ukrainian Universities is for me even more poignant, as a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Diaspora, and accordingly I rejoice in the Memorandum of Understanding having been signed between both institutions and having had the opportunity to spend time with representatives from both Glyndwr and Chernigov on such a special day."