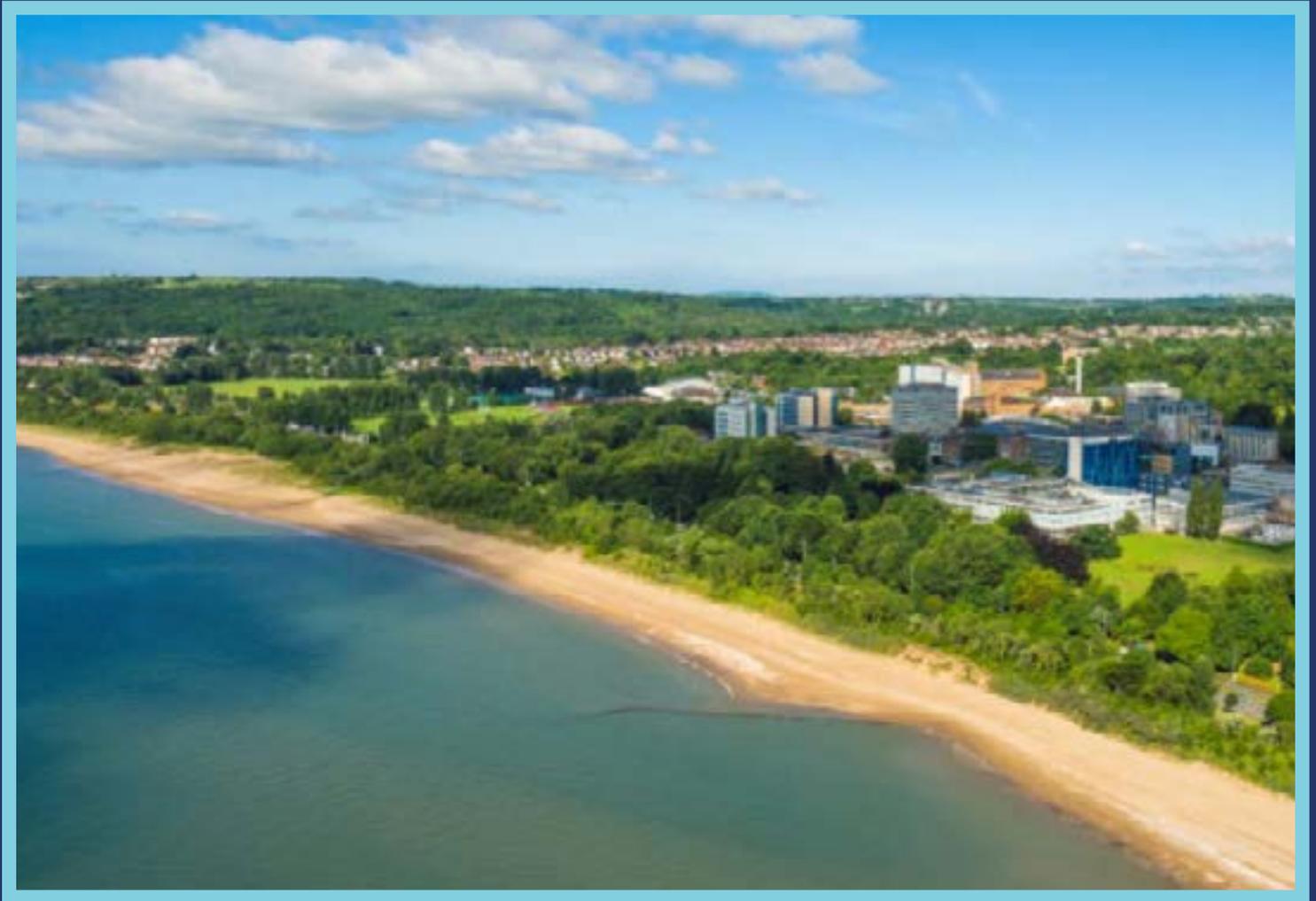


College of Arts and Humanities

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2019

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A celebration for our staff and students

"Welcome to the summer edition of the College Newsletter - what a bumper issue it is!

"It brilliantly captures the exciting, rich and diverse activities that Arts and Humanities

staff and students bring to the university, and which are admired globally. There'll be more to celebrate at the graduation ceremonies this week."

Deborah Youngs



The editorial team would like to thank those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. They include:

David Anderson; Josh Beard; Jo Berry; Angela Black; Jonathan Bradbury; Stephanie Bright; Alexia Bowler; Elaine Canning; Tom Cheesman; Sarah Crowther; Lloyd Davies; María Fernández-Parra; Stefan Halikowski-Smith; Jess Hammett; Stephen Harrison; Jade Hobby; Matthew Hughes; Ersin Hussein; Tomás Irish; Mark Jones; Rhian Jones; Mel Kohlke; Helen Lewis; Geraldine Lublin; Gethin Matthews; Cam McIntyre; Paddy McQueen; William Merrin; Adam Mosley; Julian Preece; Sian Rees; Ian Rutt; Patricia Skinner; Sophie Smith; Kasia Szpakowska; Ella Thomas; Sioned Williams; Deborah Youngs.

Send your contributions for our next edition

The newsletter editorial team is already working on the next edition and would like to include your news. Photographs are welcomed. Please ensure you have permission from those pictured.

Among the activities we would like to hear about are:

- Attendance at conferences
- Successful student study trips and placements

• Innovative teaching aimed at addressing particular challenges

- Grants and awards
- Research and publications
- Staff/student events

Please send your contributions (of between 200 and 500 words) to Suzanne Oakley at s.oakley@swansea.ac.uk by October 14.

Learned Society of Wales names newly elected college fellows

The Learned Society of Wales has named two College of Arts and Humanities academics from Swansea University among the newly elected Fellows.

Forty-eight new Fellows have joined the Learned Society of Wales this year from across the arts, humanities, sciences, and beyond. Each new Fellow has contributed to the world of learning as researchers, academics, and professionals – and all come with a strong connection to Wales. Election to the Fellowship is a public recognition of excellence, is keenly competed, and takes place following a rigorous examination of each nominee's achievements in their relevant field(s).

Those joining the Fellowship from the College of Arts and Humanities are:

- **Professor Julian Preece FLSW, Professor of German.** Professor Preece has written extensively on twentieth-century German literature, society and politics, with books on Grass, Kafka, Veza Canetti, and Baader-Meinhof and the Novel. He is currently working on a funded project entitled 'Bilingual British Writers: Language Ambassadors or Mental Migrants?'
- **Professor Patricia Skinner FRHistS FLSW, Personal Chair in History.** Professor Skinner, a medieval historian with a commitment to equality and diversity in academia and a focus on minority and under-represented histories,



recently edited *The Welsh and the Medieval World: Travel, Migration and Exile* (UWP, 2017).

Swansea University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Boyle said: "Membership of the Learned Society of Wales is a hallmark of excellence. This year, out of 48 newly elected Fellows from all over the UK, nine are from Swansea University.

This demonstrates the calibre of our academics and highlights Swansea as a UK university with outstanding credentials. I heartily congratulate our newly elected Fellows on their awards and thank them for their dedication and inspirational work."

Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the Learned Society of Wales, said: "I am delighted to welcome 48 new Fellows to the Society. Their election recognises their individual achievements and additions to the world of learning and I am pleased that they encompass such a range of research disciplines and beyond. The addition of these new Fellows will strengthen our capacity to champion excellence across all areas of academic and public life in Wales and abroad."

Established in 2010, the Learned Society of Wales uses the knowledge of its experts to promote research, inspire learning, and provide independent policy advice. The yearly addition of new Fellows aids the Society in achieving these aims.

The 2019 election is the ninth in a rolling process towards the building of a strong, representative Fellowship. The Society's continuing focus on excellence and achievement will ensure that the Fellowship represents the very best of learning that Wales has to offer.

Academics recognised by prestigious book awards

Three Swansea University academics are among the authors recognised in this year's Wales Book of the Year Awards.

Congratulations to Alan Llwyd for winning the Welsh language poetry category this year for his anthology, *Cyrraedd a Cherddi Eraill*. The poems in *Cyrraedd a Cherddi Eraill* were composed between 2016 and 2018.

The 70 plus poems in the first section of the book celebrate the author's reaching the age of 70 - the biblical promised life span. These are autobiographical, personal poems, poems of rejoicing and grief, of gladness and sadness as he looks

back at the ups and downs of his career. In the second section of the volume the poems are on a mixture of themes, some personal and others which comment on society. The volume was launched at the Bedwen Lyfrau book festival last year, when Alan received a special award for his contribution to Welsh literature.

Senior lecturer Dr Gethin Matthews was nominated for the Creative Non-Fiction award for *Having a go at the Kaiser: A Welsh family at war*, while Emeritus Professor Stevie Davies was shortlisted for the Aberystwyth University Fiction Award for *Arrest Me, for I Have Run Away*.

A feast of fiction, poetry, and plays at Agents' Day

On Friday, May 17, postgraduate students in Creative Writing were joined by literary agents, published alumni and professional actors for a day of celebration and inspiration.

Thanks to agents Lucy Morris (Curtis Brown Book Group), Hannah Griffiths (All3Media) and Tristan Kendrick (Rogers, Coleridge and White) for beginning the day with helpful insights, tips and conversation, chaired by Professor Owen Sheers.

We were then joined by four highly successful Creative Writing alumni who have all enjoyed recent publication of their work. Many thanks to Rhys Owain Williams, Rebecca John, Jane Fraser and Wendy Holborow for reading and speaking to our current crop of Creative Writing postgraduates.

Dr Francesca Rhydderch, Director of the MA in Creative Writing, said: "The publishing industry is extremely competitive and challenging, and by offering our students an opportunity to meet with agents face-to-face we are confident that once they graduate they will feel equipped to pursue the business side of writing with professionalism and flair.

"Our Writers' and Agents' Day also gave current students the chance to hear about the field from the point of view of alumni who are now award-winning, published writers.

"Overall, this was a day of celebration as well as education, and the Creative



Writing teaching team would like to thank the Cultural Institute for making it happen, Professor Owen Sheers for hosting the event so brilliantly, the agents and writers for taking time out of their busy schedules to come and visit us, and last but not least, our current students who have engaged so fully this year with all that our MA in Creative Writing has to offer."

Swansea's MA in Creative Writing is renowned for the broad opportunities it offers its students, from fiction in all its forms, through creative non-fiction and into the various genres of writing for performance – stage, screen and radio. Every year, Swansea's MA students have the opportunity to see their own work being performed by professional actors in our Rough Diamonds event. This year

Rough Diamonds was combined with Writers' and Agents' Day and the evening event in the Taliesin Theatre was a stunning success.

Swansea's Director of Creative Writing, Professor D.J. Britton commented: "To see impressive excerpts of plays from 13 new writers was like a feast of all that's good in new performance writing. The sharp commentary they provided on contemporary life was both compelling and entertaining – a fantastic end to a fantastic day."

Special thanks to Dr Francesca Rhydderch and Professor D.J. Britton from the 2018-19 cohort of MA Creative Writing students.

Elaine Canning



Top: Actors rehearse ahead of the Rough Diamonds event.
Bottom (l-r): Readings, talks and breakout sessions at the Writers' and Agents' Day.

Guided tour assists students' research

Fifteen students studying the module Internationalism, War and Peace: Europe 1900-1933 have visited the Temple of Peace in Cardiff with their lecturer Dr Tomás Irish.

In the module, students look at themes such as international law, gender, race, humanitarianism, education and disarmament, primarily in a European context, in order to think critically about the period following the First World War. They examine internationalism in the early twentieth century and the growth of international organisations, with a particular focus on the League of Nations, the precursor to the UN.

The Temple of Peace was opened in 1938 as a home for the League of Nations movement in Wales and visiting it gave students the opportunity to engage with many of the ideas discussed in class in a tangible way, using original primary source material produced by supporters of the League of Nations in Wales.

In the morning, students were given a guided tour of the building by Craig Owen (Wales for Peace) who explained its origins in the 1930s and its later history. In the afternoon, students were given the opportunity to explore the archival and published primary source collections of the Temple of Peace; as these are not formally catalogued, this was very much a 'treasure hunt' activity. On identifying items that were relevant to their interests,



there were group discussions and students were encouraged to take a photo of the item, write a short contextual caption, with both ultimately being uploaded to the People's Collection Wales website (<http://www.peoplescollection.wales>).

Many of the students found items that related to their research interests which demonstrated how Welsh people engaged with the ideas previously discussed in class.

Students were given an accompanying examination question in advance of the trip, meaning that they could research

and develop an answer based on their experiences at the Temple of Peace (four of the fifteen chose to do so).

Another positive outcome has been that one of the students secured a short paid placement helping the Temple of Peace staff to catalogue their institutional records later this summer. Dr Irish hopes that this exercise can be repeated in future years and would like to thank the COAH Teaching Support Fund for covering the costs of student travel to Cardiff, as well as Craig Owen of Wales for Peace for his time, expertise and enthusiasm in organising the day's events.



The Welsh Government has recently produced videos featuring Dr Alex Lovell.

The videos, which were filmed on Singleton Campus, aim to encourage more pupils to choose Welsh as an A Level subject and become fluent speakers.

Alex is an inspiration to young people. He attended English medium schools and comes from a non Welsh-speaking background. He attended Swansea University as an undergraduate on the BA Cymraeg programme, following the second language pathway, and went on to gain a first class degree.

Whilst studying as a postgraduate student in the department, he was appointed as a tutor.

He now lectures in Welsh at the university.

Praise for students' thought-provoking RIEL essay entries

The finals evening for the RIEL Essay Prize 2019 took place on May 16, on Singleton Campus. The prize is in its third year, having been established in 2016.

The winner was Louis Bromfield, a 3rd year Politics student, who received a prize of £500.

Presentations were on a wide range of thought-provoking topics and it was good to see four colleges represented: COAH, Engineering, Law and Management.

This speaks to the growing recognition of both the work that RIEL is doing across the University and the need for ethical literacy in all disciplines.

The student finalists all gave excellent presentations and the judging panel had a difficult job to decide the order of prizes.

RIEL Essay Prize 2019 Finalists

Louis Bromfield – 1st Place – £500 (COAH) 'Is it ethical to use insects to target and destroy food sources in wartime?'

Neeraj Chakshu – 2nd place – £300 (Engineering) 'Ethics for Using Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary'

Wing Lau – 3rd Place – £100 (Management) 'Is the use of positive discrimination an equitable method of tackling the gender pay gap?'

Cal Reid-Hutchings – Commendation – £50 (Law & Criminology) 'Strict liability rule in doping: a step too far?'

Serge John – Commendation – £50 (COAH) 'Having our Cake and Eating It: Public Health and Personal Choice'



Above: Members of the Welsh Department's teaching team.

New degree is 'first of its kind'

The Welsh Department has launched its brand new multidisciplinary Welsh degree – the very first of its kind – which offers a variety of learning experiences in the fields of policy, law and linguistic planning, with Welsh as the focal point.

The BA Welsh course: Language, Law and Policy, which will be available for study from September 2019, will offer undergraduate students the opportunity to study current themes such as language rights in Wales and the legal status of the Welsh language.

The course was formally launched in Tŷ Hywel on Friday, May 31 in the company of the Welsh Language Commissioner, Aled Roberts.

Responding to the launching of the course, Aled Roberts, the Welsh Language Commissioner said: "We are extremely proud that Swansea University has taken it upon itself to develop this course. There is a need for young people who can

offer new ideas in terms of linguistic planning, with an academic background to give a solid foundation to their findings. We would also hope that this course's graduates will be able to offer key guidance to the growing number of institutions who are applying the standards."

Owing to the multidisciplinary nature of the degree, the course will be available to applicants who have not necessarily studied Welsh as an A Level subject, but who may have studied other relevant subjects through the medium of Welsh. Professor Gwynedd Parry from the Welsh Department

said: "Though the Welsh language will be both the focus and the medium, this degree also affords the opportunity to appreciate international dimensions. In the 'Language Rights in the International Context' module, the actions of the United Nations, as well as European Council and European Union instruments will also be considered.

"This is a unique degree scheme because it combines interdisciplinary and international elements, gives the strongest of foundations for career opportunities in the field of language planning and all of this, naturally, through the medium of Welsh."



Pictured: Aled Roberts (Welsh Language Commissioner) with Prof Gwyn Parry, Dr Rhian Jones, Matthew Tucker (student), Lydia Hobbs (student).

Material connections with the ancient world



In a world where material artefacts and resources are digitized, replaced by substitutes, or enhanced by virtual reality and 3D modelling, the role that museums and their collections can play in engaging students might seem obsolete. This is in fact far from true as is continually demonstrated by the teaching delivered by the Department of Classics, Ancient History, and Egyptology. Two modules in particular worked closely to develop student access to - and critical engagement of - material culture in museum collections to enhance and encourage self-directed learning, and promote the learning community through peer-to-peer learning.

Focusing on the Greco-Roman world, the ancient Near East and beyond, the module **Set in Stone? Inscribing and Writing in Antiquity** trained students in technical skills to record and interpret inscriptions whilst learning about the development of writing systems and the role of writing and inscribing in antiquity.

Students enrolled explored material and debated wider questions (such as the origins of writing systems, the role of inscribed texts, and literacy in antiquity) in lectures, workshops, regular handling



and teaching sessions in the Egypt Centre.

Similarly, the module **Beyond Mainland Greece: Asia in the Classical and Hellenistic Period** integrated specialist training for students using the newly launched Seleucid Coins Online Database as well as a handling session in the Egypt Centre where students were able to assess coins first-hand.

Following on from the success of last year's study trip (co-ordinated by Dr Nigel Pollard: L&T Newsletter Spring 2018), Nigel, Stephen Harrison and I returned to the British Museum to give students the chance to directly engage with some of the artefacts they had been studying. I co-ordinated the trip and assistance from the COAH Teaching Support Fund made it possible.

At the museum, students enrolled on **Set in Stone? Inscribing and Writing in Antiquity** surveyed highlights from the module. These included Sumerian writing tablets, Esarhaddon's prism, evidence of multiple language use in Ancient Cyprus (including un-deciphered texts), and the Vindolanda Tablets. The tour ended by the popular and crowded display cabinet that houses

the Rosetta Stone to consolidate material delivered in lectures and prompt further lively discussion on museum collections, how visitors interact with artefacts, and the afterlife of inscriptions. Students enrolled on **Beyond Mainland Greece** explored the Achaemenid reliefs housed in the museum. Coming face-to-face with these reliefs and their Assyrian precursors enabled students to understand the impact of the scale and design of these objects in a way that is not possible in the classroom, offering them a crucial insight into the mechanisms of Achaemenid kingship.

No doubt, this term, the combination of inspecting artefacts using 2D images in lectures, handling objects in the Egypt Centre, and coming face-to-face with objects on display in the British Museum underscored the importance of combining traditional and new, innovative methods of engaging with the distant past. That said, nothing will ever beat being able to handle an artefact, to stand on an archaeological site, or look closely at an object on display in a museum to appreciate truly the materiality and meaning of the ancient world and how it connects with our own.

Ersin Hussein

International Dylan Thomas Prize 2019

On Thursday, May 16, British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned debut novelist, Guy Gunaratne (35), was announced as the winner of this year's Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize, with a prize sum of £30,000, for his debut novel *In Our Mad and Furious City*.

In Our Mad and Furious City burst into our consciousness in 2018 providing an urgent, timely and compelling fictional account of 48 hours in a Northwest London housing estate after the murder of a British soldier, as told through three narrators. Risky and inventive, Gunaratne has been lauded for providing an authentic voice to marginalised sectors of society and for shining a spotlight on the very real experiences of youths from minority ethnic backgrounds.

After careful deliberation the winner was chosen by a judging panel chaired by Swansea University Professor Dai Smith CBE with Professor Kurt Heinzelman; Books Editor for the BBC Di Speirs and award-winning novelist Kit de Waal.



Chair of the judges Professor Dai Smith CBE said: "Once in a while, a work of fiction appears which uses voice, style and story, as only works of the imagination can, to let us enter, to make us see, to demand we understand lives and circumstances seldom given that centre stage position in our contemporary culture and society. This is what Guy Gunaratne's stunning multi-voice debut novel *In Our Mad and Furious City* sets out to do and bravely achieves for marginal lives, young and old, in the unforgiving whirlpool of London today."

On receiving the award, Guy Gunaratne

(pictured) said: "Dylan Thomas has always meant a lot to me, he's a writer I've always turned to for inspiration. And after winning this prize, my mind really just goes to all the other writers, or aspiring writers, who are writing from a place similar to where I began. A place like Neasden, somewhere I always thought was a nowhere place. But to make art out of the world, the language, the voices I grew up around I always felt was important. That's all I tried to do with this book."

Awarded for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under, the prize celebrates the international world of fiction in all its forms including poetry, novels, short stories and drama.

The other titles shortlisted for the 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize were: *House of Stone* by Novuyo Rosa Tshuma, *Friday Black* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, *Trinity* by Louisa Hall, *FOLK* by Zoe Gilbert and *Melmoth* by Sarah Perry.

Innovative module was 'the most beneficial of final year'

Swansea University became the first British University to run an English module based solely on a literary prize, where students examine contemporary works of fiction, poetry, drama and short story collections longlisted for the Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize. Students undertaking the module wrote reviews and blogs, and recorded a series of informative podcasts with the six shortlisted authors. These were successfully co-published with Wales Arts Review.

24 internship opportunities were created by the Cultural Institute as part of this year's Prize, which offered students the chance to gain valuable experience in event management, hospitality and public relations. Students helped with the organisation and running of the prestigious award ceremonies and Prize-related events that took place at the world-renowned Hay Festival.

'This module was the most beneficial and enjoyable module of my final year, it gave me the knowledge and experience to help kick-start a career in publishing after university.' **Molly Holborn**

'Thanks to Dr Nick Taylor-Collins and Dr Elaine Canning for all they have done concerning this module. I think I speak for each member of the class when I say it has changed us for the better. May it continue to do so!' **Jacob Fleming**



'It's been a great opportunity to take the skills we learned in our first two years and apply them to contemporary novels. And, I couldn't have thought of a better lecturer to bring the module to life than Dr Nick Taylor-Collins. I'd very much like to see it continue as it's a brilliant addition to the syllabus.'

Daniel Morgan

Worthy winners celebrated at special event

In the beautiful, historic surroundings of Swansea's Guildhall, we recognised the achievements of this year's wonderful crop of DylanED Book Review Competition 2019 book reviewers.

Pupils and students from schools and colleges across Swansea, as well as students from Swansea University, took part in the 2019 competition, producing eloquent, thoughtful and touching reviews of the 2019 Dylan Thomas Prize shortlisted books.

The stellar shortlist heard their works wonderfully explored and examined by the young readers.

Professor John Spurr – (Head of COAH) and Professor Dai Smith (Head of the Dylan Thomas Prize judging panel)



praised the continued participation of the schools in South Wales in the DylanED programme and the reviews that have been received.

The Lord Mayor of Swansea, Councillor David Phillips spoke of the city's rich

literary heritage and his pride in seeing it continue through programmes like DylanED. Trefor Ellis (Dylan Thomas' son-in-law) represented the family of Dylan Thomas and presented the winners with their awards.

The results were as follows:

Schools and Colleges Category

Highly Commended - Efa Bowen's highly commended review of Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's *Friday Black*. Her opening line reads: 'Captivatingly strange and escalating from the ordinary everyday situations to horrific violence, Adjei-Brenyah's startling debut will confound and terrorise all who read it.'

Joint 3rd Place - Cara Davies' review of Sarah Perry's *Melmoth*. Opening her review she writes: 'Follow the flawed protagonist Helen Franklin on her emotional journey into forgiving herself for the unforgivable.'

Caitlin Grigg-Williams' review of Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's *Friday Black*. Caitlin described the title short story as 'a captivating story, though it's hard to choose a favourite of the stories, this magical realist world personally captivated me. It humorously explores the American mall-culture through the event of 'Black Friday' at the centre of the chaos of a stampede of tumultuous and frenzied shoppers.'

2nd Place - Rhianna Rees' review of Novuyo Rosa Tshuma's *House of Stone* which she described as 'a captivating tale and an entire year's worth of history lesson, all rolled into one harrowing book – and it is fantastic!'

1st Place - Megan Phillips' review of Louisa Hall's *Trinity*. Megan concludes: 'The novel makes us question the way in which we perceive others, and in turn ourselves, as we ask how confidently we can truly know someone while hiding from the truth in our own lives. A thought-provoking and cleverly ambiguous tale of

trust, destruction, paranoia and hope, Louisa Hall effortlessly captures the uncertainty and precariousness of a world and a man trying to salvage the wreckage they left behind.'

Swansea University Student Category

Highly Commended - Janet Davies's highly commended review of Guy Gunaratne's *In Our Mad and Furious City*. She writes: 'Gunaratne's characters are imperfect beings, evoking both sympathy and criticism.'

3rd Place - John Baddeley's review of Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's *Friday Black*. John remarks: '*Friday Black* is enormous. Not literally, but its themes are contemporary, raw and they feel substantial. Consumerist culture is critiqued through shoppers willing to kill for the latest Parka. Institutionalised racism is disturbingly shown through a theme-park. Many more themes are as frankly confronted and throughout all stories Adjei-Brenyah's command of prose remains exquisite and honest.'

2nd Place - Dawn Thomson's review of Louisa Hall's *Trinity*. Dawn describes the novel as 'Vast in scope and yet intimate in the personal stories it combines, this novel succeeds at both macrocosmic and microcosmic levels.'

1st Place - Polly Manning's review of Zoe Gilbert's *Folk*. Polly explains: '...don't be fooled into thinking this collection of stories is whimsical. With a sensual appreciation of nature, and borrowing from the folk history of the Isle of Man, Gilbert crafts stories which feel simultaneously age-old and modern.'

Illuminating talks at Centenary Lecture Series

The Spring series of the Swansea Building Society sponsored lectures featured a succession of renowned speakers.

The equality and diversity campaigner Laura Bates took her audience on a frank, powerful and alarming look at prevalent everyday sexism.

Populariser of Science and mathematics Marcus du Sautoy asked us to join him on an examination of the nature of human creativity in 'The Creativity Code' and explained how advancements in AI might jolt us into being more imaginative in turn.

The finale to the Spring series was a fascinating, illuminating dive into the 3000 year old complex history of the great city of Istanbul with presenter and historian Bettany Hughes.



Congratulations New book presents previously unpublished accounts

Congratulations to Professor Tudur Hallam, from the Welsh Department, for being voted to join the board of the Arts Council of Wales.

Members are appointed by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Welsh Government. The board is responsible for aspects such as determining the strategic direction of the Arts Council; Developing, applying and monitoring the arts policy; Agreeing on the corporate and practical plans, and allocating grants to institutions.

All the best go to Tudur in this exciting role.

A book edited and translated by Dr Stefan Halikowski Smith is due to be published this September. *Two Missionary Accounts of Southeast Asia in the Late Seventeenth Century* presents critical editions of two previously unpublished missionary accounts of Ayutthaya and the East Indies scene after the "National" Revolution of 1688 in Thailand. The texts presented are by Guy Tachard, a French Jesuit; and Nicola Cima, an Italian Augustinian. Including a substantial introduction to contextualize the accounts, this book makes available in English some primary source material addressing important and overlooked aspects of the European missionary mentality.

"By self-delusional aspects of missionary writing, I mean they are either nostalgic, as in the case of Guy Tachard, hankering after a state initiative that was shown to be before its time by the circumstances of the 1688 court revolution in Siam, or simply beyond the political and economic constraints of the day," said Dr Halikowski Smith. "Thus, for example, while Cima may have been responding to a three-month state visit made by

the Danish king Frederik IV to Venice in the winter of 1708-9 to envisage this trading partnership, Venice in the eighteenth century was a city of *fasti*, or lavish partying and self-indulgence, whilst her sea empire was being whittled away: she was no longer able to keep order in the Adriatic and the sea corsairs at bay, her *terraferma* was being devastated, and none of the urgent public works projects, like the better fortification of the Isthmus of Corinth and the renovation of the Castello di Morea, were realised.

"In this context, to regularize an eight-month sea journey to the ends of the earth, with forced stops and frequent *invernadas*, or winterings in protected harbours en route, can only appear absurd. But, regardless of their utopian delusions, these are interesting, substantial texts that tell us a lot both about the Europeans who were writing them, and about Southeast Asia in a period when information was in much shorter supply than prior to 1688, and when kingdoms across Southeast Asia tended to retract from outward engagement and to become what historians have christened 'hermit kingdoms'."

'Drag Me to Hell' lecture at film festival

Last month I was invited to attend Paracinema film festival at the QUAD arts centre in Derby to give my lecture **Drag Me To Hell: Representations of Drag & Transvestism In Horror Film & TV**. The talk was a shorter version of the three-hour lecture which I gave at the London chapter of the Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies last September. Paracinema is a festival which celebrates 'films and genres outside the mainstream' focusing on horror and scifi cinema, but is also a welcome showcase for other under-represented genres and sub-genres.

In a well-attended talk, I discussed with an audience of horror enthusiasts including film students, drag fans and paracinema supporters, key points of intersection in genre films containing representations of drag or transvestism. Films explored included Williams Castle's *Homicidal* (1961), Brian DePalma's *Dressed To Kill* (1980), and, of course, the 'mother' of them all, Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960). These films represent drag/transvestism



as a mode of 'deviancy'. Simultaneously, however, films such as Jim Sharman's *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975) and the early works of John Waters (such as *Pink Flamingos*, 1972) offer drag/transvestism

as a medium of 'diva-ship' in the divine forms of Tim Curry's *Frank'n'Furter* and...*Divine* (Harris Glenn Milstead). Modern progressive representation was investigated through mainly televisual representation in *RuPaul's Drag Race* (2009-) and *The Boulet Brother's Dragula* (2016-), supported by excerpts from an interview with Swanthula Boulet herself.

The lecture aligns with my ongoing research into the horror genre, and personal interest in drag. Currently in the fourth year of a part-time PhD in Creative Writing, I am writing a script in the horror-comedy genre and a thesis which explores the cohesive links between horror and comedy through subversion and excess. Furthering these academic fields offers much to dissertation students exploring related themes, and to the proposed development of a third year Horror Film module in the Media and Communications degree programme.

Sarah Crowther (pictured)

Paper examines 'The Global Rise of Troll-Warfare'

In April 2019, I was invited to speak in Bergen, Norway. There were two paid events, one at 'The House of Literature' in central Bergen on the 24th, which was 'William Merrin in Dialogue with Arild Linneberg and Janne Sund', and which included a book-signing of my books on Jean Baudrillard, Media Studies and Digital War. The next day, the 25th, I gave an invited paper called 'Media and Truth: Weaponizing Reality', at the Forum for Science and Democracy at the University of Bergen, Norway, on issues around 'fake news' and the political use of this concept.

I've also done several talks this term to promote my 2018 Digital War book, the newly-commissioned Swansea/

Glasgow-based Palgrave Journal of Digital War (co-edited between myself and Prof. Andrew Hoskins), and my next book project on Troll Warfare. I gave a keynote paper entitled 'Incomprehensible War' at the Digital War Symposium at Glasgow University on 20th March, and delivered a staff seminar paper entitled 'The Continuation of Politics by Other Memes: The Global Rise of Troll-Warfare' to the Royal Holloway University of London, Department of Politics and International Relations on 6th March.

The new Journal of Digital War will publish in March 2020 and it has a new journal website, <https://www.digital-war.org> (including ongoing



blog posts by myself). Andrew Hoskins and I are making plans for a CRAM/CODAH-supported international Digital War conference to be held at Swansea University in September 2020 to coincide with the second journal issue.

William Merrin

• In May, William Merrin gave the lecture 'What Will Remain? Remembering the Anthropocene', to accompany the exhibition 'What Will Remain of Us' (curated by Abby Poulson), College Street Gallery/Mission Gallery, Swansea College of Art, University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Talk: Making thinking visible in the classroom

Dr Helen Lewis, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education was invited to speak at the International Thinking Schools Conference, held in Swindon over two days in June. Over 120 delegates from countries including Norway, Egypt, China, Bulgaria and the UK were in attendance.

Keynote presentations were made by Professor Paul Howard-Jones, Alistair McConville and Professor Rose Luckin and covered topics such as the evolution of the brain and the rise of Artificial Intelligence. Helen's talk was based on her research into the teaching of thinking and metacognition in primary schools, and was entitled 'See, Think, Wonder: practical ways of making thinking visible in your classroom'.

Inaugural scholarship awarded to colleague

Dr David Anderson from the American Studies programme, Department of Political and Cultural Studies, was awarded the inaugural Scholarship for the Study of Historical and Contemporary Slavery at Gladstone's Library in Hawarden, Flintshire.

David spent a week in April in residence at Britain's only Prime Ministerial library examining archival material relating to Gladstone's connections to Susan Dabney Smedes. In 1890, Gladstone's publisher, John Murray, released *A Southern Planter*, a revision of Smedes' *Memorials of a Southern Planter*, a biography of her father, a slaveholder in Mississippi, originally published in 1887. The revised edition is notable for the inclusion of a prefatory notice by Gladstone.

Valuable insights from research trip to Patagonia

Dr Geraldine Lublin (MLTI) has recently come back from a successful trip to Patagonia, where she completed a number of activities relating to two research grants.

As part of the CHERISH-DE-funded 'Digital Memories and Trajectories in Southern Patagonia' Project, the 'Origenes' [Origins] app was officially launched in the territory of the Camusu Aike community with whom it was co-designed.

The app allows users to create digital family or community albums on individuals' own Android devices (mobiles or tablets), taking or selecting pictures (from their own gallery or a community-managed dedicated repository), recording and adding audio and sharing information on the trajectories of the individuals portrayed and building genealogical links among them. Workshops about the app were also held in other locations in the provinces of Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego, and the trip allowed the research team to foster links with the National University of Rio Negro, the National University of Tierra del Fuego and the 'Instituto de la Patagonia' at the University of Magallanes (Punta Arenas, Chile).

The trip was instrumental in enabling a

different, British Academy/Leverhulme Trust-funded project: *Settler Colonialism in Patagonia: Developing Theory through Practice*.

A two-day workshop was held in the town of Caleta Olivia (Santa Cruz) in order to explore the usefulness of settler colonial theory to reflect on colonisation processes in Southern Patagonia and their consequences for indigenous peoples in the present. Using a collaborative approach with members of the Mapuche, Tehuelche, Mapuche-Tehuelche and Selk'nam peoples, the theory's main tenets were analysed before collectively reflecting on its relevance for the region on the basis of the individual, family and/or community experiences and trajectories shared by the workshop participants.

As well as contributing to theoretical discussions around SCT itself by co-theorising from the lived experience of Patagonia's indigenous peoples, a key element in this 'dialogue of knowledges' will be to use insights to produce educational materials (created by the communities themselves) and influence policy (via co-produced report aimed at policymakers at local and regional levels, in line with the Intercultural Bilingual Education framework in force in Argentina).

Keynote lecture at University of Málaga

Dr Marie-Luise (Mel) Kohlke from the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing presented a keynote lecture on "Orientating the Reader in Neo-Victorian Biofiction" at the (Neo-)Victorian 'Orientations' in the Twenty-First Century conference, held at the University of Málaga, Spain, from May 15-17, 2019.

Her PhD student Ashleigh Taylor Sullivan also presented a paper on "'Jane, always Jane. I should never be rid of Jane': Neo-Victorian Gothic Orientations in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* and Sarah Waters' *The Little Stranger*" at the same event.

Mel presented a further keynote lecture

on "Traumatophilia in Neo-Victorian Fiction: The Lure of Historical Suffering" at AICED-21, the 21st Annual International Conference of the English Department, University of Bucharest, on the theme of "Trauma, Narrative, Responsibility", which ran from June 6-8, 2019 in Romania.

- Dr Alexia Bowler from the Department of Applied Linguistics and Dr Adele Jones from DACE also presented at the Malaga conference. Alexia's paper was on discourses of masculinity in the television series *Ripper Street*. Adele's was on 'the disruptive influence of intertextuality on linearity in the novels of Sarah Waters'.



Research Across Boundaries Conference

The College of Arts and Humanities organised an inter-disciplinary research conference on May 20-21. Held in Taliesin Create, Research Across Boundaries was a new initiative in providing a place and space for researchers to get together to hear about each other's work.

The conference featured nineteen panels and sixty eight presentations from staff drawn from all the colleges in the University as well as Library and Information Services. It also hosted external speakers from Swansea Council,

Cardiff and Cardiff Metropolitan universities, and University College London. Over 150 academic staff and postgraduate research students attended, with plenty of opportunity for networking conversation.

Key cross-university conference themes were research on global challenges, digital applications, and health and wellbeing. New ideas for inter-disciplinary research were presented on a wide range of issues including migration and refugees, trust and Brexit, modern

heroes, environmental sustainability, and theatre and performance. Researchers also discussed the potential of current research projects such as bilingual writers as well as opportunities for new research, for example on Welsh history, language, literature and culture. The intention is to repeat this as an annual event as part of the College's contribution to the University's Research and Innovation Strategy, which strongly emphasises inter-disciplinary work.

Jonathon Bradbury



MEMO (COAH's Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Research) held its thirteenth annual Symposium by the Sea on June 18 and 19, with support from COAH and the Society for the Social History of Medicine, on the theme of Magic, Alchemy, and Cosmology in the Medieval and Early Modern World.

Keynotes were delivered by Dr Joanne Edge (John Rylands Library, Manchester) speaking on 'Divination, medical prognosis, and the boundaries of the occult in late medieval England'; Dr Adam Mosley (SU), answering the question 'When was cosmology?'; and Dr Sophie Page (UCL), on 'Cosmology and magic in the later middle ages'. In addition, there were eight presentations by early career

researchers on topics including prediction and prophecy, the philosophers' stone, toad-based cures for the plague, and alchemical networks.

Visiting Leverhulme Professor Wendy Turner (Augusta University) closed the symposium by offering a response to the papers and leading a final discussion.

With speakers also coming from Sydney, Lisbon, Birmingham, Newcastle, Exeter, and the Warburg Institute, London, this was an event that both attracted a wide range of external participants and was well attended by Swansea-based scholars. For twitter coverage, see @MEMOSwansea.

Adam Mosley

'I, Immendorff' by Feridun Zaimoglu: poems translated

A series of 100 poems by the celebrated German writer Feridun Zaimoglu, dedicated to German artist Jörg Immendorff, have been published by one of the world's leading art book publishers, Walther König, with Tom Cheesman's translations. The poems were commissioned for a 600-page exhibition catalogue, published in German and English editions: *Für alle Lieben in der Welt* and *For All Beloved in the World*.

The catalogue is a remarkable feat of book design, with the 100 poems each interleaved on semi-translucent paper between reproductions of Jörg Immendorff's work. He was one of the leading West German experimental artists of the later 20th century, famous for his historical paintings, monumental sculptures, and disruptive art-political happenings. The exhibition is Immendorff's biggest retrospective yet. It opened in Munich in autumn 2018 and will travel worldwide in the coming years.

Zaimoglu's poems capture moments in Immendorff's life and times in an enigmatic, fragmented style, building to a compelling narrative. The poet blends colloquialisms, archaisms, dialect and artworld jargon, and brings in allusions to everything from Old Testament prophecy to debates within 1970s European Maoism.

The series of poems has also been published separately, as a beautifully designed small-format book. This includes just one Immendorff artwork reproduction. Again there are German and English editions: *Ich, Immendorff* and *I, Immendorff*.



College staff take centre stage for a series of Hay Festival talks

The first Friday of the Hay Festival saw the editors of the Cambridge History of Welsh Literature, Geraint Evans and Helen Fulton, examine the many different ages and faces of Welsh literature with renowned Welsh poet Gillian Clarke and novelist and historian Jon Gower, in a wonderful late afternoon event on the Starlight Stage.

On Saturday May 25 the recipient of the 2019 Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize, Guy Gunaratne, read at the festival's 'writers at work' session and then spoke at a very special celebration of this year's outreach and engagement work conducted under the banner of the world renowned prize in the beautiful setting of the festival's Summer House. This was before he took to the Starlight Stage to answer the questions of the Chair of the Prize's judging panel Professor Dai Smith and those of the large, gathered audience. The Neasden author offered great insight into how his local inner-city urban culture had a direct effect on the creation of his award-winning debut novel *In Our Mad and Furious City*.

Bank Holiday Monday held a treat for fans of a Welsh literary great as the beautiful Starlight Stage saw Professor M. Wynn Thomas chair a

panel consisting of Professor Daniel Williams and Welsh poet Menna Elfyn (pictured above) as they discussed and celebrated the life, works, and legacy of Emyr Humphreys in this, his centenary year.

An intrigued audience of over 800 people packed the Oxfam Moot stage on Thursday May 30 as Swansea University's Luca Trenta and the University of Nottingham's Rory Cormac offered an enthralling look at the dark, disturbing, intriguing and complex subject of political assassinations. The session was wonderfully chaired by Oliver Bullough.

- Academi Hywel Teifi has once again held a Welsh language event at the Hay Festival as part of the Swansea University series of events. The event on May 27 to mark the 100th birthday of Welsh writer Emyr Humphreys was held in Welsh, with English simultaneous translation. Director of Academi Hywel Teifi, Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, said: "Academi Hywel Teifi was delighted to present a Welsh medium session again this year and that the University's exciting partnership with Hay Festival enabled festival attendees to experience a Welsh medium event during their visit."

Bilingualism in the workplace is discussed at conference

On April 12, the international research project COMBI held its final conference in Taliesin Create, lead by Dr Gwennan Higham from the Welsh Department.



The COMBI project, which was funded by Erasmus+, was a partnership between six institutions from five multilingual areas: Swansea University; Elhuyar and Banaiz Bagara, Basque Country; Axxell, Finland; Danilo Dolci, Sicily; Mercator European Research Centre (Fryske Akademy), Friesland. The aim of the project was to prepare resources to help teachers of minority languages

in the healthcare sector. The objective of the resources was to teach and support migrants to develop language skills (in minority languages) that would be suitable for use in their work in the healthcare sector.

During the conference, there were presentations by three keynote speakers,

namely Meri Huws, the first Welsh Language Commissioner, Sari Pöyhönen, Professor of Applied Linguistics in Jyväskylä University, and Professor Gwerfyl Roberts, former Director of the Research Centre, LLAIS.

Also as part of the conference, the project team presented its research and resources pack for language teachers, occupational trainers and policy makers. At the close of the conference, a series of workshops were held, giving everyone the opportunity to discuss bilingualism in the workplace and teaching techniques for migrants.

Demonology Project goes on tour

This year I was lucky enough to be invited to present on various facets of my Egyptological research at both specialist and public venues in the USA. I like to think of this as the Ancient Egyptian Demonology Project: 2K BCE on tour.



The year began with a week in January on the West Coast with a presentation for my alma mater UCLA. While in Los Angeles, I was also interviewed by animator and historian of dance Betsy Baytos. She had initially contacted me in the context of learning about ancient Egyptian dance. We ended up focusing on the movements of the "Bes-image" featured in ancient Egyptian iconography (see line-drawings). It turns out that the movements of this divine being are characteristic of what is called "eccentric dance"—the subject of Betsy's research. She is including animations of the Bes-image in her forthcoming movie and animation *The Choreography of Comedy: The art of eccentric dance* being screened at Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in August — ancient Egyptian demons visit the Oscars! Then, on to Pacifica Graduate Institute (specializing in depth psychology and mythology) where graduate students from around the USA had come to learn more about ancient Egyptian mythology. Some of them have continued to stay in touch, posting on Twitter the objects that they now notice and appreciate when visiting museums. Finally, it was onto UC Berkeley and ARCE Northern California which sadly was the final stop on the West Coast Tour.

The Annual Conference of the American Research Center in Egypt took place in, appropriately, Alexandria, Virginia, and conveniently during the spring vacation here at Swansea in April. After a wonderful three days of presenting and hearing papers by scholars and students, it was off on the East Coast Tour, starting in the sun at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and in Dallas, followed by gloomy weather at Boston University, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. At both museums I ended up

having time to look around at objects both modern and ancient. Finally, the tour ended back in the UK with a demonology study day in Chesterfield. While many presentations took place in museums and universities, they were all open to the public and I was delighted that this was the first Egyptological presentation for many attendees. A number of them were there because of their interest in dreams and psychology—not only did my research have an impact on them, chatting with them has broadened my own ideas and understanding as well. The presentations included:

- "Armed and Dangerous: An Iconography of Protective Ancient Egyptian Daemons"
- "Demons in the Dark: Nightmares in Ancient Egypt"
- "Exploring the Invisible in Ancient Egypt"

The talks explored a whole realm of dynamic wonderful imaginal beings that personify and manifest underlying insecurities that otherwise remain undocumented. The aim was to encourage modern audiences to recognize the beings also as the result of a common drive to cope with afflictions by creating approachable beings. They were made tangible and real through imagery and objects—like superheroes accessible to all those in need, even in ancient Egypt.

Kasia Szpakowska



A creative way to study the past

This academic year, students in the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology worked with professional filmmakers and local community groups to create a series of short films about the ancient world.

Their remit was to present original research ideas in a creative and accessible format that would appeal to audiences that do not traditionally engage with 'Classics'.

The four films explored different questions about the ancient world - Who owns cultural heritage? What do objects reveal about their owners? Is there such as thing as historical truth? How do metals affect society? - all of which can also be asked of the modern world.

Dr Stephen Harrison said staff overseeing the project were proud of their students. "We were really impressed with

the creativity and professionalism that our students demonstrated during the project," said Dr Harrison. "Developing an original idea for a film required excellent understanding of academic ideas and an ability to empathise with potential audiences.

"The students have also gained hugely valuable skills, from budget management and team work to creative thinking and clear communication, which will be very helpful in their careers beyond university."

The films premiered in the Taliesin Theatre on Singleton Campus on Monday May 13 to an audience of 230 people, consisting of staff, students, and members of the public.

The reception afterwards gave the audience a chance to talk to the filmmakers and students involved in the project. Pictured are staff, students, filmmakers and audience members at the reception.



A weekend of events at Tafwyl Festival

Academi Hywel Teifi was once again proud to sponsor and offer a full programme of events at the Tafwyl Festival's Literature Pavilion over the weekend of June 22, 2019.

Tafwyl is Cardiff's annual Welsh language arts and culture festival which attracts over 40,000 visitors.

This year's Literature Pavilion programme included discussions and readings by some of Swansea University's foremost academics and writers and also from the Swansea Valley Reading Club, which meets at the Tŷ'r Gwrhyd Welsh Centre, Pontardawe which was established and is run by Academi Hywel Teifi.

Amongst the events presented by Academi Hywel Teifi this year was Awen Abertawe which gave festival visitors the opportunity to hear Chaired bard and Professor of Welsh Tudur Hallam (pictured below), winner of the Inter-College Eisteddfod Chair Grug Muse, and other

young poets of the Welsh Department present their poetry. Grug was also part of the Writers at Work project at the Hay Festival.

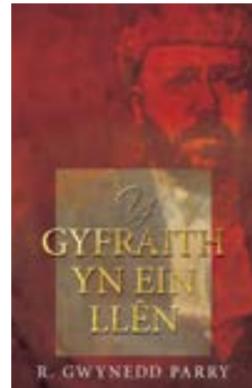
There was also a chance to hear a selection from Tudur Hallam's new volume of poetry *Parcio*, published by Barddas. Many of the poems were inspired by Tudur's experience of travelling to Trump's America in 2017, as he reflected on the racial tensions in the country and the similarity between minorities in the US and here in Wales. He also writes about his family and friends, and the joys and sorrows of life.

Professor Gwynedd Parry of the Department of Welsh discussed his new book *Y Gyfraith yn ein Llên* (*The Law in our Literature*), University of Wales Press, which traces the influence of the law on Welsh literature from the Early Middle Ages to the present day. Professor Parry discussed how the law, over the centuries, had stirred, inspired and enraged both

poets and writers.

Professor Martin Johnes from the Department of History discussed his new book and television series on Welsh history *Wales – England's Colony?* with Professor Daniel Williams, Director of the Richard Burton Centre for the Study of Wales. And there was also an opportunity to hear about Characters of the Swansea Valley – a selection of the works of valley writers with illustrations by the renowned Pontardawe artist Mike Jones, which appear in a volume edited by members of the Swansea Valley Reading Club.

Director Dr Gwenno Ffrancon said: "Academi Hywel Teifi is delighted to sponsor the Tafwyl Literature Pavilion for the fourth year running, and so continue to work in partnership with this special festival to promote the Welsh language and to share the work and talent of Swansea University's distinguished writers and scholars."



Pictured above: *Y Gyfraith yn ein Llên* by Professor Gwynedd Parry.
Left: Professor Tudur Hallam at Tafwyl Festival's Literature Pavilion.

• The educational strand of the Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize, DylanED, travelled to India in January 2019 and staged a series of workshops and talks as part of the British Council's 'Wales in Kolkata' season of Welsh arts activity and collaboration. Children aged 8-12 were inspired

to craft their own stories using some of Dylan Thomas' timeless works as the source of their inspiration. The Dylan Thomas Prize was also represented at the Zee Jaipur Literary festival with the 2018 winner, poet Kayo Chingonyi speaking at several events.



Thousands visit GwyddonLe pavilion

For the ninth year running, the University hosted the GwyddonLe science pavilion at the National Urdd Eisteddfod, the largest touring youth festival in Europe. The GwyddonLe, coordinated by Academi Hywel Teifi, was a huge success and attracted more than 100,000 visitors throughout the week.

The GwyddonLe provides children and young people with the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities from the world of science and technology under the leadership of Swansea University's scientists.

Amongst this year's activities, Swansea University launched its new research vessel, the RV Mary Anning. The vessel, moored in Cardiff Bay, was officially launched by Game of Thrones star, Iwan

Rheon. Visitors were also able to take a tour of the vessel with College of Science staff during the week.

A public speaking competition, Her Academi Morgan (Morgan Academy Challenge,) was held at the GwyddonLe on Friday June 1. The event was sponsored by the Morgan Academy in cooperation with the Department of Geography and Academi Hywel Teifi. The competition, which was launched in 2018, aims to give pupils the opportunity to display their debating and reasoning skills in addition to receiving feedback from the judges who are leading figures in the field of policy and politics, Jeremy Miles AM and Assistant Director of the Morgan Academy, Dr Aled Eirug.

The winner of the competition, winning

the Morgan Academy Scholarship of £250 and a Morgan Academy arranged work experience, was Thomas Kemp from Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg.

Other activities at the pavilion included the opportunity to code robots, ride a hydrogen bike, learn about plastic pollution and its impact on the environment, help professional astronomers to explore the wonders of the universe and much more.

Swansea University also worked in collaboration with external partners who added to the activity and excitement at the GwyddonLe, namely the Institute of Physics in Wales, WWF Cymru, See Science Ltd, Creadigidol, Finning Ltd, Astro Cymru, IBERS Aberystwyth University, and Mad Science.



• Mark Jones, from the Department of Adult Continuing Education, CREST manager Steve Williams, Lord Mayor David Phillips, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Martin Stringer, James Thomas, service provision manager for mental health services, Vanessa Knighton, occupational health and Nick Andrews, of the Wales School for Social Care Research at the launch.

Education at the heart of important boost to mental health services

Swansea University is playing a key role in a new initiative aimed at using the power of education to improve mental health services in the city.

Based at Community Recovery Education and Skills Training (CREST) in Cwmbwrla, the college aims to build up participants' self-esteem and confidence at the same time as their skills.

Mark Jones, academic lead for the University's Department of Adult Continuing Education (DACE), explained that people experiencing mental health can often be excluded from mainstream opportunities such as employment, education and training. This, in turn can lead to loneliness and worsening mental health and wellbeing.

He said: "Day centres and day opportunities have helped reduce some of these difficulties but are not enough to fully support those on their own."

Recovery colleges, which are increasingly being developed across the UK, are learning establishments which offer the possibility of change and transformation for people who want to rebuild their lives.

The aim of the new college is to support

individuals to live the life they want to lead and for them to become experts in their own self-care.

Manager of CREST Steve Williams, who opened the launch event, said: "This recovery college will provide the opportunity to transform people's lives in a positive and empowering way working with educators in partnership."

The University has collaborated on the project with Gower College Swansea and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David to offer further education engagement and learning opportunities designed to help not only with personal goals but also to act as a potential step to further education, higher education or employment.

DACE will look to develop a reading group, offer taster lectures and experiences of higher education, as well as a short module experience that meets the needs of students within the recovery college. Mark Jones added: "We want to use an educational approach to improve health and to complement support already offered by Swansea Council and Swansea Bay University Health Board."

To mark the college's development,

stakeholders attended a special launch event at Taliesin Arts Centre at the University's Singleton campus.

Endorsing the project, Lord Mayor of Swansea David Phillips said: "This will create an environment where people who have experienced mental health issues can feel safe, welcomed, accepted and able to reach their full potential – it is a much-needed and excellent project for Swansea."

Nick Andrews, of the Wales School for Social Care Research based at the University, described the development of the college as being in the true spirit of education as defined by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire – "the primary aim of which is to create a world in which it is easier to love."

Swansea University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Martin Stringer added that the University was proud to be involved in such an exciting and innovative project: "This is an important development for supporting those people experiencing mental health and removing the barriers to education."

The Swansea Recovery College will be opening its doors for an open day in the summer.

Exploring Swansea's vibrant writing scene: The Creative Writing Outreach Project

Over the years colleagues have come up with wonderful SPIN placements that have given students invaluable experience and the chance to develop their skills. This year has been no exception, with some students gaining marketing and events experience through working on the Being Human Festival in the first semester and others getting their teeth into various research projects this semester, including Professor David Turner's research into diversity within the current History curriculum, Dr Dion Curry's research into political trust and Professor Nuria Lorenzo-Dus' research into the extreme right's use of the internet, all of which we hope to cover in upcoming editions of the newsletter.

However, this time around the spotlight is on Associate Professor Francesca Rhydderch's unique Creative Writing Outreach Research Project.

The project was conceived by Francesca Rhydderch and I. Due to its nature, the Creative Writing MA not only tends to appeal to students coming straight out of their undergraduate degrees but to the more mature student who seeks to turn their lifelong passion for writing into something more tangible.

Therefore, one of the main areas the

project seeks to address is to discover how we can maximise our efforts to reach out to the writers in our community as much as we can to our current student body.

So, we've set Daniel Davies, Creative Writing MA student, the task of interviewing people from local writing groups, current students and lecturers to explore the topic further. After doing this initial research, Dan will turn his findings into a report that will help to inform future outreach and recruitment strategies.

Jade Hobby

Here are a few words from Dan (pictured), describing his experience so far:

"I didn't expect it to, but my time as a research assistant has been a very introspective experience so far. It's the first time I've had a job that's allowed me to sit down and plan what I have to do in a quiet, thoughtful manner.

"I'm learning more and more about how I work in an office environment, and about the way I work in general. To say the job has been exciting and worthwhile would be an understatement. I'm looking forward to starting writing the report on

the Creative Writing MA in the following months once all of my research is done."

"The other side of the job - writing tweets for the Creative Writing Twitter - is also its own rewarding experience. It's a wonderful feeling sharing events and opportunities for people in our own local writing circle, MA students or otherwise. Having people reply to the tweets really feels like a community is growing around us."



The Roy Knight Lecture, May 2019

This lecture commemorates Roy Knight who was Professor of French (later of Romance Studies) at Swansea University from 1950-74. He was one of the leading scholars in the field of French seventeenth-century tragic drama. He died in Swansea in 1999. The lectures alternate annually between French, Spanish, Italian and Comparative topics.

This year's lecturer was Stephen Hart (pictured), Professor of Latin American Studies and Pro-Vice-Provost at University College London. The lecture, entitled 'Re-greening the Americas' First Saint: Santa Rosa de Lima', outlined the 'ecological environment' of Santa Rosa's miracles.

The subject complemented the focus of the Centre for the Comparative Study of the Americas (CEPSAM) on 'Green Hispanisms'. The lecture was warmly received by an appreciative audience which included colleagues from both Cardiff universities.

Professor Hart, who has a long association with the Department of Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting, having acted as PhD external examiner and external assessor for Taught MA programmes, is one of the best known figures in Hispanism and is enthusiastic about future collaboration between Swansea and UCL, particularly in the Green Humanities.

Lloyd Davies



An outstanding result for staff and students

COAH has received its highest number of awards for Outstanding Contributions to Employability.

Debbie Marshall and Jade Hobby would like to congratulate all of this year's dedicated and talented winners (pictured right) - thank you for being a pleasure to work with!

A list of the awards is below.

Jo Berry and Stephen Harrison

Funded by HEFCW Enhancing Civic Mission and Community Engagement, Jo Berry and Stephen Harrison developed the Ancient World on Film project. Working with local organisations such as Swansea Prison, the project included innovative, embedded employability opportunities for 20 students, working on the production of four short films. A fantastic example of integrating high impact research and employability.

Nick Taylor-Collins

Nick has introduced a new module for English Literature at Swansea, the first of its kind anywhere, showing how employability can be embedded in a truly innovative way. Focused on hyper-contemporary literature longlisted on the International Dylan Thomas Prize, the module gives students access to literary agents, publishers, marketers, and prize judges, all the while reading and critiquing brand new literature. The module links up with the College's Cultural Institute, which creates a placement option for these students to extend the module experience still further.

Elaine Canning

Creating multiple fantastic placement opportunities for students to work on cultural initiatives that are externally facing and with national and international impact, such as the Being Human Festival and the International Dylan Thomas Prize, for which Elaine



Pictured: Nick Taylor Collins, Elaine Canning, Mac McMillan, Kate Murray, Helen Gray, Catherine Lloyd-Bennett, Lydia Hobbs, Jo Berry, Stephen Harrison, Alexia Bowler, Nathan Phillips

managed eight interns who worked on a variety of sites including the Guild Hall, local schools, the award ceremony itself and the Hay Festival.

Alexia Bowler

In 18 months Alexia has built a full programme of employability events for the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics in COAH. This includes visits from archivists, AI developers and the National Crime Agency, and opportunities for students to work with educational and health practitioners. Alexia's tenacity, friendliness, and insight has been key to engaging employment partners and students.

Mac Macmillan, Brittany Murphy, Nathan Phillips

This award is a big thank you to three students whose initiative and energy made COAH Employability Fair 2019 a great success. Mac and Brittany, as College reps, and Nathan, as a student volunteer, worked in partnership with the College to create an Employability event tailor made for COAH students. Based on this excellent work, Nathan is now on a SPIN placement with the Employability Team. Great work everyone!

Kate Murray

In true entrepreneurial style, Kate entered Swansea University's Big Pitch competition with only 24 hours' notice and was selected as a winner from a

highly competitive field, with a business idea that combines creative skills and academic knowledge to develop innovative educational material. To top it all, she has also found time to write her way on to the longlist for the New Welsh Writers Award!

Lydia Hobbs

Lydia Hobbs won a student award for her fantastic work in creating and promoting opportunities for Welsh.

Seren Global Media

Seren Global Media has been central to the success of Media Studies in the College of Arts and Humanities. Providing high quality internships that translate into jobs, sponsoring Excellence Awards for students and playing a key role in the department's industry panel, Seren's contribution is vital to our students. We look forward to continuing this highly valued partnership in the future.

Neath Port Talbot Hospital

Innovative collaborative project between Neath Port Talbot Hospital and Applied Linguistics that has given students the unique opportunity to observe health communication amongst practitioners and patients at their Rapid Diagnostic Centre and research and review how information is given to the patients through leaflets. Their resulting reports will have a tangible real-world impact as they will be used to inform all future communications at the practice.

Fair gives students an insight into the world of work

Following the success of the pilot, this year's Employability Fair returned with a bang. To try and get a sense of the experience of the fair from a student's perspective, we sent Nathan Phillips (3rd Year English Literature and Creative Writing and Employability Fair Volunteer) along to some of the talks. His report is below.

On Tuesday April 2 the College of Arts and Humanities successfully hosted its annual Employability Fair in the Taliesin Arts Centre. Students were able to talk one-to-one with over 20 different employers, including the BBC, Parliamentary Outreach and the International Dylan Thomas Prize, to find out about the many opportunities available to them after they graduate. Students were also able to attend presentations, question panels, workshops and a networking lunch with writers, business advisors and guests from the worlds of media, heritage, the Civil Service, and many more.

The Fair gives students the opportunity to ask questions and gain an insight into where their degree can take them after they graduate. It also gives them the chance to find out about the many placement and internship opportunities on offer, which will allow them to gain experience within the working world ready for when they leave university.

There were 12 different free events throughout the day that students were able to attend whilst also, of course, getting some free pizza. One of the first presentations of the morning was from Eddie Mathews from Parthian Books. Eddie explained the different aspects



of publishing within Parthian from the editing process to book marketing. When I caught up with Eddie after his talk, I asked him for some advice on how to begin a career in the publishing industry. He said: "Be enthusiastic about the publishing process and show a love for books, learn how to be adaptable and, finally, prove that you are someone worth trusting as you are being entrusted with an author's life's work."

For students who were interested in a career in politics there was plenty on offer, including a presentation from the Parliamentary Outreach team. They explained the different roles within a Select Committee and talked all about their fantastic graduate programme.

They were keen to point out, however, that if students want a career working for Parliament but are not interested in working within the Select Committee then there are still a variety of roles available including Social Media Officers, Tour Guides, Graphic Designers and Librarians.

Another big hit with students was the "Working for the University" panel, which allowed those with an interest in working for a University to gain an insight into what it's like behind the scenes. The panel included Classics lecturer, Stephen Harrison, who provided an insight into a career in academia and Director of Student Services, Kevin Child and Employability Officer, Debbie Marshall, who provided an insight into working in Professional Services. Some of their key pieces of advice were to network to find opportunities, secure a job to get your foot in the door and aim to work your way up, and always look for placements both in and out of the University environment.

The event finished off with talks from entrepreneurs and the media which also pulled in massive audiences.

Initial feedback has indicated that this year has been another roaring success and the team has already started planning to make next year even bigger and better to help provide students with the best start once they leave Swansea University.

Pictured: Nathan with his award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Employability' at this year's Swansea Employability Academy (SEA) Dinner

Ella Thomas, a second year Media and Communication Student, is taking part in a WoW placement as Social Media Assistant to Dr. Ersin Hussein, Department of Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology. Ella said:

"I have been responsible managing future contributions to the departmental blog *Hieroglyphs*, *Heroes*, and *Heretics* and I have worked closely with Ersin to create an official annual departmental newsletter. Duties have included emailing staff and students (current and alumni) for contributions to the newsletter's content and helping in the design and layout of the newsletter. The placement greatly helped me to develop

and implement marketing and PR skills that I had been taught on my course, such as managing social media platforms and designing layouts for public facing documents (e.g. leaflets). I have also developed valuable administration skills, such as time management.

As a result of my placement I am eligible to gain the SEA award, which will greatly enhance my career prospects after University. The amount of support received from Ersin has been amazing and has greatly enhanced my confidence and belief in my own capabilities. I would recommend undertaking a placement to all students who wish to improve upon their academic and personal skills.

Menna Elfyn and Fflur Dafydd were the featured artists at the Language Memories in Wales event at Volcano Theatre, Swansea, on Thursday, June 6. They delighted the audience with their live poetry and music in an inter-generational and inter-linguistic performance exchange.

Menna and Fflur also engaged in a question and answer session after their performance with the public and the organisers, Dr. Federico Lopez-Terra and Dr. María Fernández-Parra, both from the College of Arts and Humanities, Department of Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting.

The event was funded by the Language Acts and Worldmaking project by the AHRC and supported by Wales PEN Cymru.



Successful year ends on a high note

A very successful year for music at Swansea concluded on June 19 with a performance of A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms in the Great Hall. The choir comprised current students from across the University, members of staff, and alumni; the solo roles were performed by renowned singers Elin Manahan Thomas and Robert Davies, and the performance was conducted by Ian Rutt (Director of Music). This was a real milestone for the University, and a huge challenge – and our students deserve to be very proud of what they achieved.

Concerts earlier in the year included the annual Chancellor's Concert (March 20), which featured our music scholars as soloists, and the annual Student Showcase (April 6), featuring the Wind Band, Big Band, Choral Society and Show Choir. Earlier in March, the University's Orchestra performed with members of The Welsh Sinfonia in the Great Hall.

The annual musical production in Taliesin this year was Legally Blonde – an immensely challenging show which our performing arts societies pulled off with real style and skill. They were rewarded with great audiences, including a sell-out final show.



• Look out for more of the same in 2019/20. New initiatives are likely to include individual concerts by the University Wind Orchestra, Big Band, and University Chamber Choir, as these groups develop further. Our students work incredibly hard

to prepare these performances and really value the support of staff, so please come along and hear them next year. For more information, including opportunities to get involved, talk to Ian Rutt (i.c.rutt@swansea.ac.uk).