

BELONGING 2025

A magazine for alumni of **University of Wales Trinity Saint David** and predecessor institutions

Keeping up with Alumni

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Research:

bladder cancer link in bomb disposal veterans

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Student interview:

Adwaith's Gwenllian Anthony: *"As a musician, I feel part of a lineage."*

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Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Alumni
Y DRINDOD DEWI SANT · UWTS D

News and updates

from across our campuses
and from our alumni community

CROESO WELCOME

KEEP IN TOUCH

We'd love to hear from you, whether you've got feedback on this issue, a story to share, or just want to say hello.



alumni@uwtsd.ac.uk



www.uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni



UWTSD Alumni Network

We're delighted to bring you the latest edition of *Belonging* – your alumni magazine from University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD).

In these pages, we celebrate the experiences, milestones, and memories that continue to connect us all - wherever life has taken you since your time with us.

This issue brings you updates from across our campuses, glimpses into groundbreaking research, and stories that honour both tradition and transformation. From celebrating alumni successes to diving into our rich archives, we hope there's something here to make you smile, reminisce, or feel inspired.

Whether you graduated recently or many years ago, this magazine is your invitation to reconnect with a place and with people where you'll always belong.

So find a quiet moment, and enjoy catching up with the UWTSD community.

Happy reading!



Mared Anthony
Alumni Relations Officer

STAY CONNECTED

There are plenty of reasons to stay in touch with the University. Alumni can access:

- Career and entrepreneurial support
- Professional development opportunities
- Networking and reunion events
- Campus resources and facilities
- Exclusive discounts, including on postgraduate degrees

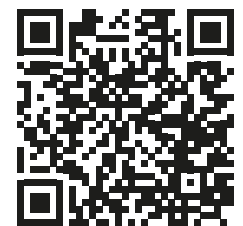
You can find the full list of alumni advantages - along with terms and conditions - at uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-advantages.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

We know life moves quickly, and it's easy to lose touch. That's why we're asking for a quick favour.

Take a moment to update your contact details, so we can stay connected and ensure you receive the latest alumni news and opportunities.

Scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone or tablet to update your details.



Or visit:

www.uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details

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LEND US YOUR SUPPORT

Our alumni are our greatest ambassadors. Your support and engagement plays a vital role in the success of this University in many ways. Your efforts can help potential students discover what makes UWTSD special, and greatly enhance the experience of our current students.

Here's how you can
lend us your support:

BECOME A MENTOR

Our new Mentoring Programme connects students with alumni to build confidence, explore career ideas, and gain real-world insight. Alumni mentors also benefit by developing their own communication and coaching skills - making it a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Your personal journey at UWTSD is unique and inspiring. With a testimonial about how your time here has shaped your career and personal growth, your story can provide current students with real-life examples of success, or could be the deciding factor for a prospective student considering their future.

RECOMMEND UWTSD

Do you know someone searching for the right university? Whether a friend, loved one or a neighbour is searching for their first degree or a qualification to enhance their career, why not recommend UWTSD to them. Your endorsement is invaluable, and your personal touch can make all the difference.



FIND OUT MORE

GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY

SHAPE THE FUTURE

The Graduate Outcomes Survey is an anonymous national survey that graduates are asked to complete 15 months after they've completed their programmes.

Completing the survey will make a difference to the next generation of students and will raise awareness of the University, our programmes and their relevance to employers.



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME



Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure to introduce this third edition of the University's alumni magazine, Belonging.

The title reflects the connection that I hope that you feel as members of our University community. It is a community that values its people and the impact that, together, we make to our society. The transformative power of higher education is never more evident than in the successes and achievements of those who have studied with us.

As alumni, your journey and ongoing connection serve as an inspiration to our current students. We always like to hear about your professional or personal journeys and the role that this University has played in your life, so please do get in touch with us to share your stories.

Belonging aims to celebrate our alumni's many successes and to provide you with news about the University. You will also find information about how you can share your knowledge and experiences and support our work. We would particularly like to invite you to participate in a new mentoring scheme.

Similarly, you will discover how we can continue to support you – whether you seek professional development, wish to collaborate with us, are starting your own business or simply wish to visit.

The University, like many others, faces financial pressures and uncertainties but we have faced these challenges as a University community and I am pleased to report that we are now in a stronger position. I am very grateful to so many of you for your continued support as we have sought to secure the financial sustainability of the institution and to safeguard the student experience, which once again has been recognised as sector-leading.

I am delighted to let you know that the University has performed extremely well in national league tables this year. Being named University of the Year for Teaching Quality 2026 by the Times and Sunday Times, and being ranked 1st in Wales and 2nd in the UK in The Times' analysis of the 2025 National Student Survey, is an incredible achievement that truly reflects the dedication and passion of our staff.

The transfer of the Humanities portfolio from Lampeter to Carmarthen was a difficult but necessary decision that we had to take in order to enable the disciplines to flourish in an environment that would better support them. I am pleased to report that we have seen a small, but encouraging, increase in the number of students joining those programmes this year. We have always been clear that the University is committed to the future of the Lampeter campus and we are now working with partners, including the local community, to ensure a sustainable and vibrant future for the campus.

We have also relocated the Swansea Business campus to the SA1 Swansea Waterfront campus as part of our strategy to enhance the student experience and improve facilities and services. The development of SA1 Swansea Waterfront includes the Innovation Matrix, a state-of-the-art building and eco-system focused on digital innovation where businesses can co-locate and collaborate with the University. The building is fully occupied but, as you will read, there are opportunities for you, as our alumni, to be part of this community, so please do get in touch.

I hope that you will enjoy reading our magazine.

With best wishes.

Professor Elwen Evans, KC
Vice-Chancellor

KEEPING UP WITH ALUMNI

We're always thrilled to hear from our alumni and celebrate your successes. Over the past year, you've shared stories of personal achievements, professional milestones, and bold new ventures.

Together, your experiences highlight the amazing variety of work happening and the incredible accomplishments across our community.

Take a look at some of the incredible stories you've shared with us.



OLIVER RYE DESIGNS SUPERYACHT TENDERS

Just one year on after graduating from BA Automotive and Transport Design, Oliver is working as a Design Draughtsman at Cockwells in Cornwall, creating bespoke superyacht tenders – including impressive projects for the Four Seasons and their luxury cruise line. He made a return to UWTSD to share advice and industry insight, and was pleased to see a yacht among the students' projects.





KATRINA SEATON HAS LAUNCHED HER CAREER BEHIND THE CAMERA

Katrina Seaton, a BA Filmmaking graduate of 2022 had the opportunity to work as a crew member on Havoc, the Netflix production starring actor Tom Hardy, as well as Welsh indie horror, The Mill Killers, both of which were filmed primarily in Wales. After gaining hands-on experience as a student, she's now working in post-production and developing her own short film and documentary projects.

KEN PEARCE DISCUSSES INNOVATION AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

2020 Product Design graduate, Ken was invited by Universities UK to the Chancellor's Reception at the House of Lords to celebrate the role of universities in driving innovation. Representing UWTSD, he shared his entrepreneurial journey and highlighted the university's support in launching his 3D printing business, Lunia 3D.



MARIA D'ANGELO IS CHAMPIONING OUTDOOR LEARNING

An Early Years and PGCE graduate, Maria is transforming education through her forest school, Ffrindiau'r Goedwig – Friends of the Forest. Based in Brynamman, this bilingual outdoor education service offers woodland sessions and a mobile programme bringing forest school experiences to schools across south Wales. Combining her studies with entrepreneurship, Maria fosters creativity, confidence, and environmental awareness by taking learning outdoors and engaging children in hands-on, nature-based activities.





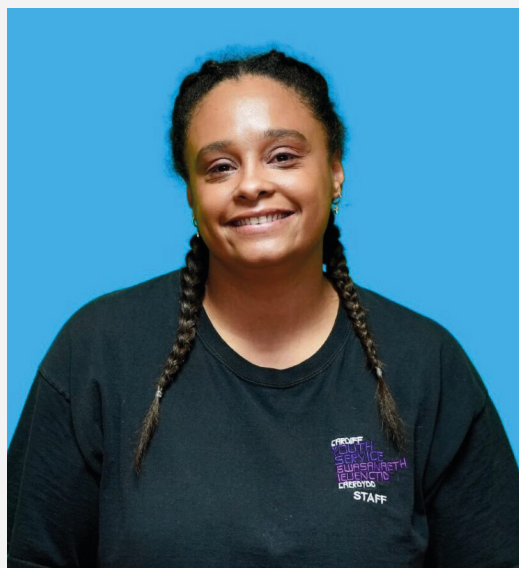
ANN DAVIES AND STEVE WITHERDEN ARE REPRESENTING WALES IN WESTMINSTER



Elected in July 2024, graduates Ann Davies, MP and Steve Witherden, MP are taking values shaped at university into Parliament - Ann for Caerfyrddin and Steve for Montgomeryshire and Glyndŵr. Both overcame personal challenges and credit UWTSD's supportive and flexible learning environment for building their confidence and resilience. Despite their national roles, they remain deeply grounded in their Welsh roots, bringing lessons from their communities to their work in Westminster.

NAKITA SWEETLAND IS EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARDIFF

With degrees in Early Years and Youth Work, Nakita moved from childcare into her role as a Youth Support Worker at Cardiff Youth Service. Driven by a passion for helping young people navigate challenges, she builds their confidence and resilience, helping her grow and become the trusted presence she once wished for at their age.



JAMES OWEN IS GROWING HIS BUSINESS WITH UWTSD TALENT



Joseph Morris

Since graduating in Filmmaking in 2021, James has built Stori Cymru into an award-winning bilingual production company. Now, with fellow UWTSD graduate Joseph Morris joining as Creative Lead, the business is expanding its services and investing in local talent. Rooted in community and language, James continues to champion Wales's creative potential while inspiring the next generation.

Do you have news or a story to share?

We'd love to feature you
in our Alumni Newsroom,
digital newsletter and a
future issue of *Belonging*.

Get in touch!



Joseph Morris, Dr Brett Aggersberg, lecturer and James Owen

BLADDER CANCER LINK IN BOMB DISPOSAL VETERANS

A study led by UWTSO has revealed a disproportionately high rate of bladder cancer among former British Army bomb disposal veterans.

In collaboration with the University of Birmingham, King's College London, University of Glasgow, and South Wales NHS Trust, researchers surveyed 688 of 2,300 veterans who served in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) roles since 1970. They found that, among those under 70, bladder cancer rates were up to five times higher than in the general population.

The project was initiated by Dr Gareth Collett, CBE, Executive Director at UWTSO's Wales Institute for Science and Art (WISA) and former Head of UK Bomb Disposal. Diagnosed with

bladder cancer at 56, Dr Collett later discovered many colleagues had similar experiences, prompting him to join forces with urologists, epidemiologists, and scientists to investigate further.

The study identified a correlation between bladder cancer and exposure to munitions containing nitro-explosives such as TNT and their combustion products. While chemical exposure is known to increase cancer risk in industries such as tyre and chemical manufacturing, this is the first study linking it to EOD service.

Since the research began, two more veterans have been diagnosed, underscoring the urgent need for better screening and preventative measures. Service charities have already shared guidance on early detection, potentially enabling earlier diagnoses and saving lives.

The findings have been published in BJU International and presented at the European Association of Urology's annual congress in Madrid. The research

team is now calling for further studies to confirm the results and to guide policy changes aimed at safeguarding the health of serving and retired bomb disposal officers.

The paper can be viewed here:



“Bomb disposal is epitomised by the ‘Lonely Walk’ towards unpredictable explosives. This research suggests that those who have hung up their bomb suits may have one further lonely walk to take long after their service is over.

Let’s make sure we have the support mechanisms in place to assist those who have given so much to their country.”

DR GARETH COLLETT
FORMER BRIGADIER

Dr Gareth Collett CBE is a former counter-terrorist bomb disposal specialist with a Doctorate in Defence and Security. Appointed CBE in 2013, he led UK bomb disposal through key operations in Afghanistan and the London 2012 Olympics. In 2025 he received the Institute of Explosive Engineers’ President’s Prize for contributions to humanity, industry, and science. Now a Senior Lecturer at UWTSD, he teaches on high-risk environments and explosive ordnance. His current PhD research on chemical precursor regulation has been adopted by the UN.

LAUNCH OF THE INNOVATION MATRIX: A HUB FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE

The University has opened the Innovation Matrix, a state-of-the-art, 2,200 sq. m centre located in the heart of Swansea's SA1 Waterfront.



Designed to fuel digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and cross-sector collaboration, this dynamic new facility is nestled alongside UWTSD's existing IQ and Y Fforwm buildings.

It has quickly established itself as a centre of activity for forward-thinking businesses, attracting a number of companies that not only have access to high-quality office space but also to the University's research expertise, academic networks, and collaborative opportunities.

The building is the result of a strategic partnership between the University and the Swansea Bay City Deal. It represents a £6 million investment in the region's economic future and was delivered by Kier Construction, which secured contracts for several Wales-based businesses during the build.

The launch event was attended by representatives of the Welsh and UK governments, civic leaders, and industry partners, who praised the facility as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and innovation across high-tech industries.

With full occupancy within the building, tenants reflect a wide range of industries - from medical technology and language services to digital solutions and offshore energy. They include:

- **Kaydiar Medical** –
Pioneering orthotic technology for wound prevention
- **BroadReach Integrity** –
Specialists in corrosion detection scanners
- **Rockfield** –
Developers of advanced simulation systems for industrial use
- **ATiC** –
Health tech prototyping through cutting-edge usability testing
- **Gŵyr Films** –
A not-for-profit celebrating Welsh storytelling
- **Wolfestone** –
Global language service providers
- **Purus** –
Maritime services focused on clean energy support
- **Visit Digital** –
coding and digital marketing
- **S8080** –
Design and developing secure, user-centric digital services and websites for the public sector.
- **IDNS** –
Design, integration and implementation of AV for the education sector.
- **Shipmax** –
solving shipping, IT, and warehouse related issues for e-commerce sellers, brands, parcel carriers, freight forwarders, and 3PLs.
- **Smiljan** –
An engineering company specialising in Hydrogen and EV.
- **Ballington Hall Group** –
Medical innovation

FREE HOT-DESKING SPACE FOR ALUMNI

Following the exciting opening of the Innovation Matrix, we're pleased to offer alumni 6 months of free hot-desking at this building.

Work in a vibrant, professional environment with access to high-speed Wi-Fi, a parking permit, communal tea station, and meeting rooms, including conference and pod spaces.

Contact: im@uwtسد.ac.uk

"The opening of this new building marks a significant step in digital innovation, providing a unique opportunity to collaborate, co-locate, and thrive in a high-quality space designed for partnership working. By bringing together industry and education, we are fostering an environment where cutting-edge ideas can develop, talent can flourish, and innovation can drive economic growth."

Professor Elwen Evans, KC,
Vice-Chancellor

MINIMOVERS: AN APP THAT SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Worldwide, concerns are growing around declining motor skills in young children.

Research shows over 70% experience delays, and in Wales, 88% of 3-year-olds have poor motor skills - many starting school without the physical foundation needed for learning, confidence, and health.

In response, UWTSD's Physical Literacy team, working with global motor development expert Professor Jackie Goodway (The Ohio State University) and creative tech partner Matt Bond (Popex), has created MiniMovers - a digital app designed to help families reverse this trend.

Drawing on over 30 years of research, MiniMovers provides quick, developmentally appropriate activities that parents can do with their children in just five minutes a day at home or in the community. A unique algorithm tailors each activity to the child's developmental stage, ensuring personalised support. The app is fully bilingual (Welsh and English) and is being translated into German and French, reflecting UWTSD's ambition for global reach.

MiniMovers complements UWTSD's wider efforts such as SKIP Cymru, which trains teachers, health professionals, and coaches to support motor skill development. While that programme focuses on schools, the app fills a crucial gap by equipping families before children even begin their education.

A pilot study has shown promising results, and a PhD study is now underway to explore family experiences and further refine the app's features.

At a time when sedentary lifestyles and screen use threaten children's wellbeing, UWTSD is harnessing digital innovation to champion children's wellbeing and set a new standard for early years support.

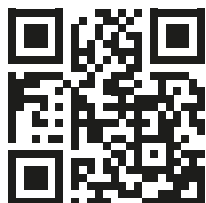




“Parents often don’t realise how modern life affects their children’s development. Young children need high-quality play and guidance to build the skills for a healthy, active life. MiniMovers gives parents simple, evidence-based tools to make a difference from birth.”

DR NALDA WAINWRIGHT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
CO-FOUNDER OF MINIMOVERS

**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT THE APP**



Dr Nalda Wainwright is an internationally recognised expert in early childhood physical development, physical literacy, and outdoor learning. She is Principal Lecturer and Director of the Wales Academy for Health and Physical Literacy at UWTSU. Her research helps professionals improve children’s wellbeing, and she serves as professorial adviser for Health and Wellbeing in the new Welsh Curriculum. A former primary teacher and national education adviser, Nalda is also an active living advocate who enjoys triathlons, sea swimming, and paddleboarding in Pembrokeshire.

SERVING UP SUCCESS AS YOUNG WAITER WALES 2025

Arwen Garland has been crowned Wales Young Waiter of the Year 2025 at the prestigious Young Chef Young Waiter Young Mixologist Wales competition, held at Swansea.com Stadium.

The 19-year-old from Swansea impressed the judges with her professionalism, skills, and passion for hospitality.

Arwen's journey began at the same venue on her 16th birthday, assisting at a three-course dining experience during an Elton John concert.

She has since gained experience across events, conferences, and matchday hospitality, and now works as a bar supervisor while studying Events and International Festivals Management at UWTSD.

Her course has given her extensive hands-on experience, including helping deliver the ITT Annual Conference and attending the World Travel Market in London.

The event, hosted and supported by UWTSD with backing from industry partners, also emphasised sustainability, with surplus produce donated to Matthew's House, a hospitality and hope centre in Swansea.

Arwen now looks forward to representing Wales at the World Finals in London, February 2026.



SHAPING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE AT WORLDSKILLS 2025

The University is proud to play a central role in the WorldSkills UK National Finals 2025, an event that showcases some of the brightest emerging talent from across the country.

WorldSkills competitions test talent under real-world conditions and provide students with hands-on experience that builds confidence, problem-solving, and resilience, while bridging academic study with industry practice.

Through the University's close partnerships with employers and initiatives like the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Academy, our students gain practical skills, industry insight, and career-focused experience that prepare them for success in highly competitive sectors.

This year, four UWTSD students and apprentices are among the finalists, demonstrating the quality of training and support the University provides.

As an official host venue, the University's Swansea Waterfront campus welcomes competitors, judges, industry experts, and visitors from across the UK for the finals in November 2025.

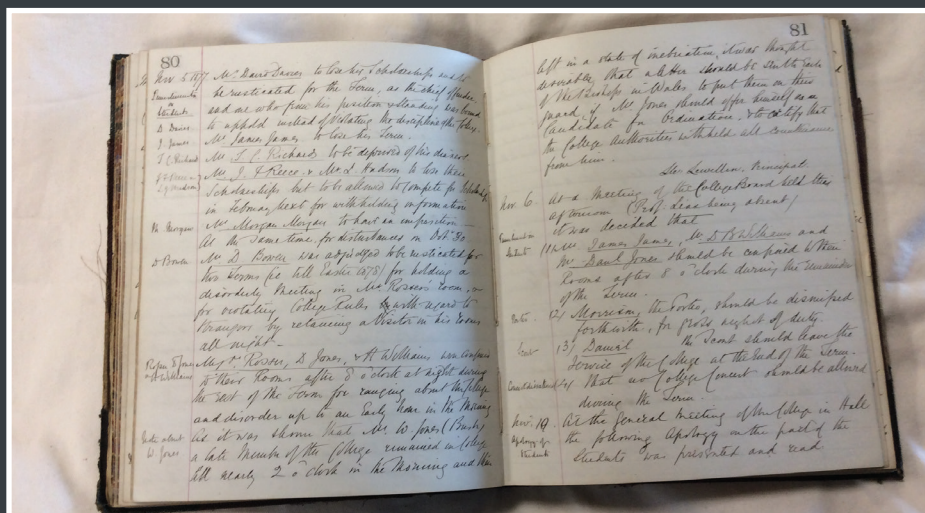
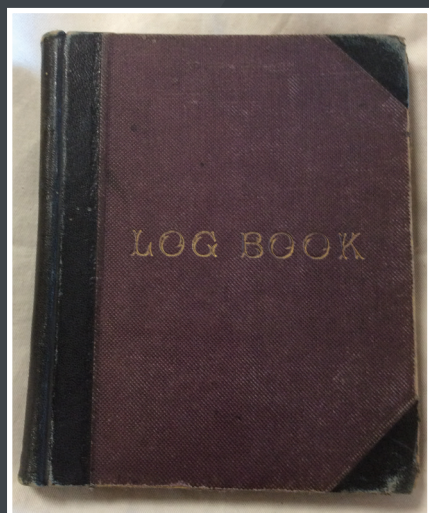
Hosting the event allows UWTSD to showcase its facilities, strengthen industry links, and highlight how practical, employer-informed teaching equips students to meet the demands of modern workplaces.



Read more about WorldSkills UK and the University's part in driving industry collaboration and employability.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

DIGITISED MINUTE BOOK OF ST DAVID'S COLLEGE



UWTSD's Special Collections and Archives is pleased to announce the digitisation of the St David's College Minute Book (1875–1886), now accessible via the library catalogue.

This was made possible through the Crowd Cymru Digital Archives Volunteer Project, funded by the Welsh Government.

The Minute Book captures a pivotal era in the college's history, spanning the final years of long-serving Principal Llewelyn Lewellin and the dynamic leadership of his successor, Francis John Jayne.

Described as the college's 'second founder', Jayne spearheaded major developments, including new buildings, academic reforms, and ties with Oxford and Cambridge.

Alongside historic milestones, the book also records everyday moments - from new teaching appointments to the formation of a student committee tasked with monitoring the quality of the college meals.

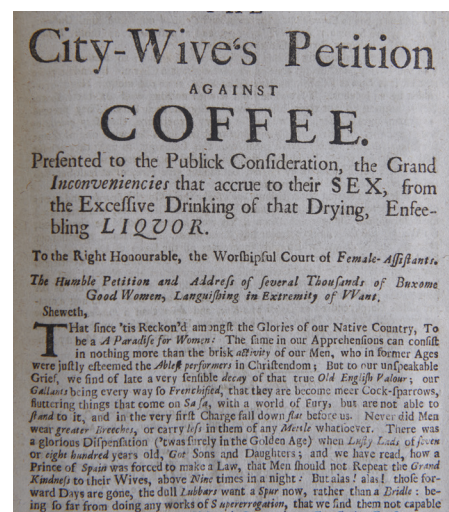
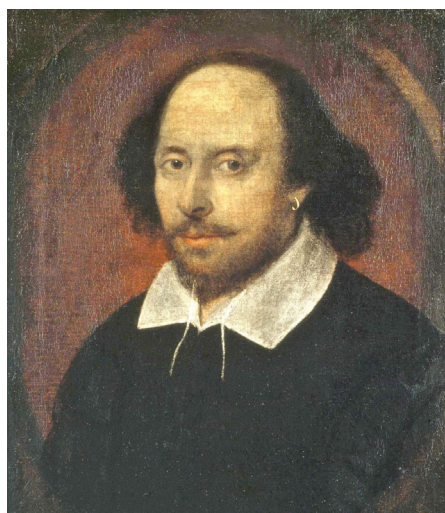
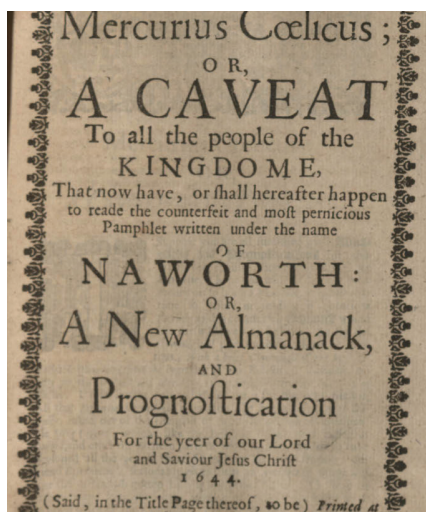
Explore the digitised Minute Book here:



Were you a part of these reunions?

We'd love to hear from any former students of Swansea Training College- did you attend any of these gatherings? Or perhaps you and your classmates still hold your own reunions today? Get in touch and share your memories!

BOWDLER'S LEGACY: MORE THAN CENSORSHIP



Dr Thomas Bowdler's name entered the English language through the verb 'to bowdlerize' - derived from his expurgated edition of Shakespeare created with his sister Henrietta, aimed at making the plays suitable for family reading.

But on the 200th anniversary of his death, it's worth remembering another side of his legacy - a significant literary donation to St David's College, Lampeter that preserved a treasure trove of early modern life in all its unfiltered variety.

The family's collection of over 9,000 tracts and pamphlets likely arrived at Lampeter before its 1827 opening, donated by Bowdler in response to a library appeal. Compiled by three generations of Bowdlers from 1638 to 1785, these ephemeral publications - ranging from sermons to satire - offer a vivid window into the concerns and curiosities of early modern Britain.

Among the highlights are early British newspapers from the 1640s Civil Wars and 17th century almanacks combining astrology with agriculture. Topics range from conspiracy theories like the baby in the warming pan, to witchcraft, the South Sea Bubble, and the Jacobite rebellions. Jonathan Swift's April Fools' joke declared a famous astrologer dead - so convincingly, he struggled to prove otherwise.

Far from sanitised, this archive reveals the unfiltered vibrancy of the era, offering a lasting and unexpected legacy from a man best remembered for tidying up literature.

ECHOES FROM THE SWAN

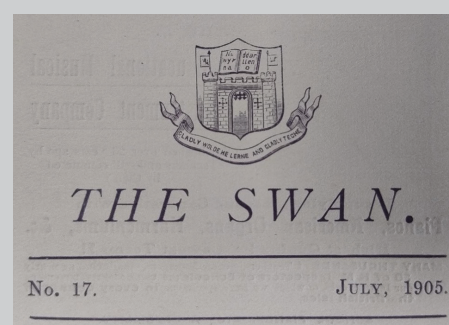
Long before emails and social media, Swansea Training College nurtured a strong and spirited alumni community - one that gathered faithfully every June for its much-anticipated annual reunion.

These events were no small affair. Former students travelled from across Wales and cities like London, Bristol,

Birmingham, and even Scarborough to reconnect with old friends and relive their college days. Many returning alumni stayed right on campus, taking over the rooms of current students who left for the summer holidays. It's a wonderful testament to the sense of community fostered at the College that so many made the effort to come back year after year.

A highlight of the reunion weekend was the annual student production, staged by the Junior Students. According to the July 1905 edition of The Swan - the College's

own newsletter - that year's performance was W.S. Gilbert's The Palace of Truth, and it was noted that "the audience thoroughly enjoyed" the show.



ALUMNI AUTHORS

From picture books to academic research, our alumni continue to make their mark through the written word. This issue highlights graduates who have turned their passion into publication - authors whose work reflects the creativity and curiosity thriving across our alumni community.



OCEAN HUGHES

BA ILLUSTRATION, 2019

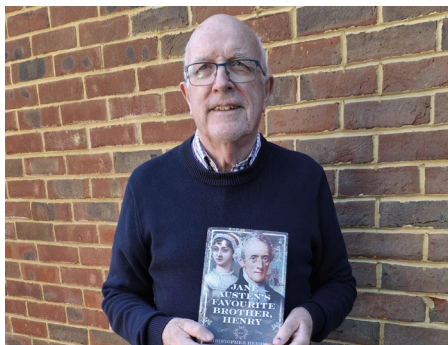
Ocean Hughes is a children's author and illustrator whose debut book *Archie, My Dinosaur Friend*, published by Jellycat, brings a playful and heartfelt imagination to life. A freelance success and passionate creative, Ocean recently returned to UWTSD to inspire current Illustration students, sharing how her childhood dreams turned into a flourishing artistic career.



LIANNE POTTER

MA ENGAGED ANTHROPOLOGY, 2017

Lianne Potter contributes her expertise to *mTech Anthropology: Careers at the Frontier*, a thought-provoking publication exploring the intersection of technology and anthropology. Her work helps illuminate new career paths where human insight meets digital innovation. As a cyber-anthropologist and ethical technologist, Lianne's unique perspective is shaping conversations at the cutting edge of tech and society.



CHRISTOPHER HERBERT

BA BIBLICAL STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY, 1965

Jane Austen's Favourite Brother, Henry, recently published by Pen and Sword, is Christopher Herbert's captivating portrait of the most enigmatic Austen sibling. The book has already received glowing reviews, described as "a fascinating and compelling read" and "a refined, insightful addition" to Austen scholarship. Christopher offers fresh insight into the family behind one of literature's most celebrated authors.



PETER ROBERTS

BA HISTORY, 1994

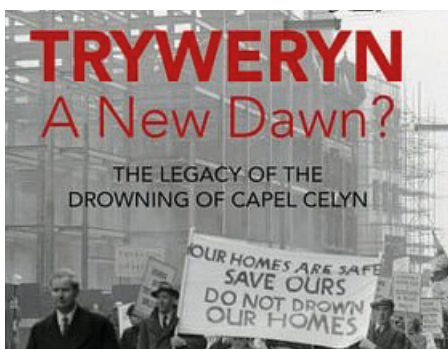
Author of *Park Life* and *Pub Life*, Peter Roberts brings the spirit of the Rhondda Valleys to the page, chronicling community life through Sunday League football and local pubs. A lifelong resident and grassroots footballer, Peter captures the humour, grit, and warmth of a region he knows intimately, both on and off the pitch.



SHARON TREGENZA

MA CREATIVE WRITING, 2007

Sharon Tregenza is an award-winning children's author whose imaginative stories captivate young readers. Known for blending adventure and mystery, her books have garnered accolades and a loyal following. Sharon's work continues to enchant audiences and affirm the power of storytelling in sparking curiosity and wonder in children.



WYN THOMAS

BA WELSH HISTORY, 2001

Historian and author Dr Wyn Thomas explores one of Wales' most contentious episodes in *Tryweryn: A New Dawn?* The book reexamines the 1960s flooding of Cwm Tryweryn to supply water to Liverpool, a flashpoint in Welsh history. Also a musician, Wyn brings a nuanced and passionate voice to national memory and identity.



KARL JAMES MOUNTFORD

BA ILLUSTRATION, 2013

Karl James Mountford is a celebrated illustrator and picture book creator based in Wales. Known for *The Circles in the Sky* and *A Voice in the Storm*, Karl's distinctive style combines emotional depth with striking visuals. His work enchants readers of all ages, earning acclaim for both its artistry and storytelling power. His latest project is a Welsh book of Christmas poems, further showcasing his creative range.



PETER DONNELLY

MA CREATIVE WRITING, 2006

Author and poet Peter Donnelly has been widely published in literary magazines and anthologies, and has been recognised at poetry festival competitions. Influenced by his studies at Lampeter, his work has been praised for its sensitivity and precision of detail. His latest collection, *Bloom and Grow* explores memory and family, drawing inspiration from the landscapes of Yorkshire and Wales.

A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

From bold performances to striking exhibitions, our students across the Swansea, Carmarthen, and Cardiff campuses brought creativity to life in their end-of-year showcases. With imagination, skill, and passion, they transformed studios, stages, and gallery spaces into vibrant celebrations of artistic expression.

Swansea College of Art students unveil their creative journeys in their striking end of year degree shows bursting with innovation and vision.



Carmarthen's BA Acting and BA Set Design & Production students took centre stage with compelling performances and striking designs - ending the year on a high.



Wales Academy of Voice and Dramatic Arts (WAVDA) students in Cardiff delivered show-stopping performances across vocal music, musical theatre, commercial dance, and acting - showcasing their versatility, energy, and professional polish.



GWENLLIAN ANTHONY: DIGGING INTO THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE



Archaeology student, Gwenllian Anthony is one-third of Welsh band Adwaith who have had a landmark of a year.

They made history as the first Welsh-language act to record a BBC Radio 1 Future Artists session at Maida Vale and to perform in Welsh on BBC Woman's Hour. Named the most influential Welsh-language act of the past decade, their track "ETO" was crowned song of the decade at the Sound of Miwsig Awards, presented live on The One Show. Their latest album Solas has earned acclaim from The Guardian and the BBC - all while Gwenllian juggled study with life on tour.

With Adwaith now on a break, she plans to focus on solo projects - an exploration of identity and creativity that, like her archaeology studies, digs into the past to shape what comes next.

Touring with Adwaith while studying archaeology must have been quite a contrast. What drew you to archaeology, and have you found any unexpected connections between your studies and your music?

I've always loved history, but archaeology felt more hands-on and creative, like piecing together a story through evidence and artefacts. I first applied to study straight after school but didn't get the grades for my first-choice university, and another course at a different university didn't feel right either. After some years out, I found a flexible part-time course at UWTSO that was close to home, fit around the band, and brought me back to what I really loved.

Music and archaeology actually have a lot in common. Music has been part of human life for thousands of years, and as a musician I feel connected to that lineage, much like archaeology connects us to the past. I'm hoping to explore this further while travelling, looking at how music ties into history, identity, and the stories we pass down through generations.

Balancing fieldwork, lectures, and live gigs must be intense. What's your approach to managing the demands of academic life while being in a high-profile band?

It's definitely a juggling act! I try to stay flexible and focus on what's most important or interesting at any given time. When I'm away on tour and miss lectures, I catch up wherever I can, sometimes from hotel rooms going through recordings and readings. I also pick essay questions strategically, diving deep into one topic rather than trying to cover everything, which helps me manage the workload without getting overwhelmed.

Being honest with my lecturers from the start has made a huge difference. They've been really supportive, and I know I can reach out if I ever feel behind. As a part-time student, it can feel like "one foot in, one foot out," especially when I'm away for months at a time, but I've still been able to keep up and achieve strong results. It's all about staying organised, prioritising, and being adaptable.

Adwaith's music often explores identity, language, and place. How has studying archaeology influenced the way you think about these themes - particularly the Welsh language - and what does speaking and performing in Welsh mean to you personally?

Archaeology has made me reflect more on how Welsh language and culture have shaped me. Growing up speaking Welsh felt normal, but seeing how other cultures form identity gave me a new perspective. Playing at a minority languages festival in Italy was eye-opening as many people there didn't have the same rights or visibility for their languages. It made me realise how lucky we are and inspired me to explore these themes more deeply in both life and music.

Welsh is a huge part of who I am. I'm proud to use it creatively in a modern way and show it's a living language. We've played sold-out shows in places like Cambridge and Amsterdam where people hear Welsh music for the first time and still connect with it. For Adwaith, and me personally, it's about proving you can be creative and successful without switching to English - and if it helps pave the way for other Welsh artists, it's worth it.

2025 has been a huge year for Adwaith. What has stood out most, and what are you proudest of?

The BBC Radio 1 Maida Vale session was huge! It was emotional, and even the presenter, Sian Eleri teared up in the studio. No Welsh-language act had done that before, so it really felt like a milestone for all of us. I'm also proud of releasing our double album, Solas and touring it. We worked on it for so long, and playing sold-out shows across the UK and Europe felt surreal, especially thinking back to when we played half-empty rooms.

Writing the BBC Radio Cymru anthem for the UEFA Women's Euro 2025 was a wild and powerful experience too. We wanted "Aros Am Y Chwiban" to be bold and empowering, something that really captured the energy of the moment and celebrated the success of the Welsh

women's team getting in to the Euros. It was a totally different kind of project, but one that meant a lot.

Everything we've done this year has been about showing what's possible in our own language, on our own terms.

Now that Adwaith is on pause, how are you approaching this next chapter? What new projects or experiences are you looking forward to?

With the band taking a break, I'm excited to explore something completely new on my own. I've never written an album solo before, so it's both exciting and a little daunting - everything will be my own creative vision. It's a chance to try new things, take some risks, and see where my ideas lead, whether in music, my studies, or life more broadly.

I'm also very much looking forward to immersing myself more in my course and in university life. It's been very much one foot in, one foot out for the last couple of years, but this break is a great opportunity to really throw myself into my academic studies. I'm excited to learn more, to develop my archaeological skills, and to find my niche.

Alongside that, I'm planning some travelling, which I hope will inspire me creatively and personally. After such a busy few years with Adwaith, this feels like the perfect moment to pause, reflect, and experiment with new directions. Honestly, I'm just open to seeing where life takes me and following whatever feels right, it's an exciting space to be in.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SHAPING LEISURE & TOURISM LEADERS

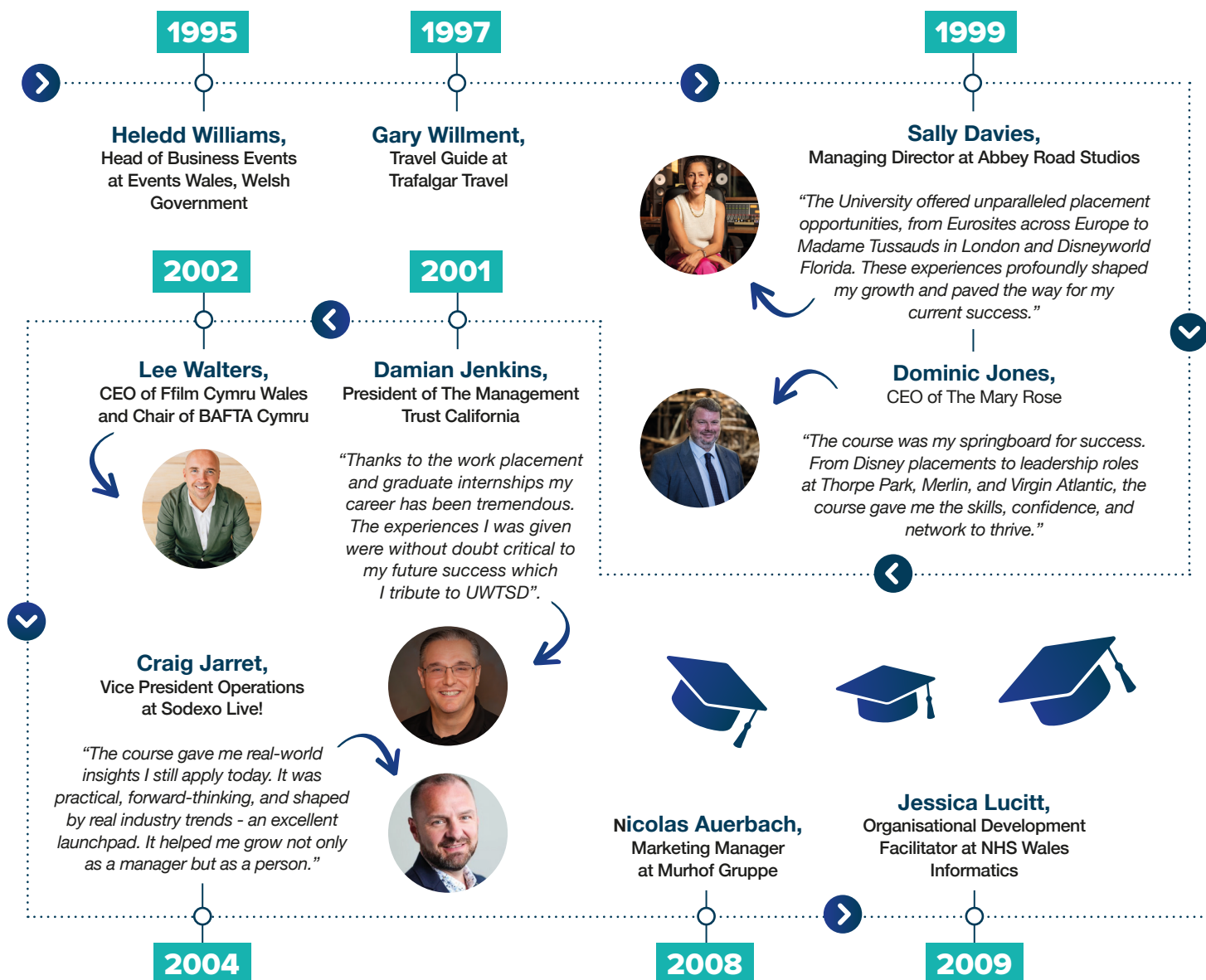
This year marks a milestone for the University as we celebrate 30 years since the first cohort of Leisure and Tourism degree graduates entered the industry.

Launched in 1992, with its first graduates in 1995, the programme has since expanded into the fields of Events and Festivals, becoming nationally respected centres of innovation.

Thirty years on, graduates continue to thrive in an ever-changing global industry, building successful careers not only in these areas, but also in hospitality, marketing, the creative industries, and beyond – showcasing the versatility of the programmes.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Here's a timeline celebrating the journeys of our alumni over 30 years and the diverse career paths they've pursued.



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM MORE OF OUR GRADUATES!

GET IN TOUCH AND LET US KNOW WHERE YOUR COURSE HAS TAKEN YOU.



Laura Farrell,

Outdoor Instructor for P&O Cruises

"My studies reinforced how impactful events can be in shaping people's experience. Through opportunities on my course, I'm now in my dream role!"



Mel Bourke,

Business Development Manager
at Swansea.com Stadium

"The countless opportunities that I was provided with at UWTSD have undoubtedly shaped not only my career within events but enriched me as a person."



Ethan Scriven,

Grants & Admin Coordinator at ABTA

"My aim for the course was to build confidence, understand the industry, and most of all, become a better version of myself. This is just the start of my journey. I'm excited to see where the road takes me."

2022

2023

2025



Arnold Matsena,

Freelance Director, Performer,
Producer and Art Curator

"I am proud to be an alum. I came to UWTSD with hopes and dreams. Now as a graduate, I can honestly say I use all the skills and tools I acquired from the course every day. I am truly grateful for my experience."

Obaidah Sbeitan,

Founder of Beseen Events
and Marketing

Kirsty Smith,

Senior Destinations Manager
at Celebrity Cruises

2020

2019

2017



Aggie Grover,

Global Senior Talent
Acquisition Partner at TUI

"My course gave me more than academic knowledge - it shaped my perspective on global cultures, customer experience, and the value of people. These insights have guided my career, helping me grow into my role."



Kevin Hughes,

Director of Hotel Operations at
Historic House Hotels & Hartwell
House Hotel & Spa

"UWTSD gave me the foundation, confidence, and invaluable work placements to build a career in 5-star hotels across Ireland, the USA, and London."



Matthew Salleh-Matta Millar,

Airports and Tourism Organisations
Senior Exec at Jet2holidays

Georgi Godding,

Brand Partnership Exec
at Confused.com

2011

2012

2015

SHAPING INDUSTRY-READY GRADUATES

A PROUD LEGACY

At the heart of our Tourism, Events, and Festivals programmes is a commitment to real-world, industry-led learning. Since the beginning, they were shaped by leading figures in the field - founded by Professor Terry Stevens, a globally respected tourism consultant, and developed by Andrew Campbell, MBE, former Head of School, who still lends his expertise today.

Programme Manager, Jacqui Jones, part of the team since the launch of the degree, has carried that legacy forward, introducing a strong focus on Travel, Events, international placements across Europe, the US, and the Middle East, as well as student-led conferences and field trips to destinations including Malaysia, America, Canada, and the Middle East.

INNOVATION IN LEARNING

More recently, Jacqui and the team have pioneered digital learning innovations, including immersive simulations for crisis management, VR and AR tools, and hospitality training. These forward-thinking methods complement traditional learning, preparing students to be confident, adaptable, and ready for the evolving demands of the sector.

INDUSTRY IMPACT AND RECOGNITION

Recently, the programmes were recognised by the Institute of Travel & Tourism as a Centre of Excellence for Tourism at an event in the House of Commons, celebrating the achievements of students and graduates. The recognition also highlighted the success of the ITT Future You Wales event, organised annually by our students at Swansea Arena which connects them with global leaders in travel, tourism, events, hospitality, and business, providing a real-world platform to gain experience, build networks, and apply their learning.

With partnerships ranging from Swansea Arena to the Institute of Travel & Tourism, Visit Pembrokeshire, the Institute of Hospitality, ABTA, ATG, and Yummy Jobs - who recruit for Disney, host students in America, and sponsor ITT Future You Wales - students gain more than a degree at UWTSD. They gain direction, confidence, and meaningful connections.

Read Jacqui's full article, *"Empowering the next generation of tourism leaders"* here:



"By empowering students to design and deliver tourism events, we help build stronger local economies, foster sustainability, and create job-ready graduates. This is just one example of what makes UWTSD's approach unique." says Jacqui.

JACQUI JONES
PROGRAMME MANAGER FOR
TOURISM, EVENTS, AND FESTIVALS

WALL OF WINS: CELEBRATING OUR AWARDS



- **Best Events Course** – National Events Awards 2024
- **Best Student Event** – National Events Awards 2023 & 2024
- **Best Student Event** – National Outdoor Events Awards (NOEA) 2023
- **Best Education Programme for International Travel & Tourism Management** – Institute of Hospitality Global Awards 2023 as well as finalist in 2024 and double finalist in 2025

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: BACK TO INSPIRE: FROM STUDENT TO MENTOR

Debbie Jenkins was part of the programme's very first chapter, studying the original HND before the degree launched in 1995.

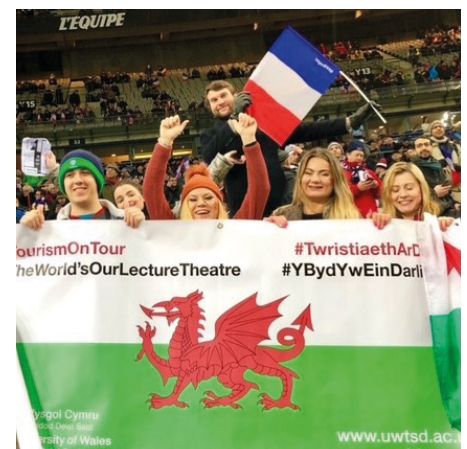
She was among the first to take part in international placements with Disney in Orlando, as well as the pioneering field trips to Malta and Paris, working on the pre-opening of what is now Disneyland Paris.

Today, Debbie has come full circle, returning to UWTSD as a lecturer, supporting the next generation of students following in her footsteps.



30 YEARS IN THE MAKING





As we celebrate this milestone, the legacy of our graduates and the impact of our partnerships underline the success of the past three decades.

With national awards, industry-first collaborations, and alumni achieving global success, the future of tourism education here has never looked brighter.

Here's to 30 years of excellence and looking ahead to the next generation of leaders stepping into the spotlight.

REIMAGINING CITIES: £3M PROJECT TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE WITH NATURE



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

In a bold step toward greener cities, UWTSD is spearheading a pioneering £3 million project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Retrofitting for the Future: Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Adaptation brings together leading academics, designers, and civic partners to rethink urban living through biophilic design - working with nature rather than against it.

At the heart of this four-year initiative is the transformation of Swansea's former Woolworths building into The Biome, the UK's first retrofitted "living building." Blending housing, commerce, education, and nature, the project is a model for climate-resilient urban design.

One of only three projects selected nationally for the AHRC's new Mission Awards, the initiative reflects a powerful, collaborative approach. UWTSD leads research into the social, cultural, and ecological impacts of biophilic retrofitting, exploring how older buildings and public spaces can be adapted to support well-being, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

With partners including UCL, Swansea University, Natural Resources Wales, and local authorities, the project aims to create a replicable model that aligns with Wales's Well-being of Future Generations Act and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

"Retrofitting for the Future aligns with Wales's Well-being of Future Generations Act and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We urgently need to rethink the way we live in cities not just structurally, but emotionally and ecologically. This is a chance to retrofit not just structures, but our relationships - with nature, each other, and the systems we live within."

Dr Luci Attala, Deputy Director of the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES global coalition and Associate Professor in Anthropology at UWTSD

Dr Luci Attala's research explores the socio-cultural meanings of water and Indigenous environmental knowledge, based on long-term ethnographic work with the Kogi in Colombia and Giriama communities in Kenya. She investigates how water's shifting behaviour under climate stress shapes bodies, livelihoods, and everyday life, offering a relational perspective within environmental anthropology.

Dr Attala also co-edits a book series on New Materialities and develops innovative, sensory, and multispecies research methods, rethinking water as a partner in human life and sustainability.

CAREER GROWTH THROUGH MA EDUCATION (WALES)

After three years teaching in a Welsh-medium primary school, Megan Lewis (BA Primary Education with QTS, 2021) was ready for the next step.

Now studying the National MA Education (Wales) at UWTSD, she's combining her passion for teaching with the flexibility to keep working full-time – all while studying in Welsh.

"I wanted to deepen my knowledge – not just for myself, but for my learners. This course has allowed me to do exactly that, while staying in the classroom."

The master's programme, developed in partnership with the Welsh Government and universities across Wales, is tailored for education professionals. It offers a mix of online and optional in-person sessions, with modules ranging from emotional wellbeing to professional leadership.

Returning to UWTSD felt like a natural next chapter for Megan.

"There's a strong Welsh-language environment and great support from lecturers. I've been able to connect with practitioners across Wales and immediately apply what I'm learning to my teaching."

Megan's advice to anyone considering the course is this:

"Go for it! It's been incredibly rewarding and I'm excited to see where it leads me next."

LOOKING TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

Whether you're teaching, leading or supporting learners, the National MA Education (Wales) could help you grow your career – all while you continue working.

- Study part-time, in Welsh or English
- Fully online with flexible delivery
- Only £3,120 per year (3 years, or 2 with credits)



Find out more about
the MA Education (Wales)
at UWTSD



HATS OFF TO **CLASS OF 2025**

This summer, we celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2025 across ten graduation ceremonies held on our campuses.

Each event marked the culmination of years of dedication, resilience, and growth - and a moment of pride for everyone involved.

From classrooms to studios, placements to performances, this year's graduates have made their mark across the university. They've brought fresh ideas, challenged perspectives, and helped shape our community in lasting ways.

As they leave our student community, we welcome them as the newest members of our alumni network - carrying with them the experiences, friendships, and values formed here.

Here's a look at some of the moments that defined this year's celebrations.



Read the stories of some of our 2025 graduates on our Graduation Newsroom.

REUNIONS ACROSS THE CAMPUSES



In recent months, alumni reunions have celebrated decades of shared memories across the campuses.

Trinity College Carmarthen 1980s alumni, including U.S. visitors from the Central College Wales Programme, returned for tours and a celebratory dinner.

Swansea College of Art welcomed back 1985 Architectural Stained Glass alumni to explore studios, archives, and current student work, while the class of 1995 of Photography in the Arts gathered informally in Swansea city centre – a mixture of past staff and students to reminisce.

The Lampeter Society also held its annual reunion on the Lampeter campus, continuing its tradition of connection and friendship.

To stay connected and hear about future gatherings, please keep your details up to date with the Alumni team.

And if you're planning to bring your own year group back together, we'd love to hear from you and would be delighted to help make it happen.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT

LOOKING FOR BUSINESS SUPPORT?

If you are a business owner or freelancer and a graduate of up to two years ago, you can access a variety of support from our Enterprise team to help you expand your current business or launch new ideas.

Graduate, Maria D'Angelo combined her passion for teaching and nature to launch a bilingual forest school based in Brynamman.

Through support from UWTSD – her teaching staff plus the Enterprise team, as well as a £500 Start-Up Grant - Maria was able to grow her business into a sustainable outdoor learning service.

Now delivering regular sessions that teach children wildlife skills and environmental awareness, Maria says running her own business has given her the freedom to shape her career around her values and love of the outdoors.

What's on offer:

- Get 1:1 mentoring and expert guidance tailored to your goals
- Take part in interactive workshops and enterprise events
- Develop the confidence, planning and strategy skills needed to trade
- Apply for our £500 Business Start-Up Grant to kickstart your venture



Contact our Enterprise team for support on enterprise@uwtsd.ac.uk

DID YOU KNOW THAT

UWTSD'S CAREER SERVICE

IS STILL THERE FOR YOU AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR STUDIES?

Our team of experienced and professionally qualified careers guidance practitioners can support alumni up to two years after graduation in exploring career options and enhancing employability.



Alumni also retain access to **MyCareer**, a digital careers platform, for two years after graduation to support their professional journey.

For more information on the service, contact the careers team on: **careers@uwtسد.ac.uk**

“Even after graduation, having continued access to the university Career Service made me feel supported and remembered. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping my journey in the aesthetics industry.

As I expand my career across the UK and Ireland, their advice has helped me stay focused, confident and connected to valuable opportunities.”

ALINA MARIUTAC
MA LEADERSHIP GRADUATE







Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Alumni
Y DRINDOD DEWI SANT · UWTSD



alumni@uwtsd.ac.uk



www.uwtsd.ac.uk/alumni



UWTSD Alumni Network