



University of Wales Trinity Saint David - News from the Carmarthen campus

Here's a selection of recent stories from the Carmarthen campus. All our latest stories are posted on the University's newsroom www.uwtسد.ac.uk/news and are shared on our social media channels – please follow us to keep up to date.

We are holding our annual Carmarthen reunion from **September 7th – 9th**.

If you're interested in attending, please complete the enclosed booking form or visit www.uwtسد.ac.uk/alumni

UWTSD ranked 7th in UK for 'Academic Experience'

UWTSD has claimed a top ten finish for 'Academic Experience' in the UK-wide Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018.

From the 116 British universities that were part of the survey, and behind only Harper Adams University, the University of Oxford, University of St Andrews, University of Cambridge, University of Chichester and the Royal Veterinary College, UWTSD was ranked 7th overall in the UK and 1st in Wales for 'Academic Experience'.

Within the 'Academic Experience' category, UWTSD scored extremely well with a 4th in the UK and 1st in Wales for 'tuition in small groups', joint 4th in the UK and 1st in Wales for 'Good personal relationship with teaching staff'; joint 6th in the UK for 'Helpful and Interested Staff' and joint 10th in the UK for 'High-quality staff / lectures' category. In addition, within the 'Student Welfare' category, UWTSD came joint 8th in the UK and 1st in Wales for 'good support/welfare'.

Dr Mirjam Plantinga, the University's Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience, said:

"In a survey of all major Universities in the UK, it's particularly pleasing to see us score so highly in the "Academic Experience" category. Staff at UWTSD work hard to make University life for our students enjoyable and fulfilling, so to be recognised in this way, based on student feedback, is excellent news. The students clearly respect and appreciate our academic staff and I'd like to thank and congratulate all the staff for their hard work."

This Trinity Girl Can!

Congratulations to UWTSD Carmarthen graduate and former president of Trinity Saint David's Students' Union (TSDSU), Gwyneth Sweatman on being elected as president of NUS Wales.

Gwyneth is currently NUS Wales Women's Officer, having been elected last year, and will continue to fulfil this role until she takes up her presidency in the new academic year.

Born in London and growing up in South Africa, Gwyneth moved to Carmarthen to attend UWTSD to study Psychology. During her time at TSDSU she launched several excellent campaigns, including the This Trinity Girl Can campaign, which tied into a national campaign that encouraged young women into sport. She also organised for groups of students from UWTSD to attend

national campaigns such as Reclaim the Night.

Gwyneth said:

"I'm very proud to be elected as NUS Wales President, representing all students in post 16 education in Wales. I'm also very proud to be a graduate of UWTSD, I feel my time in Carmarthen has prepared me for this incredible opportunity. The union in UWTSD is fantastic and I would encourage every student to get involved."



Congratulations Ceredig!

Huge congratulations to Ceredig Emanuel, Head of the School of Sport, Health and Outdoor Education who's been selected to captain the Wales Squash Masters team this year.

Having played squash regularly for clubs in Carmarthen and Llandeilo for years, Ceredig decided that he wanted to compete at a higher level and this year, entered to compete in the Bourse Welsh Masters Closed Championship. Ceredig went on to win the competition which meant that he was also given the honour of captaining the Wales Squash Masters teams in a series of events throughout the year.

"I was delighted to win the competition – especially as my main aim was to reach the semi-final," says Ceredig Emanuel.

"I was also honoured to be asked to captain the Welsh team and I'm now looking forward to selecting the squad and leading the team as we prepare to compete in a number of competitions."



Director of Canolfan S4C Yr Egin appointed



Carys Ifan has been appointed as Director of Canolfan S4C Yr Egin - the University's new creative and digital centre that will open in September.

Having worked in the creative industries for twenty years, Carys is an experienced Producer who has led as well as instigated a number of large-scale projects in the film, television and theatre industries. Carys has also worked on a range of digital and multi-media projects and was also instrumental in establishing a popular music festival.

Originally from St Dogmaels, Carys worked in the creative industries in Cardiff for many years before moving with her family to Llangrannog and continuing to work on a wide range of creative projects across Wales.

Most recently, Carys has played a leading role as the producer of some of Wales's most exciting events including curating the Y Bont multi-platform event for Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru in Abertystwyth – a project that was a combination of a live promenade drama, a social media event and a television production.

Carys also organises the Nôl a Mla'n festival in Llangrannog that this year celebrates its tenth anniversary and has become a well-established event in Wales' national music calendar. She has also worked internationally on the Literary Europe Live project with the Mercator Institute for Media, Languages and Culture.

"I'm extremely excited to have such a wonderful opportunity to lead on the work of Canolfan S4C Yr Egin and to develop a creative cluster and create an environment for ideas, companies and communities to develop and flourish," says Carys Ifan.

"The collaboration, communication and interaction between tenants, the community and the University will be key to developing experimental, relevant and ambitious content and to ensure that content from Wales not only benefits diverse audiences but also creates the opportunities needed to meet their needs - both at home and around the world," adds Carys.

Far From The Madding Crowd

More than thirty Performing Arts students from the BA Acting and BA Theatre Design and Production degree courses recently collaborated with award-winning director, Geinor Styles and musical director, Daniel Lloyd on their main house production, *Far From the Madding Crowd*.

Based on the popular and much-loved novel by Thomas Hardy and adapted by Mark Healy, the students' production told the story of Bathsheba Everdene using an ensemble staging and live folk music.

The production was directed by Geinor Styles, Artistic Director of Theatr na n'Og who recently won a Wales Theatre Award for the original musical *Eye of the Storm* – a show she wrote with the hugely successful singer songwriter, Amy Wadge.

"It was an excellent opportunity and experience to work with the students on *Far From the Madding Crowd*," says Geinor.

"As an Artistic Director of a theatre company based in Neath, it's great to see that we have so much talent on our doorstep."



It's also been a great way for the students to make connections and to network with people working in professional theatre companies.

"It's been great to see the students rise to the challenge of a main house production, with both passion and commitment and to also see how they've grown as performers," adds Geinor.

Working with theatre professionals is a key element of the Performing Arts courses taught at UWTSU with students being given the opportunity to be taught by highly regarded practitioners, ensuring that all graduates are industry-ready.

"It was been a wonderful learning process for both the BA Acting & BA Theatre Design and Production students to be involved in such a large-scale production," says Stacey-Jo Atkinson, Programme Director for BA Theatre Design & Production.

"The students have had the chance to work with two professional directors as well as a multitude of industry professionals to bring this show alive - it was a wonderful creative experience for all involved."

Carmarthen Business School hosts 'One Planet Living' lecture

UWTSU's Carmarthen Business School was delighted to host a special lecture recently by author and Journalist David Thorpe.

The talk looked in particular at the challenge of living within planetary boundaries and how Wales is dealing with these issues.

"I'd like to thank the Carmarthen Business School for the invitation - we had a positive and interesting discussion and it was wonderful to see that the students were so engaged with the topic," said David Thorpe.

"I believe we're on a crucial journey to discover whether One Planet Development can be applied at scale

and what it would be like. This is an exciting real-world experiment and I hope more people can get involved."

Programme Director for BA Business Management on UWTSU's Carmarthen Campus is Dr Louise Emanuel. She added:

"David is a valued author, journalist and inspirational speaker in the fields of 'one planet' living, low carbon energy and energy efficiency which are so important to us as a school and to the University as a whole. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students and guests to hear more about David's important work over the years and of course to offer their own views on the subject."