

SUMMER 2012

Cardiff

University Magazine
— for Alumni & Friends



Going for gold

FROM ATHLETE TRAINING TO CROWD CONTROL –
HOW CARDIFF IS SETTING THE PACE

OLYMPIC ALUMNI

Meet the Cardiff people involved in London 2012

THE MILLENNIUM STADIUM

Is the iconic ground a good investment for Cardiff?



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Would you like to help us find...

the cure for cancer?

.....

an effective treatment for

Alzheimer's and other neurological diseases?

.....

a sustainable way for future generations to live?

Cardiff University is the home of explorers and visionaries. People come here to understand the world around them.

Our students and researchers alike are united by a desire to bring to light new ways of thinking, to share ideas and inspire others, to explore unfamiliar territory and to discover a brighter future.

But we cannot do it without the support of people like you.

Making a gift in your will to Cardiff University is an excellent way of making a difference to the future of research and scholarship here. Your support will enable us to make discoveries and inventions that will change the world and have far-reaching effects.

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Welcome



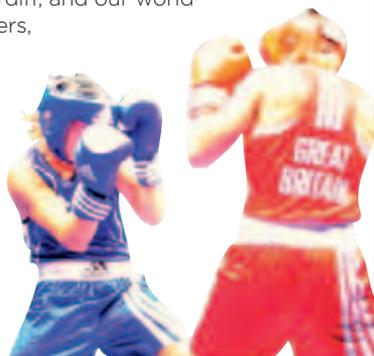
As you read this, the London 2012 Olympics will be under way and sports and non-sports fans alike will be swept up in the excitement and drama of the biggest event to be hosted in the UK in our lifetime. Behind the sporting spectacle have been many years of planning and delivery, and amongst those thousands who will help make the Games a success are many who have only a distant involvement in sport. The architects who designed the venues, the engineers who built them, the city and regional planners who have integrated the physical sites into their wider surroundings, the healthcare professions supporting the athletes and the journalists reporting the sporting stories – all of these and many more will have received their professional grounding at the UK's Universities. The contribution doesn't stop there – and you can read about the huge variety of University involvement in sport in this issue of the Cardiff University Magazine.

As with so much in life, the London 2012 Olympics will showcase the importance and brilliance of individual talent and successful teamwork – skills which so many Cardiff staff, students and alumni demonstrate. Whether taking part in sport at University, graduating into professions such as engineering or physiotherapy, or researching ways in which to enable the rest of us to watch and participate in sport in a safer and better way, Cardiff University will have played its part in a variety of Olympic activities – something of which we can all be very proud.

At the end of August this year I will be retiring as Vice-Chancellor. I have been very privileged to serve the University in this role for eleven years. I am confident that our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Riordan, will lead our University to even greater success in future years. I wish Colin, the teams in Cardiff, and our world-wide community of supporters, every success in the future. Gold medals, I hope!

Thank you all

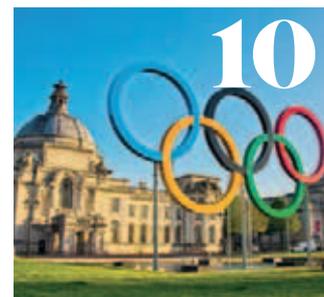
Dr David Grant
CBE FReEng FLSW
CEng FIET
Vice-Chancellor



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Wherever you are, stay in touch with Cardiff University

ON THE GO? SIMPLY USE YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN THIS CODE AND IT WILL TAKE YOU STRAIGHT TO THE ALUMNI SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE



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 Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN
 T +44 (0)117 927 9009 www.immediatemediaco.uk

Cardiff University Development and Alumni Relations Division,
 Cardiff University,
 Deri House, 2-4 Park Grove, Cardiff CF10 3PA
 T +44 (0)29 2087 6473
 F +44 (0)29 2087 0326
 E alumni@cardiff.ac.uk
 www.cardiff.ac.uk/alumni

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COVER IMAGE: CARDIFF RINGS ©LEWIS FACKRELL

Olympic Torch image: LOC/OG/London 2012

UPDATE

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY, VISIT WWW.CARDIFF.AC.UK/NEWS

Cardiff grad wins *The Apprentice*

Richard Martin, who graduated from the School of Biosciences with a Biochemistry degree in 2006, took the title in this year's BBC *The Apprentice* series. Recognised as the most improved contestant, Richard won a £250,000 partnership with Lord Sugar, which he'll put towards his scientific recruitment business.

Funding boost for Maindy Park

Maindy Park, the University's new state-of-the-art research campus, received a boost in April when Business Minister Edwina Hart announced £6m in new funding from the Welsh Government. The first phase will accommodate the European Cancer Stem Cell Research Institute and the Neuroscience and Mental Health Research Institute. The new funding, which will be matched by the University, will enable the second phase to progress, including a new Sustainable Places Research Institute. Mrs Hart said: "We know that a sound and vibrant scientific and technological base has substantial potential to boost the economy."



New Vice Chancellor Colin Riordan and Chief Operating Officer Hugh Jones (inset)



A NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR CARDIFF

The University has appointed two highly respected figures as Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer. Professor Colin Riordan, currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex, will take on the top job in September, when the current Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Grant, retires. Meanwhile Hugh Jones, formerly at Goldsmiths, University of London, joined the University in the newly-created role of Chief Operating Officer in April.

Professor Riordan is an expert on post-war German culture who has taught at universities including Swansea and Newcastle. He has also been a key figure in the higher education debate in the UK in recent years: in 2009 he chaired the Higher Education Funding Council for England's enquiry into teaching quality, and he is a board member of Universities UK, the Edge Foundation and the Equality Challenge Unit.

Professor Riordan said: "I feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to lead Cardiff University. This is a very challenging time in the development of higher education. However, as Wales's leading university, Cardiff is well placed to play a significant role in the future landscape upon which so much depends."

As Chief Operating Officer, Hugh Jones will report directly to the Vice-Chancellor, and is responsible for ensuring the University's administration is efficient and integrated. Heading to Wales after a distinguished management career at the University of London, Hugh described Cardiff as "a world-class university in a dynamic capital city" and said he was "looking forward to working with staff across the University to make the necessary changes for the next steps in Cardiff's development".

New web resource for education in Europe

NESETweb – a Europe-wide online resource that will support the development of education across the European Union – has been launched by Cardiff School of Social Sciences.

Funded by the European Commission and available in English, French, German and Welsh, NESET (the Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training) will give policymakers and practitioners access to more than 50 leading researchers from across Europe.

Up-to-date debates and evidence relating to social aspects of education

and training will be included, as well as issues such as the costs and benefits of cross-sector working, the strengths and weaknesses of different 'recovery' strategies for children and young people, and transitions from school to work or further education.

Professor Sally Power, Director of NESET, said: "The website has the potential to connect the education research committee and the policymakers and practitioners who face the difficult task of trying to make education not just better, but fairer."



Varsity Shield returns to Cardiff

The University beat local rival Swansea in more than 20 sports on 2 May, including a comprehensive victory in the Varsity rugby at the Millennium Stadium. More than 16,000 spectators watched the two universities battle it out for the Varsity Cup, which Cardiff won with a final score of 33-13.

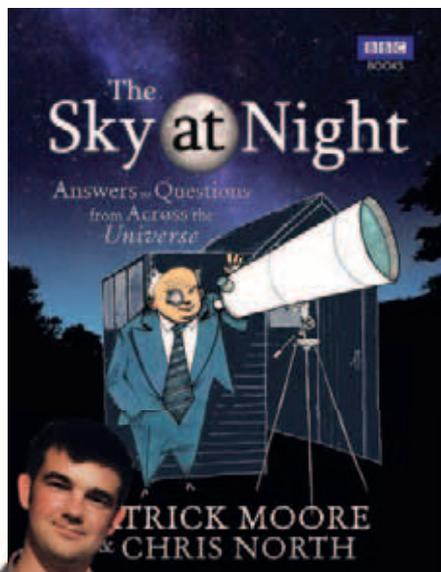
The game, which was broadcast live on S4C, added to Cardiff victories over Swansea in basketball, squash and football.

Well-known sports personalities attending the event included Philosophy graduate Catherine Spencer, who has 63 rugby caps for England, and Mike Hall, who earned 42 caps for Wales.

Martyn Fowler, Head of Rugby at Cardiff, said: "The Welsh Varsity match is now firmly established as the biggest amateur game on the Welsh Rugby Union's annual fixture list. It is the culmination of eight months' hard work for the students representing Cardiff University Rugby Club, and the ideal shop window for our students to showcase their talents to the Regional and Premiership coaches in attendance."



STARING INTO SPACE

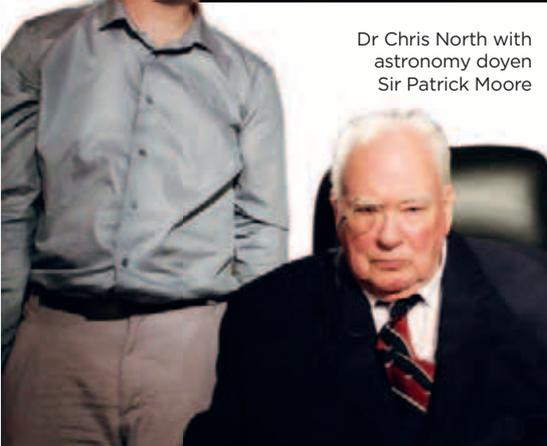


The Sky at Night, the longest-running programme with the same presenter in television history, is celebrating 55 years on air this year. To celebrate, BBC Books have published *The Sky at Night – Answers to Questions from Across the Universe*, a response to the many questions sent in by viewers and fans. Joining Sir Patrick Moore in the stellar hot seat is Dr Chris North from the Cardiff School of Physics and Astronomy.

The book answers some of the classic astronomy conundrums, including how scientists work out the gravity of planets, how we measure the distance to stars and how fast we are moving through space. The co-authors explain comets, black holes, stardust and, for the budding astronaut, the basic principles of space navigation.

Dr North said: "Answering the questions sent in by *The Sky at Night* viewers was a fascinating experience. There are questions about buying our first telescope, the formation of the first stars, and the props used on the set of *The Sky at Night* – which is actually Patrick's own study! Working with Patrick was a great pleasure, as he has such a breadth of knowledge and experience."

Dr Chris North with astronomy doyen Sir Patrick Moore



“The authors explain comets, black holes and the basics of space navigation”

THE £50,000 AWARD-WINNER

Over 500 school-leavers competed for Cardiff's first Lifetime Scholarship, bestowed on one aspiring lawyer

Cardiff University's first Lifetime Scholarship award has been won by aspiring lawyer Chris Nation. The 18-year-old proved himself the most able candidate during the *Thrive* Challenge, which was open to all undergraduate students from the UK and EU applying for Cardiff for 2012 entry.

Over 500 students applied for the award, and were tested over five months through online tests, as well as producing a video. Six finalists then took part in a group challenge and interviews, before giving a ten-minute presentation on their chosen subject.

The prize means that Chris can expect the initial £27,000 for a three-year degree course, as well as a PhD and legal practice training, taking the prize value to more than £50,000. All finalists will receive a Cardiff University scholarship of £3,000 towards their living costs, as well as University sports membership for free.

Chris says: "The prize will give me so much freedom not only to make the most of my first degree in law, but also to continue studying later in life. I'm really excited to be studying at Cardiff University, whose reputation as one of the UK's best universities for overall experience is renowned."



Chris (centre right) with judges Professor Jonathan Osmond, Professor George Boyne and Louise Casella

Queen's birthday honours

Five members of the University community were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June for their outstanding contributions to society:

Professor Ian Hargreaves, Chair of Digital Economy, was appointed CBE following his review of intellectual property for the government. Professor Hargreaves said the award "reflects the growing economic importance of creative activity in the UK".

Mr John Jeans, Chair of Cardiff University's Council, received a CBE for services to Life Science, Healthcare and Science. Mr Jeans, who was the first Chief Operating Officer of the Medical Research Council, said he was "proud to share this award with those I have worked with over the years".

Professor Julie Williams, School of Medicine, was also appointed CBE for services to Alzheimer's Disease Research. She called Cardiff "one of the leading centres for psychiatric genetic research in the world".

Dr Deborah Cohen, Senior Medical Research Fellow in the School of Medicine, was appointed OBE for services to Occupational Health, and said she was "genuinely surprised to receive this welcome recognition".

Professor Peter Elwood, Honorary Professor, School of Medicine, received an OBE, recognising a lifetime's work in preventative health. He said: "I have been privileged to lead a highly gifted team, and work with outstanding colleagues."

IN BRIEF



Jolly good Fellows

Two Cardiff academics have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society, one of the highest honours in world science, following breakthroughs on the physical structure of memory and geo-environmental engineering.

Professors John Aggleton (left) and Hywel Thomas (right) join members past and present including Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Professor Stephen Hawking.

Neuroscientist John Aggleton's work focuses on how memory is stored in the brain, while Hywel Thomas has advanced understanding of the movements of heat, liquids and gases through soil.

Top marks for innovator

Professor Jim Murray from the Cardiff School of Biosciences has been awarded a Commercial Innovator of the Year Award by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Professor Murray's award comes after he contributed towards the invention of a fast and easy-to-use method to detect DNA with light. The discovery could lead to dramatic improvements in healthcare in the developed and developing world.

Boosting the social sciences

Three University members have been awarded the title of Academician by the Academy of Social Sciences, which promotes social sciences for public benefit. Professor Paul Furlong's (left) research looks at public policy and political representation, while Professor Richard Wyn Jones (right) writes on contemporary politics and nationalism. Professor Philip Thomas spent 36 years at the Cardiff Law School, and is an expert on socio-legal studies.



Sport helps you develop real skills outside your degree



Ollie Devon (fourth from left) before this year's Varsity match...



... and fundraising during a coastal endurance event



Outgoing Athletic Union President Ollie Devon explains why taking part in sport is such an important part of the university experience

The role of Athletic Union President is a one-year position, where you're elected from the entire student body at Cardiff. My role over the last year has been to oversee the running of sport at Cardiff and co-ordinate the activities of the 60 sports clubs that form the Athletic Union (AU). I've also managed the AU finances, helped develop sport at the University and worked on major events such as Varsity.

There is something for everyone in the 60 clubs in the AU – from rugby, hockey and cricket to yoga, sub-aqua and mountaineering. Sports give students the opportunity to make friends, continue their passion for sport from school or even get involved in an entirely new sport. I represented my school in rugby, cricket, football and badminton, but the sport I took up and thoroughly enjoyed at university was American football!

Sport at University also gives students the opportunity to stay fit and healthy and, importantly, helps them to develop key

employability skills. Having a committee position with an AU club sets someone apart from other candidates and shows real skills developed in addition to a degree – crucial in a very competitive graduate job market.

I hope I've achieved quite a lot in my time at Cardiff. I have developed projects such as Team Cardiff, a project focused on uniting the diverse array of clubs in the AU under one brand, providing unity for sport at Cardiff. Also, events such as the AU Awards, dodgeball tournaments, and the Freshers and Activities Fayres have gone really well.

UNDOD – the AU magazine – has grown this year with great input from many of the clubs. I implemented a physio service for Cardiff students, based within the Students' Union, which has been very busy in its first

year. We have plans for a new 3G pitch situated at Llanrumney playing fields which stemmed from student wishes for such a facility at Cardiff. As well as all this we have had a record win in Varsity, the showpiece student sporting event of the year.

This has been a fantastic year, which has involved every aspect of sport at Cardiff. I've developed a wide array of skills, something that has really helped in planning my future career. I have recently secured a position with Deloitte as a graduate consultant, a brilliant opportunity for me to work for one of the best professional services firms in the world. I was drawn by Deloitte's significant work with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as the professional services provider for the Games. ■

“Sport at University gives students the opportunity to stay fit and healthy and, importantly, helps them to develop key employability skills”

Development UPDATE

A ROUND-UP OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS
MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE SUPPORT
AND GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS

Working with our community

Student Volunteering Cardiff (SVC) is one of the UK's largest student volunteering organisations and offers over 35 projects supporting vulnerable adults and children in the local community. Activities range from



providing weekend trips for young carers to mentoring adults with dementia.

This year the Cardiff Fund helped to support Volunteering Week, a new initiative devoted to short local projects including cleaning up a beach, redecorating a local health centre, working at an allotment and running a coffee morning.

Adrienne Anderson, SVC Manager, says: "Many students can't commit to a year of volunteering but want to help their local community. Thanks to the Cardiff Fund we have finally been able to provide short, organised activities in a fun-filled week, with over 200 students helping out.

"SVC cannot thank alumni donors enough; this support has allowed us to touch many more lives in our community and it was a truly fantastic experience!"

Improving graduate employability

The Student Development Programme exists to improve student employability by offering training and certificates in communication, leadership and personal effectiveness. Key course components include 'The art of negotiation' and 'Successful networking'.

Classes are run by certified volunteer Student-Peer Trainers, with over 1,200 student participants in 240 sessions in 2010-12 - the programme commended by students and employers alike.

Next year, the Cardiff Fund will be supporting the programme by enabling the Students' Union to recruit 12 new trainers. They will be able to offer more sessions throughout the week, benefiting more students and increasing graduate employability skills.

John Steele, Training & Development Co-ordinator, is deeply grateful for the support: "We are indebted to donors for this kind funding, and look forward earnestly to next year when we will be able to help so many more students."

Supporting the University Legacy Programme

Making a Will should be a positive experience, says Claire Johnson of Morgan Cole LLP Solicitors

Whether or not you have any dependants, making a Will ensures you do not forfeit the right to choose which family members, friends and good causes will benefit from your estate after your lifetime.

Having an up-to-date and well-drafted Will in place is the only way to ensure that those you would wish to benefit from your estate will be provided for in the most appropriate and tax-efficient

way. As an added incentive to charitable giving, since 6 April this year, those considering leaving a significant charitable legacy have been able to structure their Wills to take advantage of a reduction in the rate of Inheritance Tax applicable to the rest of the estate (so that their non-charitable beneficiaries also end up better off).

Morgan Cole LLP is supporting the University's

Legacy programme with a special offer for alumni (and their spouses or partners) who instruct us in relation to making a Will before 31 October 2012.

We will give a discount of 10% against our usual fee for preparation of a straightforward Will exclusive of VAT. In addition, Morgan Cole will donate a further 5% of our usual fee for preparation of a straightforward Will exclusive of VAT to Cardiff University, on behalf of each individual or couple who

confirm instructions to us to prepare their Wills within that period, so that alumni benefiting from this offer will be supporting the University in the process.

For more information and an initial no-obligation consultation, please call Claire Johnson at Morgan Cole LLP on 029 2038 5351, quoting the Cardiff University alumni offer.



Family, friends and colleagues of former Cardiff staff member Tim Read



Walkers raise money for cancer research unit

Left to right: Debs Davies, Jane Meyrick, Professor Alan Clarke and Averil Upham with the £5,000 cheque

The University's European Cancer Stem Cell Research Institute has benefited from two superb fundraising efforts.

In May, a group of Cardiff University library staff took part in a sponsored walk in honour of their friend and colleague, Tim Read, who is suffering from cancer.

The walkers have so far raised almost £2,000 including gift aid, with donations still arriving. Caroline Miles, Library Operations Manager at the University's Law and Legal Practice Libraries, says: "We were all shocked when we heard about Tim's diagnosis, and knowing he had considerable treatment ahead of him, set about doing something to support him."

Tim had planned to complete a sponsored walk himself last year, but, as then undiagnosed, was unable to take part due to increased pain levels. Paul Reynish, a member of staff at the Legal Practice Library,

then came up with the idea of doing a sponsored walk.

Caroline added: "We were so pleased that Tim's family joined us for the event; it was lovely to meet his Mum and Dad. Following the event, Tim texted a message to say thanks to everyone who took part, adding 'it means a lot to me'.

"I think most of us have been touched by this terrible disease at some point in our lives, so we hope the money raised will play a part in developing treatments to help Tim and others suffering like him."

VITAL RESEARCH

The Institute received another boost in funding when the ladies of Tenby's Tangent Club handed over a cheque for £5,000 to the Institute's director, Professor Alan Clarke. The Tangent Club has been raising money for the Institute since a member was diagnosed with breast cancer eight years ago.

During the ladies' visit to the School of Biosciences, Professor Alan Clarke explained some of the science behind cancer stem cells, which may be crucial to the formation, growth and spread of tumours. He also gave them a tour of his laboratories, demonstrating some of the kind of equipment their money will help pay for.

Jane Meyrick, who chaired the Tangent Club at the time of the walk, said: "The work Alan is doing here at Cardiff is incredible. The equipment he needs is very expensive and we'd like to think our fundraising walk has gone some way towards helping."

Professor Clarke said: "I'm very grateful for the Tangent Club's continuing interest in our work. We are presently preparing to move into laboratories in the University's new Hadyn Ellis Building and every contribution like the Club's will help with our plans."

"Most of us have been touched by this terrible disease. We hope the money will play a part in developing treatments"

The Australian Paralympic basketball team - 'The Rollers' - are training in Cardiff this summer



Image: Getty Images

THE SPORT ISSUE

SUPPORTING ENDEAVOUR

From training camps to torchbearers, universities are playing a big role in the Olympics. We meet the people involved, and find out how research at Cardiff is furthering the science of sport

More than 90% of the UK's universities have some form of connection with the London 2012 Olympics, and 65% of these expect long-term gains from their involvement. That's one remarkable finding from a report published in April, *Olympic and Paralympic Games: The Impact of Universities*.

These connections include students volunteering for and taking part in the Games. Then there are the sporting facilities, accommodation and sporting expertise that many universities boast, making them a natural home for pre-Games training camps and bases for national squads during the Games. There is also direct student involvement in various sports, with competitors across many disciplines either past or current Cardiff students.

Direct funding from the London Organising Committee for the Olympic

Games and Paralympic Games has helped develop sports facilities within universities, such as the football pitches at Cardiff University's Llanrumney site that are being used in preparation for Olympic football.

It also includes the many sports-associated projects that have been set up between host universities and the national squads that are staying with them. For example, the Bristol-Kenya Partnership links Bristol's two universities and local sporting partners with similar organisations in the east African nation. The project includes coach and athlete exchanges in athletics, rugby, cricket and football; twinning primary and secondary schools, and promoting tourism and cultural exchanges between Bristol and Kenya.

These types of exchange programmes not only help visiting athletes during their stay in host cities around the UK, but also forge long-term links between people and organisations around the world. Nearly 50 2012 Olympic teams – including China, Korea, Jamaica and the USA – are basing themselves at UK

university campuses, and more than 30 universities have signed agreements to host camps in the run-up to the Games.

Stuart Vanstone, Head of Sport at Cardiff University, said: "The University is at the forefront of Olympic activity and pre-Games training in Wales. Footballers from around the world and wheelchair basketball players from Australia will be joining us for pre-Games training, and we're also hosting two amateur international boxing camps. We've worked with many different stakeholders to bring as much of the Olympics to Cardiff as possible."

Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive of Universities UK, said: "Quite apart from sports training, research and development, universities have made an extensive contribution to the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. In London 2012, we see this from the dedication of the university volunteers who are part of the London 2012 Games Makers programme and the central involvement of universities in the lead Cultural Olympiad projects."



Which teams are using the University's facilities?

Many of the University's facilities have been updated over the past couple of years in preparation for hosting national teams and training camps during the summer

BOXING

The Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) have been making the most of Cardiff's facilities, with over 100 boxers from 46 countries attending the first 'Road to London' training camp this spring. The boxers then returned to their countries to try to qualify for the Olympics through their federal championships, with successful qualifiers returning to Cardiff prior to the Games.

"These camps have given boxers from countries that don't have a big budget for sport the chance to be involved from an early stage, increasing their chances of attending," said Stuart Vanstone.



FOOTBALL



As many of the preliminary rounds of the Olympic football tournament are being played at the Millennium Stadium - including the women's football, which kicks off the entire summer of Olympic sport - the University's facilities are once again in use as one of the official London 2012 training venues.

Stuart Vanstone said: "We received £500,000 from the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to develop the football pitches in Llanrumney. The pitches now have new drainage and irrigation systems - a significant legacy for the University."

PARALYMPIC BASKETBALL

The Australian Paralympic wheelchair basketball team was so impressed with the facilities during their preparations for the World Championships in 2010, that they've returned to Cardiff in the run-up to the Paralympics.

Australia has enjoyed great success in wheelchair basketball at the national level, with the men's team, the Rollers, currently ranked world number one after winning the gold medal at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

The hotly-tipped team will be using the Sports Training Village at Talybont as their training base throughout the 2012 Games.



Football and Wheelchair Basketball image: Getty Images



Torch bearers

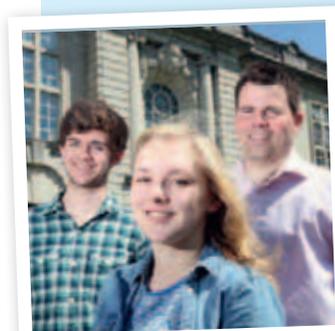
Three representatives from the University were lucky enough to be involved in the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay as it passed through the city at the end of May. Two students – Ruby Miller and Guylee Simmonds – and a member of staff – Stuart Vanstone, Cardiff University Head of Sport – were selected to be among the 8,000 Torchbearers who carried the flame.

Ruby Miller, a student from the University's School of Healthcare Studies, has been cycling competitively since the age of 10, and was National Cyclo-Cross Champion, National Mountain Bike Champion and National Track Champion in the 2009/10 season. Since then, Ruby has been selected to compete in the Senior Track Cycling World Cup at the Manchester Velodrome.

Guylee Simmonds' dedication to charitable causes made him an obvious choice for torchbearer selection. The architecture student has spent two summers in Haiti, working with the Haiti Hospital Appeal. His second trip included delivering aid to refugees in Port au Prince who had just lost their homes in the 2010 earthquake.

Stuart Vanstone has worked to ensure the University is central to Wales' contribution to the Olympics and Paralympics. With three training camps being held at the University's facilities, Stuart looks to expand on this promising start for the University as a major training destination.

"I bought the torch that I carried, but it won't be sitting on my mantelpiece," said Stuart. "We've been using it for outreach projects in local schools. It's great to see children running about the playground carrying an Olympic torch – they're thrilled!"



Flaming brilliant: Guylee Simmonds (left), Ruby Miller (centre) and Stuart Vanstone (right)

Torch Image: LOCOG/London 2012

Students at the Games



Jenny McLoughlin winning Silver at the 2011 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi

Jenny McLoughlin

Paralympian Jenny, who has just completed her first year studying Philosophy at Cardiff, will be competing in the 100m and 200m events, as well as the 4x100m relay at this summer's Games.

"The Paralympics in Beijing was a great experience," said Jenny. "At 16 I was one of the youngest members of Team GB. Running in the Bird's Nest stadium in front of 90,000 people was a huge buzz and hopefully running in front of the UK home crowd will be a similar experience.

"After Beijing the focus was on London 2012 and the training schedule was geared to this objective even four years out. After

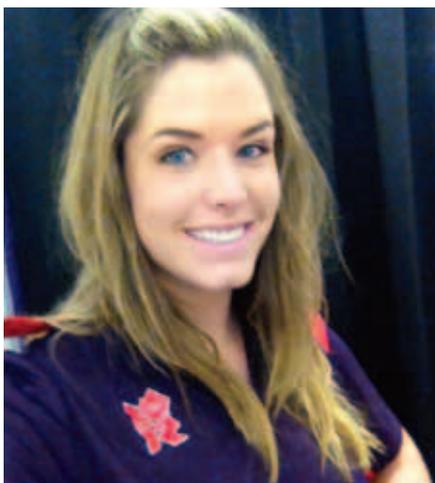
A-levels I took a gap year in order to focus on being a full-time athlete, during which time I competed at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, achieving a Silver medal in 100m for Team Wales. I was also selected to run in New Zealand for the International Paralympic World Championships, where I made the final for the 100m and 200m and gained a Bronze medal in the 4x100m relay.

"London 2012 will be a tremendous experience and if I make the podium in any of my events I will be over the moon! The whole country seems to be getting more excited as the Games approach, and I think it will be a fantastic occasion for everyone to be a part of."

Holly Struthers

Having just finished her first year at Cardiff University's Dental School, Holly has been selected as one of only ten specialist nurses who will be based at the Olympic Village during the Games.

"As soon as London won the Olympic bid, I was determined to take part in the Games in whichever way possible," said Holly. "Originally I was going to be one of the general Games Makers, but when I went for the interview they asked me to apply to be a specialist dental nurse instead. We'll be looking after all the athletes staying in the Olympic Village. I'm so pleased to be doing something that ties in with my training!"



Stadium city

Think of Cardiff, and you think 'Millennium Stadium' – but just how beneficial is the ground to locals?

While the Cardiff Arms Park held special memories for many Welshmen, the Millennium Stadium marked a new sporting era in Wales. Owned

by the Welsh Rugby Union, the stadium was built to host the 1999 Rugby World Cup and has been used for many different sports since.

The national rugby and football sides call the stadium home, and the venue has hosted sports from speedway to boxing, as well as pop concerts and other non-sporting events.

But what effect has the stadium had on the city's economy since it opened? Professor Max Munday, Director of the Welsh Economy Research Unit in Cardiff Business School, is an expert on the economic impact of stadia.

"There's a vast difference between the Arms Park and Millennium Stadium, not least because sport has changed so much in the past two decades. The opening of the new stadium matched almost exactly this change, which is now epitomised by mass marketing and increased revenue from television rights.

"The stadium was fortunate in that its first decade coincided with the reconstruction of Wembley. With the Rugby World Cup the stadium was well known for rugby as soon as it opened, but the hosting of the FA Cup introduced it to millions more viewers around the world in the early 2000s."

At this time, the stadium was attracting an average of 1.3 million visitors per annum to Cardiff, double that of any other visitor attraction in Wales. The stadium's city centre location drove off-site spending by visitors, and there were other economic benefits too. Professor Munday continues: "The city's

need to attract paying guests has made it an 'outward looking' city, with the stadium's usefulness for marketing perhaps boosted by its cultural proximity to Cardiff and

Wales. Stadium ownership may be another incidental benefit – partly economic, but certainly sporting – for Wales. Its ultimate owners, the Welsh Rugby Union, have a strict remit to develop the sport in Wales, so there is less prospect of franchise or profit flight as in the US."

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The stadium's location is a huge asset. Roger Pride, Managing Director of promotional body Cardiff & Co, says: "The Millennium Stadium is a unique asset and it's right in the city centre. When it was built 13 years ago this went against the grain – cities were moving large arenas into the suburbs – but this has made it more accessible for people both from Cardiff and outside. Because the stadium is in the centre of the capital city, all the businesses around the stadium also benefit, which wouldn't have been the case if it had been built out of the city.

"Cardiff isn't that big as a capital city, there are only 320,000 people resident here. But on the day Wales won the Grand Slam earlier this year it was estimated there were 400,000 people in the city centre alone. It's testament to the city's success in hosting large sporting events that a city of this size can successfully host such huge numbers of people.

"Major events at the Millennium Stadium are now central to countless businesses around the city. An average Six Nations match can bring between £8m and £10m into the city, and the recent Heineken Cup rugby weekend brought almost £20m into the city economy."

Professor Munday found that over £500m was brought into the Welsh economy through

events at the Millennium Stadium between 1999 and 2006. Most visitors are Welsh nationals who visit for the day, but although much fewer in number, the really big spenders are staying visitors from overseas.

The redevelopment of the city centre around the Millennium Stadium has made hosting many thousands of revellers within a few hundred metres of the stadium a possibility, something that certainly isn't the case with Wembley, for example, where the non-stadium entertainment infrastructure remains largely underdeveloped.

Roger Pride observes: "The only real downside is that a normal working day for the businesses around the Millennium Stadium is servicing a city of 'only' 320,000. If there's a reduction in the number of big events, this brings new challenges for local businesses used to the boom times."

The importance of the continued development of the Millennium Stadium as part of the Welsh economy is clear.

"The Welsh Government is looking to develop a new pitch system so the Millennium Stadium can be used in further ways, such as being able to divide it up so the whole space doesn't get used; or an extra floor so different events can be hosted concurrently," continues Roger.

That the first glimpse of the London 2012 Olympics, the women's football, is being held at the Millennium Stadium shows how far this venue has come. This July, countless millions of people from around the world will once again see Cardiff and the joyous sports fans that have become associated with it. ■

“Cardiff isn't a big capital, but when Wales won the Grand Slam there were 400,000 people in the centre”

The Olympic legacy

"London has been an organisational success by all accounts," says Professor Munday. "They've worked hard to balance the economic and environmental effect of staging the Olympics in East London, but one key part is how you can successfully develop the legacy. Beijing is epitomised by empty stadia; they're just too big to maintain. Athens has had similar problems, and was an Olympic Games they could ill afford.

"London have done much to develop their strategy, and, despite issues about ownership of the main stadium and park, they've got solid plans. It's important that a large organisation such as a Premier League football club takes over the Olympic stadium, as they have the money and frequent usage to maintain somewhere of this size. This was done to good effect when Manchester City adapted the Commonwealth Games stadium."



Mind games



Image: Getty Images

Why do we care so much about sport? A philosopher enquires...

The highs of victory or lows of defeat are just part of being a fan – or are they more than that? Dr Andrew Edgar from the School of English, Communication and Philosophy reckons so: “Sport interests philosophers because it involves fate, luck, the consequences of our choices and decisions, but also our sense of belonging and group identity. You don’t often think why you’re doing it, but perhaps participating in and watching sport are a way of contemplating and working through philosophical and metaphysical issues.

“An athlete – even just a fun runner choosing an easy route or a hard one – makes choices, confronts their free will and must live with the consequences. The sports arena allows us to play with our free will, confront the temptation of cheating, as well as testing our courage and endurance. There we discover a little of what it is to be human.”

Mark Twain said: “Golf is a good walk spoiled.” Is sport a bit like modern art in this respect? If you can’t stand it, will that always be the case?

“Most people either ‘get’ sport or they don’t, and that’s pretty much that. If it doesn’t click with you, it is as meaningless as the Beijing Opera is to the non-initiate. Yet perhaps sport is like art, in that

one can be initiated, learning what to look for and what to expect. Sports to me are rather like pieces of classical music. They have their own internal logic, why one note should follow another. Understand the logic of a sport, and you understand why a player’s decision matters for the game as a whole.”

What about those whose only involvement with sport is through their remote control?

“Sport is a lot like theatre – the highs and lows, the heroes and villains. But in some ways it’s even more involving for the sports fan. The actors go home after a performance at the theatre. Hamlet may die but the actor is unharmed. Athletes risk the humiliation of defeat, and even serious and even mortal injury. The sports fan shares in the disappointment and even humiliation of a loss, and their involvement in a sports game may be far greater and in some respects more morally and emotionally profound than for a theatre audience.

“Sport is about more than just entertainment. Often it’s quite boring, even painful to watch, but if you’re viscerally linked to a team, that doesn’t make any difference. The result, good or bad, affects you deeply.” ■

“Sport is a lot like theatre – the highs and lows, the heroes and villains. But it’s even more involving for the fan”

Talking sport at the Hay Festival

Dr Edgar gave a talk on sports, ethics and the Olympics as part of the Cardiff Series at the 2012 Hay Literary Festival in June. Sports contests seem to be a boundless source of ethical challenges – drug-taking, the corrupting potential of professionalism, unsporting conduct – yet it is through sport that we often develop a sense of fairness, team spirit, and respect for an opponent.

“I spoke about the Olympic philosophy,” said Dr Edgar, “tracing its history through Pierre de Coubertin’s original aspirations to use sport to improve social morals, exploring the great Olympian – someone who goes beyond mere athletic success – as well as telling the stories of Olympic villains. I also highlighted the moral dilemmas for today’s Olympic organisers – for example, dealing with sponsorship and corruption – as well as those faced by the athletes.”

Flex appeal

Visiting athletes and student physios are benefiting from an inspiring partnership

The wealth of elite athletes heading for Wales this summer need support from physiotherapists, and trainee physios need hands-on experience. So why not put the two together? That's the bright idea behind the 'Physios supporting athletes across all abilities' programme, which has already been recognised as a flagship Olympic project by the London 2012 organisers.

The programme, which is supported by the Welsh Government, is a partnership between the Cardiff School of Healthcare Studies and the Federation of Disability Sports Wales, and aims to provide first-class volunteer support for all participating countries based in Wales, up to and including the Olympics and Paralympics.

"This programme is about giving our students and new physiotherapy graduates hands-on experience in a sporting situation, something that's not always easy to organise," says Dr Nicki Phillips, one of the programme's creators. "It gives the young people on the programme the chance to help out in some pretty challenging environments, while supported by professional physios. The benefits are increased experience and being involved in sports at the highest level, which is great for their future employability – and they really enjoy themselves!"

The programme was recently awarded

a London 2012 Inspire Mark, which recognises exceptional projects inspired by the Games. It's the first sports-related project to receive the award in Wales, and it's proving a real draw for athletes too. Indeed, the programme's success, combined with the outstanding facilities available for disability sports in Wales, was part of the Australian Paralympic team's decision to base themselves in Cardiff prior to the Games.

The programme has far-reaching benefits for Welsh athletes, too. The increase in skills and knowledge that many of the physiotherapists supporting the Games will be able to offer will be of huge benefit for Wales in the future, making what is already an accomplished system for supporting disabled sports even more impressive.

One of the current crop of students, Susannah Normanton, said: "Working with professional athletes is something we've never had the opportunity to do before. It's been a real privilege as an undergraduate to be involved at this level."

Nicki Phillips continues: "We're very proud to have been awarded the Inspire Mark. We're as excited about welcoming the Paralympic teams prior to the London Games as we are about encouraging and supporting participation in sport at all levels of ability within Wales." ■



Dr Nicki Phillips (left) with students and staff from the Inspire Mark-winning programme



Why I volunteered

Indeg Jameson, Physiotherapy student

"I decided to get involved in the Inspire programme after listening to guest speakers talking about how physiotherapy had a massive impact on their involvement in sport.

"My highlight so far was assisting a qualified therapist with pitch-side assistance at the multi-sport youth games, Gemau Cymru. It's a fantastic event that captures the energy from the Olympic and Paralympic Games, aiming to encourage participation and create a legacy for Welsh sport and Welsh athletes.

"We had the opportunity to provide massage, ice and tapping when necessary. It was also a great opportunity to promote physiotherapy: both preventing injuries and rehabilitation after injury."

ACTION MEN



Image: Getty Images

From rugby scrums to mass pilgrimages, computer scientists at Cardiff are helping to analyse an erratic and unpredictable phenomenon – human movement

Ever wondered why coaches at international rugby matches seem to be watching their laptop screens rather than the game in front of them? What they're looking at is a data analysis of how the game is going and what the likely outcomes might be.

Professor Dave Marshall from the Cardiff School of Computer Science and Informatics explains: "There are people watching the game who log each key play: scrum, ruck, kick or try. They are then able to produce data that can be used by coaches to manage how the game will progress. It's giving them another tool to get the upper hand over their opponents."

Rugby strategy is just one application of a field of research that computer scientists at Cardiff have been focusing on in recent years, and which promises to transform our ability to predict the movement of both individuals and crowds.

The current Wales rugby coach, Warren Gatland, has long used this type of technology in assessing his team's performance, bringing it from London Wasps when he was appointed national coach in 2007.

Professor Marshall continues: "Because of the Wales coaching staff's commitment to this technology, the players develop a strong sense of how it works. As the game is being videoed, the coaches have access to a timeline that shows all the key plays. This can be used at half time, after the game or during training to show players how particular movements or decisions affect the game. Even the young



Close monitoring of a rugby player's movements can give management the edge

players coming through are used to looking at plays on iPads during training; it has become very much part of the modern game.”

Professor Marshall's team are now aiming to develop software that can ‘read’ the game and instantly create data from it, instead of relying on manual data entry.

“A game of rugby isn't a straightforward thing to analyse: there are people moving all over the place and falling over each other,” says Professor Marshall. “There's also the problem of weather conditions, shadowing from the roof and so on. Recording someone doing something in a brightly lit factory, for instance, is much easier. Sports give us a whole lot of other issues to deal with.”

MASS MOVEMENT

The potential uses for this technology don't end on the sports field – computer modelling

“People were able to move more freely following pedestrianisation of St Mary's Street, an initiative that reduced trouble on busy nights.”

could also help make life easier for crowds of spectators coming to and from the game, and help manage revellers in busy city centres at night. Professor Marshall has been working with the University's Violence and Society Research Group in the Cardiff School of Dentistry to help understand the complex behaviour of crowds.

Group member Dr Simon Moore explains: “The approach used to simulate human crowds is similar to those used with insects and other organisms, and borrows ideas from particle physics. Crowd simulations have played an important role in designing areas to minimise pedestrian congestion, which is of considerable practical value if those crowds are escaping life-threatening events, such as a fire or are panicked for other reasons.”

This kind of research has been used to analyse the movement of thousands of people in confined areas such as the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage of Muslims to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In 2006, problems caused by crowding led to 362 people losing their lives.

The subsequent pilgrimage in 2007 experienced no fatalities, partly because a series of crowd control measures and environmental changes had been enacted, changes that were informed by crowd simulations.

Cardiff city centre has benefited from these insights too, with the pedestrianisation of shopping hotspot, St Mary's Street. “Before then, everyone was confined to the pavement, jostling for space,” says Dr Moore. “Following pedestrianisation, people were able to move more freely, an initiative that contributed to a marked reduction in trouble on busy nights.”

Also of issue is the way pubs and bars operate. Overcrowded venues and inefficient service can promote increased impatience, unwanted invasions of personal space and therefore aggression. “However, there's unlikely to be too much trouble at this summer's Olympics as heavy drinking isn't

really associated with the sports on offer,” says Dr Moore. “If there's overcrowding, on the Underground for example, there's likely to be the odd frayed temper. The best thing the authorities can do is keep people moving.”

STAGGERING RESULTS

Some of the research that contributed to these crowd simulations included looking at whether people staggered after drinking, and how much of an effect this had on the crowd dynamic. To understand the causes of violence 24 surveys were carried out over the course of 12 months from 11pm to 3am on one Friday and one Saturday each month. Respondents were breathalysed, and surveyors also assessed whether the drinker was staggering. About 25% could not walk in a straight line.

Data from the 12-month survey found that a percentage blood-alcohol reading of .22% (the UK driving limit is 0.08%) was enough to make someone stagger. When it is crowded, sober pedestrians tend to cooperate and follow the leader to make getting from A to B easier – the crowd regulates itself by choosing what looks like the easiest route.

However, with drinking comes staggering and unpredictability, making this follow-the-leader reaction less likely – almost the blind leading the blind. When everyone in the crowd is staggering drunk, the research found that foot traffic speed dropped by almost 40%. This slowing of pedestrians can lead to elevated stress levels, which in turn can lead to problems with people getting impatient and therefore aggressive.

Work to reduce violence in and around pubs and clubs continues, and has attracted significant research funding. Dr Moore is currently leading the first national trial of an intervention to reduce violence in and around pubs and clubs, a programme of work that applies basic research such as that on crowding in an attempt to lessen the harm to victims and reduce the considerable resources wasted by the NHS and the police in response to violence in this area. ■



Image: Getty Images

Stronger together

Business and academia can make for a winning team, as Cardiff's strategic partnerships are proving

These partnerships can take many forms, but are all planned and for the long term.

The links include the funding of Professorial chairs within academic schools; the financial support of research, studentships or facilities; student projects and placements; and consultancy contracts undertaken with companies.

Professor Derek Jones, Director of Business and Strategic Partnerships at the University: "It's hard to emphasise enough the potential benefits of links between the university and partner companies and organisations. They give the university an outlet for its research capabilities 'in the real world'; the commercial partner offers the chance for the University to improve its revenues; and, with the support of the University's expertise, we can help make businesses more successful, with direct benefit to the economy. By working with high quality businesses, the University's reputation is further enhanced, which in turn attracts more opportunities."

In addition to these factors, bids to research funding bodies are often helped if there is a business partner involved, so the University can only benefit from having a strong portfolio of strategic relationships with

businesses of different kinds.

Then there's the advantage to the University's people. A partnership can help ensure the relevance of research taking place at the University, and illuminate teaching with up-to-date case studies involving students, researchers and academics from Cardiff.

Gareth Evans, Head of Business Development in the University's Research and Commercial Division, outlines a further 'people benefit': "Long-term strategic relationships with business can mean improved opportunities for graduates, research projects and undergraduate placements. With such a pool of talent open to companies, this is very much a two-way advantage. In the long term it also helps the University to attract the best students."

"We recognise that we are part of a multi-faceted supply chain to industry," says Les Rees, Director of Careers & Employer Services at the University. "Each year we produce very talented people at graduate and postgraduate level. At the same time private, public and third-sector organisations can help us, through the offer of work experience and placements, to ensure that our students are equipped with the right blend of intellectual ability, knowledge and skills to enable them to add value to any business. That is bound to be good for the local, regional and national economy."

“Long-term relationships with business can mean improved opportunities for graduates”

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS

At a time when organisations can be cautious about funding partnership programmes, the importance of knowledge transfer between universities and businesses cannot be overstated. A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) takes place between a graduate, an organisation and an educational body such as a university. Over 3,000 organisations have become involved with KTP, from micro-sized to multinational, as have over 6,000 graduates. One of Cardiff University's most successful KTP agreements with industry focuses on operations at Ford UK's Bridgend plant, and includes input from the Schools of Engineering and Computer Science and Informatics.

Derek Jones said: "The overarching priority with Ford will now be to identify projects that will best help to improve profitable operations and innovative, carbon efficient manufacturing. Collaboration and the sharing of knowledge take place through a range of methods, including research and development projects, student scholarships and placements, and staff exchanges and secondments."

Paul Thomas, from the University's KTP office, said: "This partnership enables Ford to access Cardiff University's expertise by employing Alex Sutton for two years [see below]. The project sets out to help Ford improve its competitiveness and productivity, specifically targeting knowledge, technology and skills."

It's clear that these partnerships are very beneficial for all members concerned, whether they're students looking to their future career, local and national businesses looking for new ideas and talent, or the University finding important partners by which to increase revenues and reputations. ■

Cardiff and...



WELSH WATER Research for a better environment

In 2009, the University signed a Joint Working Arrangement with Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water). Since then, a research studentship has been put in place with Cardiff Business School, and a scoping group has been set up between the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences and the School of Biosciences.

Derek Jones said: "This is a very well established partnership, and many university people are already involved with the company. Welsh Water is one of our largest companies, and has far reaching importance for the country in terms of energy efficiency, waste disposal, and the environment generally – not least in the context of global warming – and also, of course, in the area of customer services. We are all customers for water. These are all areas where the University has great expertise that it can share."

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS A vocational Masters course



The relationship with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is another of vital importance for the University. A recent collaboration between the ONS and the Cardiff School of Mathematics resulted in a number of projects that will eventually help the expansion of ONS into South Wales. A vocationally orientated MSc in Operational Research and Applied Statistics was designed with input from ONS, and will help develop

the highly-skilled graduates this government department needs in the future.

The collaboration also includes research, staff secondments, student placements and joint seminars in a variety of areas, from recession to data access and health, and includes the Schools of Business, Social Sciences, Dentistry, Medicine and City and Regional Planning.



WELSH ASSEMBLY & EADS A model collaboration

The formation of a joint venture company – Foundation Wales – forms the basis of the partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and EADS, the aerospace and defence company. The Welsh Assembly Government described this partnership as an exemplar for such collaborations, and numerous projects are either funded directly or facilitated by the partnership.



CORUS Training for funding

The partnership with steel-maker Corus, which is owned by Tata, is managed by a dedicated liaison within Cardiff School of Engineering and provides training for Corus employees as well as assistance solving waste issues at the Port Talbot site. As a result of this partnership, additional grant funding has been leveraged into the School of Engineering.

A messy business

Alex Sutton, Environmental Associate, Ford Motor Company, Bridgend Engine Plant

"My role involves managing environmental improvements to the Bridgend Engine Plant, mostly encompassing water and waste, with my primary focus being the treatment of the sludge that has formed at the wastewater treatment plant. This includes full chemical analysis of the sludge using Cardiff School of Engineering's CLEER lab. One of Ford's aims is zero waste to landfill, which I hope to help the plant achieve.

"Working with Ford has given me the opportunity to undertake an MPhil and accelerate my professional development right at the start of my career, including achieving associate level membership of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

"I hope this will lead to a permanent contract so I can help reduce Bridgend Engine Plant's environmental impacts."



Alex Sutton, helping Ford UK achieve zero waste to landfill at the Bridgend plant

Getting to grips with the mother tongue



Chris Coleman

Mynd i'r afael â'r famiaith

The new national football manager is brushing up his Welsh

Wales football coach Chris Coleman is making a commitment to learning Welsh as part of his role with the national side. After his appointment in January, Chris said he'd like to learn the language so he could converse with people from around the country.

"I travel around Wales a lot and meet many Welsh speakers. I was really looking forward to singing the national anthem in New York when we played Mexico at the end of May, and I look forward to being interviewed in Welsh in the future."

The Welsh coach hadn't had a Welsh lesson since he was a 12-year-old growing up in Swansea, but Geoff Wright, his tutor at Cardiff University's Welsh for Adults Centre, was quick to praise his progress so far.

"Chris has only had two sessions with me, but he's learned the Welsh anthem, and greeted school children in Welsh at Ysgol Y Berllan Deg and received a great response from them. He's currently learning Welsh with me on the Mynediad/Entry course, and has started to use the language in the office.

"I feel that it's very important for our leaders in Welsh sport to be seen speaking Welsh, as so many people identify themselves with the language, whether they speak Welsh or not. Chris has also started to learn more about Welsh history, and it's a pleasure to teach him."

For further information, take a look at www.cf.ac.uk/learnwelsh ■

Mae rheolwr pel-droed cenedlaethol newydd yn adfywio'i Gymraeg

Mae hyfforddwr pêl-droed Cymru, Chris Coleman, yn gwneud ymrwymiad i ddysgu Cymraeg fel rhan o'i rôl gyda'r tîm cenedlaethol. Ar ôl ei benodiad ym mis Ionawr, dywedodd Chris yr hoffai ddysgu'r iaith er mwyn iddo allu sgwrsio â phobl o bob cwr o'r wlad.

"Rwy'n teithio llawer o gwmpas Cymru ac yn cwrd d â nifer o siaradwyr Cymraeg. Roeddwn yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr at ganu'r anthem genedlaethol yn Efrog Newydd pan fuon ni'n chwarae yn erbyn Mecsico ar ddiwedd mis Mai, ac edrychaf ymlaen at gael fy nghyfweld yn Gymraeg yn y dyfodol."

Nid yw hyfforddwr Cymru wedi cael gwers Gymraeg ers roedd yn 12 oed ac yn byw yn Abertawe, ond roedd Geoff Wright, ei diwtor yng Nghanolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Prifysgol Caerdydd, yn awyddus i ganmol ei gynnydd hyd yn hyn. "Dim ond dwy sesiwn y mae Chris wedi'u cael gyda mi, ond mae wedi dysgu anthem Cymru, a chyfarach plant ysgol yn Gymraeg yn Ysgol Y Berllan Deg a chafodd ymateb gwych ganddynt.

"Ar hyn o bryd mae'n dysgu Cymraeg gyda mi ar y cwrs Mynediad/Entry, ac mae wedi dechrau defnyddio'r iaith yn y swyddfa. Rwy'n teimlo ei bod yn bwysig iawn i'n harweinwyr mewn chwaraeon yng Nghymru gael eu gweld yn siarad Cymraeg, gan fod cynifer o bobl yn uniaethu â'r iaith, p'un a ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg ai peidio. Hefyd mae Chris wedi dechrau dysgu mwy am hanes Cymru, ac mae'n bleser ei addysgu."

Am fwy o wybodaeth, ewch i www.caerdydd.ac.uk/learnwelsh ■



Image: istock

network news



Welcome to the Cardiff Network. Earlier this year, through our new email newsletter CardiffConnect, I asked alumni to let us know if they were going to be involved in the London 2012 Olympics. Little did I know that so many of you would be playing an important role in putting on this great event – I hope you enjoy reading about their Olympic contributions. As far as we're concerned they are known as Team Cardiff, and they're all gold medal winners in their own expert ways! We've also been busy redeveloping our website for you – so keep up-to-date with the latest news and events online at

www.cardiff.ac.uk/alumni. You can also follow us on Twitter @CardiffAlumni, join us on Facebook by searching for CardiffUniAlumni, and get down to business on LinkedIn through the Cardiff University Alumni Network. If you have a story to tell, or have been involved in something unusual or award winning, interesting or impactful, do let us know – we always love to hear from you and, you never know, you could see yourself in a future issue of the Cardiff University Magazine. Wherever you are, stay in touch. With my very best wishes to you all,

Sarah Price
Deputy Director of Development & Alumni Relations Division

WELSH GOLD

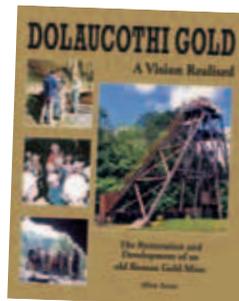
Dr Alun Isaac, former Head of the Mining and Minerals Engineering Section in the Cardiff School of Engineering, has completed his book on the restoration of the gold mine on the National Trust's Dolaucothi Estate in Pumsaint, Carmarthenshire.

Worked by the Celts, the Romans and, more recently, in the first half of the 20th century, the gold mine is now a fine example of Wales's industrial heritage. The book follows events from 1978 to 1999, when a unique partnership between Cardiff University, the National Trust and the Pumsaint and District community resulted in the formation of a much visited tourist and educational attraction.

From 1978, the University's engineering and geology staff and students undertook the first five-year phase of making safe the mine workings. The National Trust then bought and moved to the Dolaucothi Estate a complete mine surface layout and mining equipment from the Halkyn Mine in north Wales.

The interest aroused by the University's activities at the gold mine encouraged the development by the National Trust of public visitor tours. Within this developing scene, the University, the National Trust and Gwent College of Higher Education established a three-year education project, involving primary school teachers and children in the production of teaching resource materials based on the Welsh literary heritage and the Romans.

To date, almost 800,000 visitors have visited the Dolaucothi Gold Mine. This reflects the development of the early vision of an educational resource to its status as a centre for learning, industrial conservation and tourism.



40 years of caring

The Cardiff School of Nursing and Midwifery celebrated its 40-year history in May by hosting a Gala Dinner and Conference, reuniting alumni and past and current staff.

From four members of staff and just 10 students in the first cohort of the course back in 1972, the School has grown to over 150 members of staff, and more than 1,700 students enrolled in 2012.

The celebrations began with a Gala Dinner, which took place in the University's Glamorgan Building in Cardiff's Civic Centre. Several of the 10 original students that made up the first cohort joined us for the event, including Melrose East, currently a Practice Facilitator within the School. Guests also included three former Deans of the School - Professors Christine Chapman, Ann Tucker, and Bryn Davis, as well as VIP guests including Professor Jean White, the Chief Nursing Officer.

Professor Chapman provided a humorous account of her early days as the first Director of the new Department of Advanced Nursing Studies, reducing guests to tears of laughter as she recounted a particular incident when, as the only female academic present at a dinner, she left several rather old-school male colleagues rather discomfited by refusing to leave when the brandies were served!



DOCTOR'S ORDERS

The Class of '62 medical students, who attended what was then the Welsh National College of Medicine

Saturday 23 June saw the 50th anniversary reunion of the Class of 1962 from the Cardiff Medical School, or as these young doctors knew it then, the Welsh National College of Medicine.

Nearly 40 of the original classmates gathered together in the Welsh capital for a day of nostalgia, medical research news from the School and a celebratory dinner.

"We had an absolutely super day," said Norman Mills, who, together with Mike Smith, said a few

words after dinner. "After 50 years we've been grounded together back in Cardiff and for that we're really grateful."

The classmates have all had long and varied careers in medicine, from general practice, surgery and public health to NHS management. One thing is for sure: collectively these Cardiff-trained doctors have spent their lives caring for many, many others – something that's definitely worth celebrating.

"These Cardiff-trained doctors have spent their lives caring for many others"



Celebrating at Cardiff's Mansion House

GOLDEN YEARS

John Hodgkiss, who first came to Cardiff in 1962, gives readers a taste of another 50th anniversary reunion.

A group of us from many parts of the country, and beyond the shores of Wales, started degree courses in 1962 at what was then the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. After graduation some of our group remained in Cardiff, while others spread far and wide around the world. However, we kept in touch and came together again on a number of occasions.

In March 2012, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our coming together in Cardiff with an evening at Cardiff's Mansion House. One of our group, Professor Delme Bowen, hosted us as Lord Mayor.

To mark the occasion we chose Cancer Research Wales – the Lord Mayor's nominated charity – to be the beneficiary of money

raised at the event, which was entitled Music for a Spring Evening. International harpist Catrin Finch played for half an hour to a very appreciative audience – what a privilege to hear her in a close and intimate environment. The evening also contained pieces played to a very high standard by students from Llanishen and Whitchurch High Schools in various solo/ensemble combinations.

Nearly 30 old friends joined the reunion, with apologies from a number of others who were unable, through ill health or other commitments, to join us. Also present were two of our well-loved and respected former teachers, as well as spouses and the Chairman of Cancer Research Wales.

The evening was a great success and we are all looking forward to our next reunion, perhaps tying in with the 50th anniversary of our undergraduate graduation.

The Olympics and me

The number of Cardiff alumni involved in the 2012 Games is inspiring – here are some of their stories

Tom Davoren
Composer

MMus (Composition), 2010

“Tom’s music evokes the stresses, strains and eventual jubilation of a long distance race”

“Being commissioned to compose a piece of music that commemorates both the Olympics and the Queen’s Jubilee is a tremendous honour,” says Tom Davoren. “The music was premiered at a huge RAF event at Loseley Park House in late June, and celebrates the similarities between the Olympics and the RAF - friendly competition, team development and personal betterment.”

The piece of music – *Return to the White City* – takes its name from the stadium that hosted the London Olympics in 1948. With the RAF Central Band having played Tom’s music on numerous occasions before, the composition proved to be one of the highlights of the show.

Becoming a composer wasn’t always Tom’s aim, however. While he was studying the tuba at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Tom became affected by Action Dystonia, a debilitating neurological illness that can lead to abnormal movements and muscle contractions.

“Not being able to study to be an instrumentalist completely changed my life. That’s when I left the College of Music to study composition at Cardiff University instead. It’s led to a different path that I’ve found I actually prefer. I’m working on lots of projects now as a composer and musician, rather than solely as an instrumentalist. Being based in Wales – and Cardiff in particular – gives me access to an extremely vibrant music scene. I also conduct a local band and write pieces for different organisations.”

For the Queen’s Jubilee piece, Tom evokes the stresses, strains and eventual jubilation of a long-distance running race.

“Starting as a pack, the anticipation of the race, then the gun goes and they’re off. The pack breaks, there are moments of fatigue, before someone breaks away to win the race. There’s almost a mass of music to begin with, becoming more defined as the piece goes on and a single runner runs home victorious.”

To find out more and to listen to Tom’s work visit www.tomdavoren.co.uk



Laura McAllister with pupils from Eglwys Wen Primary School in Whitchurch

Laura McAllister Chair of Sport Wales

PhD Politics, 1996

Stereotypical views of footballers don't usually involve higher education, but Laura McAllister, Professor of Governance at University of Liverpool School of Management certainly makes an exception to that pub theory. Professor McAllister's connection with sport in Wales is long and impressive, having played football 24 times for her country, many times as captain, during which time she also completed a PhD in politics at Cardiff University.

"In many ways we were the pioneers for women's football in the UK," says Laura. "The Football Association of Wales only really began to take the women's game seriously from 1994, so the years following this were pretty formative for the game."

On finishing her PhD, Laura took a permanent post at the University of Liverpool, which she combines with posts as Honorary Visiting Professor at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, and the China National School of Administration, Beijing, as well as a visiting professorship at the Welsh Governance Centre at Cardiff.

Laura is also Chair of Sport Wales, an organisation she has been a member of since

2006. It's in this capacity that Laura will be representing Wales for the duration of the Olympics and Paralympics.

"The first look at the Olympics the world will get is the women's football in Cardiff, so we're ready to make the most of it! Our aim is to see as many Welsh athletes gain medals as part of Team GB as possible."

When we spoke to Laura, 31 Welsh athletes had already qualified as part of Team GB and ParalympicsGB.

"The Welsh athletes punch well above their weight when it comes to representing Team GB. At the Beijing Games in 2008, Wales enjoyed the most successful Olympic Games for 100 years. We also have a very good reputation when it comes to Paralympics. Around 25% of the gold medals won by ParalympicsGB were won by Welsh competitors, with Wales just 5% of the total GB population.

"The legacy for Wales will be significant as well. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get as many young people involved in sports as possible. It's our duty to ensure as many people are positively impacted by the Games as possible."

Emma Jones 'Games Maker' volunteer

MSc (Econ) International Relations, 2010

Emma will be busy representing two capital cities during the Olympics, working both at the Olympic Village at Stratford, and providing a 'public face' for visitors to Cardiff as part of the Last Mile pedestrian help team. Emma's enthusiasm for the Games is infectious, and you get the feeling that anyone coming to the UK for the Olympics will get a very good impression if they meet her.

"It's such a great opportunity and a really responsible role – I can't wait to be right at the core of the action as all the drama of the Olympics unfolds. To shape the experience of international visitors, both here in Cardiff and London, is a great honour, and a great way to pass the good feeling on behalf of the UK onwards to Brazil 2016."

"I have already worked as part of the Sport Cardiff promotions team, handing out London 2012 flags when the torch came to the capital. This gave me an initial taste of the full buzz that will hit the UK this summer!"

It's this desire to meet people from around the world that was one of the reasons Emma applied to do a Masters in International Relations at Cardiff.



Images: Cardiff University

James Banks

British Forces News reporter

Postgraduate Diploma, Broadcast Journalism, 2011



James Banks interviewing an Afghan National Army Commander in Helmand Province

Former British Army Commander James will be involved in action of a different kind this summer as he covers security matters at the Olympics for the British Forces Broadcasting Service.

For a time more used to completing tours of Iraq, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland as an Army Officer, James opted to study for a career in broadcast journalism on leaving the army. After completion of the year's Postgraduate Diploma at Cardiff, James returned to Afghanistan on a three-month news assignment with the British Forces Service.

James says: "In my role as Olympic Security Correspondent I'll be focusing on how the biggest security operation since World War II will unfold, looking at the challenges of protecting the Games from both global and home-grown threats.

"To be given the opportunity to report on such a once in a lifetime event as London 2012 is a real privilege."



Ed Bradford on Centre Court at Wimbledon

Ed Bradford

Umpire, Wheelchair Tennis

MSc Transport and Planning, 2006

With many years of experience as a Wimbledon official, Ed is well used to maintaining his concentration for important decisions, which is one of the reasons he has been called up to officiate at the Paralympics tennis this summer.

For the past six years Ed has line umpired on the show courts in games involving the biggest names in tennis – Federer, Nadal and the Williams sisters to name a few – and was selected for the line team for Centre Court in 2010, when the Queen visited Wimbledon for the first time in 33 years.

"It was a pretty special moment being stood opposite the Queen when she appeared in the Royal Box, to a standing ovation from the crowd," said Ed. "Officiating at the Paralympics will be an equally special occasion, particularly as the Games are in London and are only every four years. Opportunities to be a tennis official are limited, so I was really pleased to be selected as part of the team.

"Seeing the Olympic flame travel around the country made me feel very proud to be part of such a massive occasion, a feeling I'm sure will only increase once I arrive in Stratford at the end of August and once I step out on court for my first match."

Ed became an accredited referee in 2004, just before he decided to study for a Masters at Cardiff. He now works for the Highway Services team at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, and has developed considerable expertise in dealing with parking complaints!

"Studying at Cardiff certainly helped me get where I am today. My MSc in Transport and Planning gave me a good grounding in the transport sector and I draw upon the knowledge and understanding that I gained from my time in Cardiff on a day-to-day basis. It also never fails to surprise me how many people I meet, either as part of my work or personal life, who have a link to Cardiff University!"

William James Reuters reporter

MSc International Journalism, 2009

“Covering the weightlifting at the Olympics was more or less drawn out of a hat,” says William. “The staff at Reuters were asked who might like to follow events during the course of the Games, and although I’ve no background in weightlifting, the chance to be involved was too good to miss out on.”

Watching people strain as they attempt heavier and heavier weights is far removed from William’s usual role with Reuters, as an economics journalist focusing on the Eurozone crisis, but a talent for languages, connections with the sports desk and a love of all things sport led to this somewhat unusual summer role. “It’s not just ‘how high, how fast or how long’,” he says. “With thousands of people from all over the world congregating in London and around the UK for a few weeks, there’s always going to be something of interest.”

William’s year at Cardiff proved an ideal introduction to international media. While doing his dissertation, he applied to be an intern with Reuters over the summer, and then joined them in a more permanent role about two and half years ago.

“Reuters was definitely the kind of organisation I envisaged working for when I began my MSc at Cardiff. It put me in good stead for what’s turned out to be a very interesting career move.”



James Woodroof bowling at Lord's Cricket Ground

James Woodroof PR Executive

BA Journalism, Film and Broadcasting, 2006

Each time you see a member of Team GB performing at the London Olympics, they’ll be wearing the kit that PR professional James helped launch for global sports brand Adidas, during his employment at PR consultancy Hill + Knowlton Strategies. The Stella McCartney-designed kits, to be worn by both GB Olympians and Paralympians, were launched to huge fanfare at the Tower of London in March, with team members clearly impressed with the technologically advanced clothing.

“The Adidas & Team GB kit launch was the biggest media event I have ever worked on – the story was front and back page of every newspaper and on every TV and radio station in the country,” said James. “Working so closely with Adidas, such high-profile athletes and Stella, it was an enormous privilege to be a part of. Equally, it was a huge learning experience.”

James’s career path seems to have followed naturally from his track record at Cardiff; he graduated with a first from JOMEC, but also found the time to run the University’s sports

clubs. While Athletic Union President at Cardiff Students’ Union, he co-ordinated the activities of 5,000 students in 60 university sports clubs, during which time he secured over £200,000 from the University to invest in its sports facilities, including the 3G astro pitch at Tal-y-bont. James also organised the annual Varsity rugby match between Cardiff and Swansea, which was played in front of more than 5,000 students at the Arms Park. (See page 7 for current AU President, Ollie Devon’s perspective on the role.)

Since then, James’s PR clients have included Adidas, Aviva Premiership Rugby, HSBC Sevens Rugby, and Blue Square Bet. He has worked with a number of high-profile sportspeople including Sir Chris Hoy, Jess Ennis, Chris Robshaw, Will Greenwood, Alastair Cook and Stuart Broad. And it’s James’s continued love of sports, and in particular cricket, that has led to the realisation of a lifetime ambition of working at Lord’s, when he was appointed PR Manager of the England & Wales Cricket Board this June.



The spokeswoman

Sports-mad Cardiff alumnus Louisa Fyans has a big job this summer: running the BBC's London 2012 media team



Louisa Fyans
Head of Marketing
& Communications,
BBC London 2012
BA (Hons) History

Having become well acquainted with Cardiff's many watering holes during her time at the University, Louisa Fyans moved to London to work in the marketing and communications sector. Currently Head of Marketing and Communications for the BBC's London 2012 coverage, Louisa is in for a busy summer.

What are your main memories of Cardiff?
To be honest a lot of my memories involve my

social life rather than my academic one! I still have flashbacks of horror as I recall starting to revise for my History finals and realising that I had not attended very many of my 9am Italian Revolution lectures!

However I loved being at Cardiff and made friends for life who I still see regularly. Every year got better for me and I loved my final year. It really is a great city to be at university.

Did you know what you wanted to do after you graduated?

I hadn't a clue, to be honest. I think other than realising I needed a job as I could no longer rely on my grant (we still had grants in those days), I had no plans other than moving to London as I thought there would be more job opportunities there.

How has studying History helped your career?

I think doing History gave me a useful skill of being able to edit huge amounts of written information into a few key points quickly and this has helped me enormously in my career – for example writing a single page press release that sums up a 300 page report.

How did you end up working for the BBC?

Having spent a lot of my career in charities I was keen to work for the BBC as it is an organisation I respected enormously. The new



role of Head of International PR at the World Service came up and I was fortunate enough to get the job and had a fantastic year working on really interesting campaigns – including spending some time in Moscow. This then led to a job in Sport – which was like a dream come true for me as I love sport – it was a chance to unite a passion and a job.

What’s it like working for such an important global brand?

The size and scale of the organisation still surprises me even after a decade. As a BBC employee you are acutely aware of how important the BBC is to its audience and how strong their feelings are about it - positive and negative. That brings with it a great sense of responsibility. It has been a privilege to work for a brand that is respected and valued – and one which the staff care so much about. I can honestly say I have enjoyed every day of my job and have never been bored.

What’s your role with the Olympics?

I am Head of Marketing & Communications for BBC London 2012, which means I lead on all press and marketing activity. This includes the look and feel of the BBC Olympics and all BBC Olympic and Sport

external communications - I am the “BBC spokesperson said” on sport and Olympic issues in the media. I provide senior counsel to stakeholders, manage a team of marketers, publicists and agencies and lead on any crisis communications.

What is the viewer, listener and web-user experience going to be like?

I began working on the BBC Olympics two years ago but the BBC planning started the moment it was announced that the UK had won the bid. We are calling London 2012 the first truly digital Olympics. Audiences will be able to access coverage through multiple platforms including TV and radio, and online across four screens (PC, mobile, tablet and connected TV). For the first time the BBC will be providing live coverage of every Olympic sport from every venue throughout the day – around 2,500 hours of live Olympic action. On BBC online users will have access to an enhanced and interactive video experience. They can watch live HD video coverage, switch between up to 24 live video screens, rewind live coverage and access live data, statistics and information while watching the action. ■

“As a BBC employee you are acutely aware of how important the BBC is to its audience and how strong their feelings are about it: positive and negative”



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