



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

Research news from Swansea University
Issue 27 | December 2017

MOMENTUM

- ▶ Three female Swansea University academics receive Fulbright Awards
- ▶ Turning Indian villages into solar power stations
- ▶ Exploring the potential of nanotechnology through multi-million pound project

WELCOME

Last year, three of our academics were awarded Fulbright Scholarship awards. These prestigious scholarships are only awarded following a rigorous application and interview process, and demand academic excellence and a strong collaborative ethic. This year, a further three of our academics, in the fields of science, law and medicine, have been able to travel to the US to further their research through a Fulbright award, highlighting the value of our research on the world stage.

Swansea University has developed an international reputation for its engineering excellence. In this issue, we look at how researchers at Swansea are engineering the future, building on the success of the energy-positive classroom at the Bay Campus,

and harnessing the power of the sun to turn Indian villages into solar power stations. At the Energy Safety Research Institute, researchers have developed a new filter which has been found to absorb more than 99 per cent of metals and could prove revelatory in the production of clean water.

Animal testing is an area where effective and safe alternatives are constantly sought. The University is leading an international team of scientists on a collaborative project worth €12.7 million to develop novel, cutting-edge tests to prevent the use of animals when assessing safety concerns surrounding nanotechnology, further proof that Swansea is central in developing innovations that inspire and improve our world.

Momentum is produced by the Marketing Internationalisation and Development Department. Please contact Mari Hooson on +44 (0) 1792 513455 or email m.hooson@swansea.ac.uk for further information.

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ON THE COVER



The overall winner of Swansea University's Research as Art competition 2017: 'Bioblocks: building for nature'
Dr Ruth Callaway: SEACAMS Research Officer, College of Science.

The £17m SEACAMS2 project partnership between Swansea and Bangor universities, and Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay Plc have worked together to explore opportunities to enhance the ecological value of the world's first tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay.

In February this year, a Bioblocks workshop was held at the Oriel Science centre, which provides science events and exhibitions showcasing Swansea University's research in the community. The workshop was funded by SEACAMS2 and involved over 200 children who used cubes of clay to sculpt ecologically attractive habitats for coastal creatures.

These 'bioblocks' demonstrate how manmade structures can support marine life while children and their families have gained a better understanding of the unique resilience of sea creatures.



03
FORGING AHEAD IN A TIME OF CHANGE



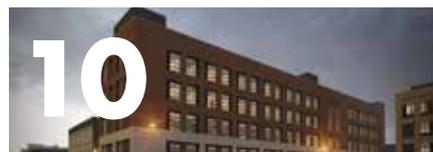
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FORGING AHEAD IN A TIME OF CHANGE

Swansea University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard B Davies reflects on the University's successes in 2017.

Over the last year we have made great advances, and have not faltered in our ambition. This is in the midst of unprecedented changes which have affected the higher education sector over the last 18 months. Swansea University has achieved its highest-ever ranking in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2017/2018. The University now appears among the top 300 elite institutions across the globe.

Last year, we won the inaugural title of Welsh University of the Year in the Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017. This year, we have moved up another eight places in the league table, standing at our highest position yet. Small wonder that the Sunday Times said 'we could hardly be more successful.'

Our strength and success can be attributed to the outstanding research taking place across all of our academic colleges.

Construction began on our new Computational Foundry, at the Bay Campus, in February this year. The Foundry, due to open in 2018, is backed with £17m from the European Regional Development Fund and will make Wales a global destination for computer scientists and industrial partners. Construction is also underway on our new state of the art Research Institute for Innovative Materials, Processing and Numerical Technologies (IMPACT) which will add to world-leading capacities and capabilities within the College of Engineering.

We are proud to be leading on research within multi-million pound projects; Horizon 2020, for example, the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever, which this year received approval from the European Commission for an international collaborative grant worth €12.7 million to unlock the potential of nanotechnology, and the €12million Celtic Advanced Life Science Innovation Network (CALIN) which this year launched in Wales and Ireland.

The UK steel industry was given a tremendous boost in December 2016 when a £1 billion, ten-year investment plan was announced for the TATA Steel plant in Port Talbot.

Swansea University is leading on innovations for the 21st century with TATA, developing steel-based construction materials which mean buildings can generate, store and release their own power, and devising ways to improve the efficiency of Port Talbot's blast furnaces.

Last year, we hosted the British Science Festival, which saw our research reach 500 million people worldwide, across all continents. This year's inaugural legacy festival has again proved highly successful; attracting thousands, and once again giving us the opportunity to showcase our considerable research talent.

In October, we were delighted to present the degree of Doctor of Laws to Hillary Rodham Clinton in recognition of her commitment to promoting the rights of families and children around the world, a commitment that is shared by Swansea University's Observatory on the Human Rights of Children and Young People. Our new Law School will be named the Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, a connection that will help to highlight the work

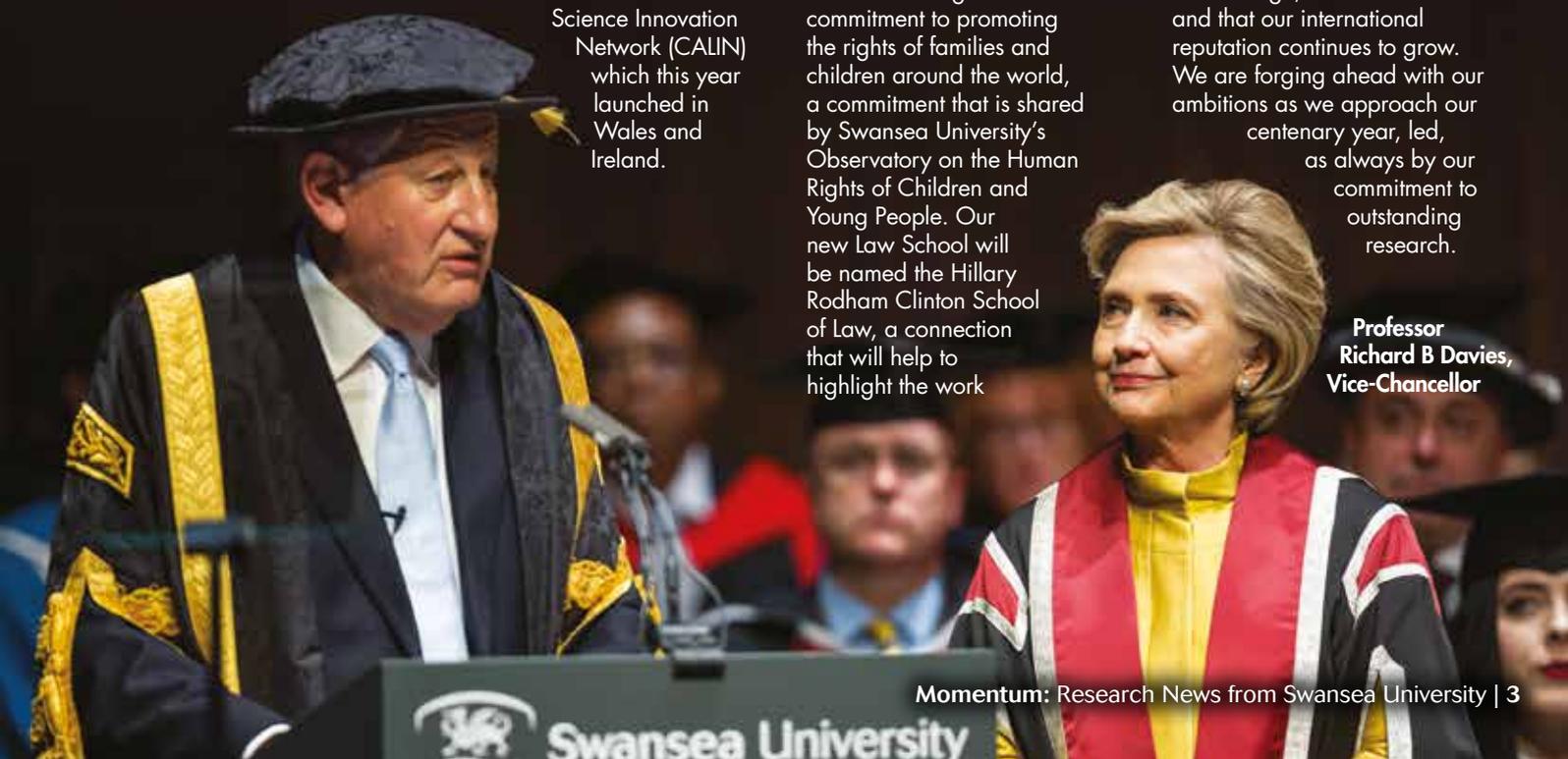
of the Welsh Observatory and to demonstrate that the University is harnessing the power of learning to address big global challenges.

During her visit, Mrs Clinton said that she feels a special connection to the work of the Observatory and stated that she would return to Swansea's Bay Campus in the future, and would drive the mission of the Law School - that children's rights are human rights - for generations to come.

The University was founded on the principles of excellence and innovation nearly 100 years ago. To mark our centenary in 2020, we will be celebrating our heritage and at the same time looking to the future, showcasing our academic success, and highlighting how we have achieved our vision of being a research-led university of international quality.

This year we have demonstrated how in the face of challenge, we can excel and that our international reputation continues to grow. We are forging ahead with our ambitions as we approach our centenary year, led, as always by our commitment to outstanding research.

**Professor
Richard B Davies,
Vice-Chancellor**



BOWEL CANCER RESEARCH IN WALES BOOSTED BY AWARD



L-R Rory Kokelaar, Jenny Aubrey, Bob Clarke, in ILS laboratory

A Swansea University researcher who is examining new ways to tackle colorectal cancer has been awarded a travel scholarship by the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, allowing him to present his research at a major international scientific conference.

Rory Kokelaar is a clinical lecturer and researcher at Swansea University Medical School, and has close working links with the colorectal teams at Singleton and Morriston hospitals. Once he finishes his PhD, he is planning to complete his surgical training. Rory's research looks at different ways in which rectal cancers behave.

Some spread only to nearby areas, but others spread to distant parts of the body, which makes tailored care for individual patients critical. Rory's work is looking at why certain tumours behave in different and potentially more dangerous ways. Understanding what is happening is a step towards finding better treatments.

Rory's research has now been given a big boost by the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, which has awarded him a travel scholarship of £1000, following a competition open to Swansea University researchers who are in the early stages of their career.

The Company is "The Honourable Society for the Arts, Science and Technology", and one of its aims is to "promote education, science, technology and the arts".

The funding enabled Rory to take part in a major international conference in Seattle, USA, which brings together the world's leading researchers in this field.

Rory Kokelaar said: "I am very grateful to the Welsh Livery Company for supporting this research into colorectal cancer, the most common cancer in Wales.

International collaboration is crucial in tackling disease, which is why it is important to go and show other researchers what we are doing here in Swansea."

Jenny Aubrey from the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales said: "One of the Livery's aims is to encourage and support students to progress with a specific project.

Rory's research is essential, and his enthusiasm for his subject is clear. We are pleased to be able to support his attendance at this international scientific conference."



Professor Yogesh Dwivedi

PROFESSOR SHORTLISTED FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH SUPERVISOR IN TIMES HIGHER AWARDS

Swansea University School of Management Professor Yogesh Dwivedi has been shortlisted in the Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year 2017 category of the 13th annual Times Higher Education (THE) Awards.

Professor Dwivedi is one of six candidates shortlisted for the award among academics from a number of Russell Group universities.

This year there are 19 THE Award categories in total, covering the spectrum of university activity. The Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year award will be given to the individual who has created the most supportive, stimulating and inspirational research environment for doctoral students.

The nomination was submitted by Professor Dwivedi's current and former PhD students with support from the University's postgraduate research office.

Professor David Blackaby, Interim Director of Research said: "It is excellent news to see one of our colleagues being recognised by being nominated for one of these prestigious awards.

The University values such recognition from this source very highly and it helps to raise the profile of the School within the institution. Such recognition will also be helpful with our REF2020 Environment Statement where PhD completions are an important research metric, along with research income generation. Such recognition can also help us in marketing our postgraduate research programme. I'm sure we all wish Yogesh the best in the final selection process."

MULTI-MILLION POUND PROJECT TO HELP UNLOCK POTENTIAL OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

Scientists at Swansea University Medical School have received approval from the European Commission for an international collaborative grant worth €12.7 million to develop novel cutting-edge tests to prevent the use of animals when assessing safety concerns surrounding nanomaterials.

The grant has been awarded as part of the Horizon2020 scheme, the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever, with nearly €80 billion of funding available over seven years (2014 to 2020).

Swansea University will lead an international team of scientists including academic, industrial, government and risk assessment partners to work on this major project entitled Physiologically Anchored Tools for Realistic nanOMaterial hazard aSessment (PATROLS). The project involves a total of 24 partners spread across 11 countries throughout Europe and across the globe including Switzerland, Korea and the US.

Shareen Doak is Professor of Genotoxicology & Cancer at Swansea University Medical School and is leading the project. She explained: "Nanotechnology promises significant scientific, economic and societal benefits, but commercialisation and growth are threatened by safety uncertainties.

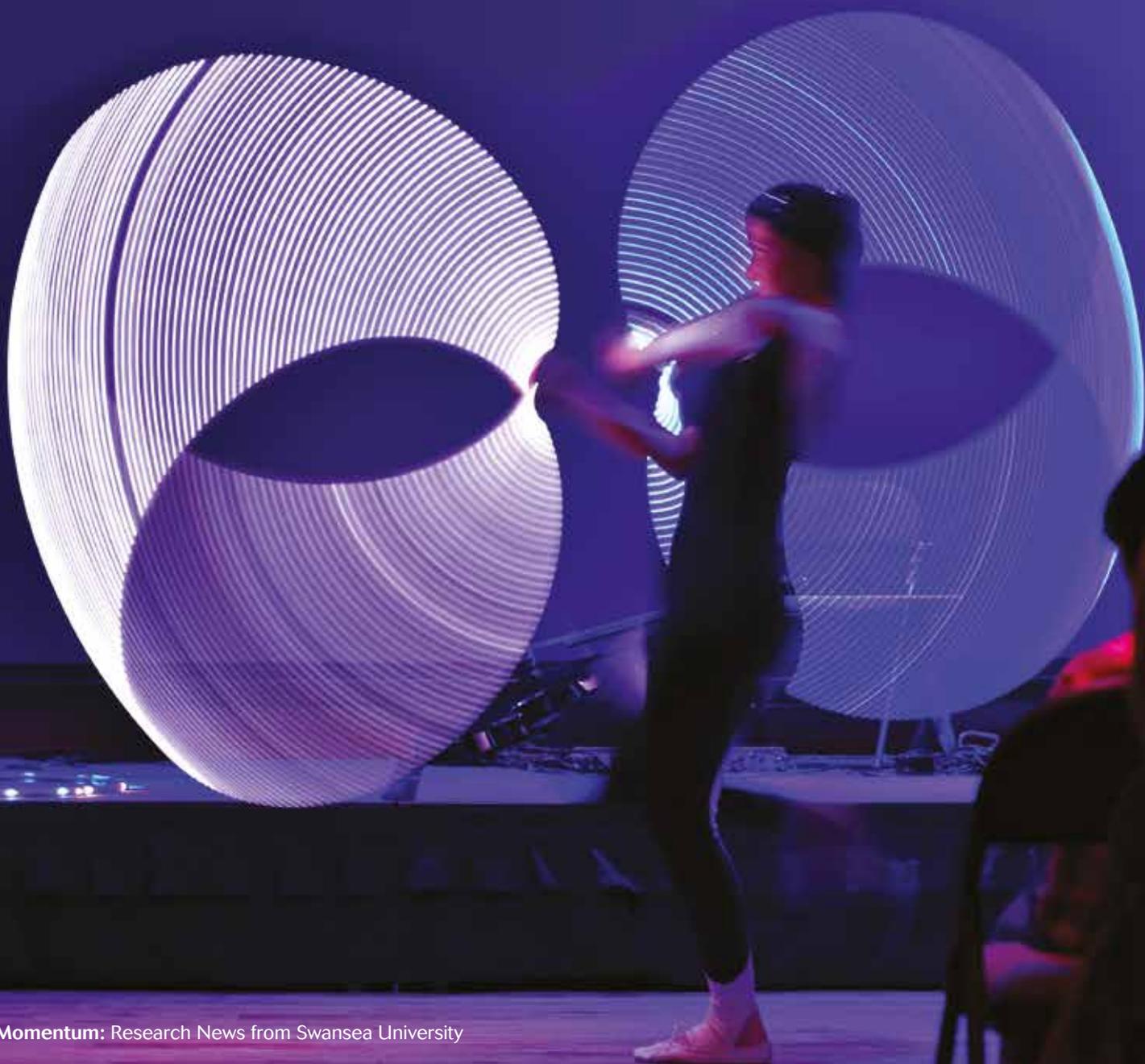
"Several problems currently exist in the field of nanosafety testing: standard non-animal tests are unreliable for nanomaterials, so there is a greater emphasis on evaluating their safety in animals. However animal tests are also unsuitable as they are expensive, time-consuming, and are associated with substantial moral concerns. Additionally, these tests do not predict the consequences of long-term exposure on both human health and the environment.

PATROLS will address these limitations by providing state-of-the-art 3D culture models of the human lung, gastrointestinal tract and liver. The project will also deliver advanced testing methods for environmental safety testing and robust computational models that will allow us to more accurately predict human health and environmental safety based on data generated in cell culture, removing the need to test on animals."

The project is due to officially launch on 1 January 2018 with an event scheduled between 29 and 31 January 2018, at Swansea's Waterfront Museum. Julie James AM, Minister for Skills and Science, will be opening the event which will be attended by an international audience of those partnering the project.

FEATURE

UNIVERSITY SHOWCASES ITS RESEARCH TALENT AT FIRST **SWANSEA** **SCIENCE FESTIVAL**





“ We are thrilled with the positive reception Swansea Science Festival 2017 has had. ”

Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott
Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor

During the weekend of 8 – 10 September, Swansea University hosted its first free science festival. Hosted in partnership with the National Waterfront Museum, the festival was the largest of its kind in Wales.

Over 9,000 people experienced the inaugural Swansea Science Festival which offered a diverse programme of events including adult-focussed workshops and talks; a science variety show, and the ‘Flying Atoms’ family show at the Taliesin.

The festival enabled researchers from all areas of the University to come together to celebrate and showcase their inspirational research to a new audience. It also proved a valuable opportunity for forming new research collaborations, and inspiring ideas for PhD programmes.

Other highlights from the Festival included a visit by Julie James, AM, Minister for Skills and Science. A number of businesses also attended, providing opportunities to explore further collaboration and sponsorship.

This year’s festival was the legacy of the British Science Festival and Family Festival, which was held in 2016 and was an enormous success, putting Swansea University research on the map with unprecedented global news coverage.

Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott,
Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor

(Research and Innovation) at Swansea University said: “We are thrilled with the positive reception Swansea Science Festival 2017 has had. The event was not only a success for Swansea University, it also brought visitors from all across England and Wales, enriching local economies and showing what Swansea and Swansea University has to offer.

We want to continue to inspire the next generation of scientists by creating a science festival legacy for the city that showcases our inspiring and diverse world-leading research.

We are already planning for Swansea Science Festival 2018 where we can further highlight the great research happening at Swansea University.”



THREE FEMALE SWANSEA UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Three female Swansea University academics have been awarded prestigious Fulbright Awards which will allow them to further their vital research in universities in the US.

Professor Siwan Davies of the University's College of Science, Dr Lella Nouri from the College of Law and Criminology and Dr Zita Jessop from Swansea University School of Medicine celebrated their success along with the other 42 recipients of this year's awards at a reception hosted by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in July.

Professor Davies, whose areas of expertise include abrupt and rapid climatic changes, will work with a team of climate and volcanism experts at the renowned Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine to investigate how

large volcanic eruptions have affected climate in the past. On receiving her award, Professor Davies said: "I am delighted to be honoured with a Fulbright Award and it is a privilege to be part of this prestigious exchange programme. I am excited by the opportunity to collaborate with scientists at Maine and I am proud to be an ambassador for UK and Welsh climate science."

Dr Nouri has been awarded a Cyber Security Scholar Award to spend six months at the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her recent research has focussed on the growing use of the internet by far-right extremist groups. At the Orfalea Center, she will be analysing the use of social media by extreme far-right groups across the US and UK, examining the processes by which online communities are

constructed and maintained to align academic research to the needs of practitioners.

Dr Nouri said: "I am very excited to have been selected for a Fulbright Cyber Security Scholar Award 2017/ 2018. The work undertaken during the six months will help advance my research project on far-right extremist use of social media and will provide insight into an understudied research area. I hope that I will be able to disseminate these findings in the US as well as bring back what I have learnt to Wales to help local practitioners working on counter-extremism."

Dr Jessop is an Academic Clinical Lecturer in the Reconstructive Surgery & Regenerative Medicine Research Group headed by Professor Iain Whitaker at Swansea University Medical School. She received the Royal College of Surgeons

Fulbright Scholar Award to conduct biomimetic tissue engineering research at Harvard University. The Fulbright scholarship will enable Dr Jessop to collaborate with world-renowned biofabrication experts with the aim of accelerating clinical translation of cartilage constructs for patients requiring facial reconstruction following trauma, burns, skin cancer excision and congenital conditions.

The US-UK Fulbright Commission provides the only bi-lateral, transatlantic scholarship programme, offering awards for study or research in any field, at any accredited US or UK university. The Commission selects scholars through a rigorous application and interview process, looking for academic excellence alongside a focussed application, a range of extracurricular and community activities, demonstrated ambassadorial skills, a desire to further the Fulbright Programme and a plan to give back to the UK upon returning.

This is the second year running that three Swansea University scholars have received Fulbright awards. Last year, Professors Stuart Macdonald from the College of Law and Criminology, David Lamb from the University's Medical School and Tudur Hallam from the College of Arts and Humanities received scholarships to study, respectively, at the Orfalea Centre at the University of California, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), in Massachusetts, and at the University of Houston.

Dr Lella Nouri, Dr Siwan Davies, Dr Zita Jessop.



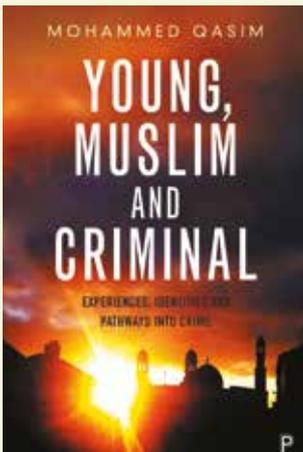
YOUNG, MUSLIM AND CRIMINAL

Dr Mohammed Qasim is a lecturer in criminology, who studied for his PhD at Swansea University's School of Law and Criminology. Dr Qasim has spent a decade researching the lives of young Muslim drug dealers in Bradford – the city where he grew up, to produce "A Phenomenological study of Young British Muslim men who offend". The research included the report, 'Young British Muslim men and their experiences of "inside"', which is due to be published later this year and forms part of a book Dr Qasim has written, *Young, Muslim and Criminal*, available in January 2018. In this book Dr Qasim examines the lives of young Muslim men who offend, taking into account their socio-economic situation, the make-up of their community, cultural and religious influences which impact on them and their involvement in crime. He explores their identities and explains what role, if any, religion and Pakistani culture play in their criminal behaviour. With a focus on the apparent link with gun crime and drug dealing, this important book exposes the complex nature of the young men's pathways into crime.



Dr Qasim said: "My reason for this research was to find out what had motivated these young, Pakistani Muslims to enter the world of drug dealing. What I discovered was the acute need for status amongst these young men; pride was everything, and the distinct lack of highly-paid jobs in Bradford, a reluctance amongst these young men to enter what were perceived as 'degrading' jobs such as waiting tables or working in factories, and the stigma of having been a drug-dealer in the past being a preventative to gaining meaningful employment, all meant that returning to or remaining in the drug dealing trade was the most attractive, and lucrative option."

Since completing his PhD, Dr Qasim has been made a visiting research fellow at Leeds Beckett University, working alongside leading criminologists on various research projects, some of which build on his PhD, which was fully funded by Swansea University. He said: "I am extremely grateful to Swansea University. I was very fortunate to be given this opportunity and I am thankful to my supervisors for helping me focus and promote my research and ultimately achieve my book contract."



DEALING WITH LONELINESS IN LATER LIFE A POCKET GUIDE

A researcher from the Centre for Innovative Ageing at Swansea University has written a pocket guide of hints and tips to help tackle loneliness felt by older adults.

The guide entitled: *Making a difference: A pocket guide to help you deal with loneliness* stemmed from Dr Deborah Morgan's PhD research project entitled: "The Transient Nature of Loneliness and Social Isolation in Later Life".

The guide offers advice for combating loneliness in later life such as contacting old friends, making new connections, and using technology to keep in touch with people. There is also a useful contacts section and advice on how to look after your wellbeing. Dr Morgan said: "The guide arose out of informal discussions with Ageing Well in Wales around the need for a pocket guide to help lonely older adults and the wider community to find solutions to address loneliness. The guide draws on the solutions and coping strategies employed by lonely and isolated older adults in my study, who were transitioning out of loneliness. The response to the guide has been fantastic, and feedback from Ageing Well in Wales is that the guide is starting conversations about loneliness."



“

The response to the guide has been fantastic. ”

NEWLY DEVELOPED FILTER CLEANS TOXINS FROM WATER

A new filter which has been found to absorb more than 99 per cent of metals from samples laden with cadmium, cobalt, copper, mercury, nickel and lead could prove revelatory in the production of clean water.

The prize-winning filter was developed in the laboratory of Professor Andrew Barron, based at Swansea University's Energy Safety Research Institute, by Perry Alagappan, then a high-school student at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Alagappan, now an undergraduate student at Stanford University, was inspired to start the project during a trip to India, where he learned about contamination of groundwater from the tons of electronic waste such as phones and computers that improperly end up in landfills.

Professor Barron, who is Charles W. Duncan, Jr.-Welch Professor, Professor of Materials Science and NanoEngineering at Rice University, said: "Perry contacted me wanting to gain experience in laboratory research, and since we had an ongoing project started by one of our undergraduate students, this was a perfect match."

"The filter consists of carbon nanotubes immobilised in a tuft of quartz fibre which have the power to remove toxic heavy metals from

water. "Once saturated, the filters can be washed with a mild household chemical - like vinegar - and reused.

The raw materials for the filter are inexpensive and the conversion of acetic acid to vinegar is ubiquitous around the globe, which should simplify the process of recycling the filters for reuse - even in remote locations.

Where this will have the biggest impact is in remote locations in developing regions. In addition, there is also the potential to scale up metal extraction, in particular from mine waste water."

The project team calculated one gram of the material could treat 83,000 litres of contaminated water, meeting World Health Organization standards, and enough to supply the daily needs of 11,000 people.

The research was supported by the Welsh Government Sêr Cymru Programme and the FLEXIS (Flexible Integrated Energy Systems) project, which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and the Robert A. Welch Foundation.



TURNING INDIAN VILLAGES INTO SOLAR POWER STATIONS: £7 MILLION AWARD FOR SWANSEA-LED PROJECT

Villages in India will benefit from Swansea University expertise in creating buildings that work as power stations, generating, storing and releasing their own power, thanks to £7 million of UK government funding. The money was awarded to a Swansea-led consortium of 12 UK and Indian universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Brunel, and Imperial College London.

The award illustrates Swansea University's leading role in research in areas such as solar energy and steel, and the pioneering work on "buildings as power stations" carried out by the University-led SPECIFIC project, which recently opened the UK's first energy-positive classroom.

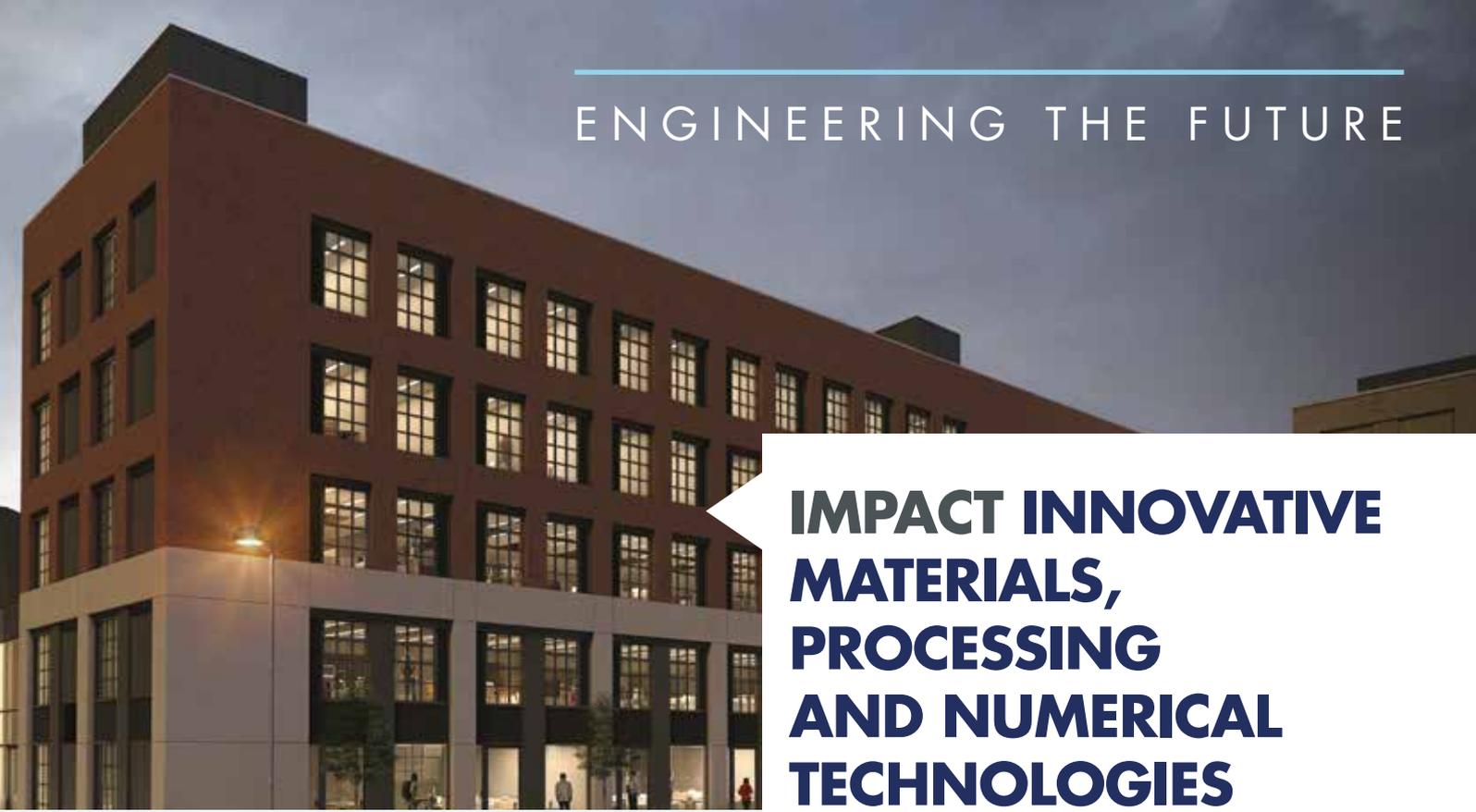
The new solar project, called SUNRISE, will develop printed photovoltaic cells and new manufacturing processes, which can be used to construct

solar energy products in India. These will then be integrated into buildings in five villages, allowing them to harness solar power to provide their own energy and run off grid.

One of the key aims is to provide a real-life example which proves that this technology works, and that it is appropriate in these communities. The plan is that it will encourage local industries to manufacture affordable prefabricated buildings, adapted for their environment, that can generate, store and release their own power.

The project is in line with Indian government plans, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to turn the country into a solar energy leader, leap-frogging fossil fuels, and to boost the Indian manufacturing sector.

The concept of a building as a power station has already



IMPACT INNOVATIVE MATERIALS, PROCESSING AND NUMERICAL TECHNOLOGIES

The state-of-the-art £35 million IMPACT research centre, part of Swansea University's College of Engineering, will deliver a high-impact, transformative research environment for industry and academia to collaborate in advanced engineering and materials. The building that will eventually house the centre is set to open in summer 2019, but IMPACT is up and running, setting up academia-industry partnerships, actively competing for research funding, and recruiting and seconding academics and researchers.

IMPACT is currently looking to develop partnerships with research academics and key national and international organisations, with the aim of future-proofing the advanced engineering and materials industry. IMPACT collaborations will enhance research capacity and increase competitiveness, and will ultimately lead to the employment of 220 additional academics and researchers in the College of Engineering.

The ethos of IMPACT is to promote cross-disciplinary fertilisation of ideas in the pursuit of pioneering technology. This will be achieved by bringing together first-class expertise from the College of Engineering, attracting leading talent and partnering with the world's largest companies and regional partners. IMPACT is working to attract significant additional funding to carry out fundamental frontiers research.

IMPACT research promotes and supports cross-disciplinary fertilisation of ideas under five core themes: Future Manufacturing Technologies, Next Generation Materials Property Measurement, Advanced Structural Mechanics, Vapour Deposition Cluster, and Metal Technology. In addition to work on robotics and automation, advanced aerospace and automotive structures, IMPACT engages in characterisation and computational-based simulation for understanding and optimisation of manufacturing processes and products, helping to drive innovative new technologies in the engineering sector.

IMPACT is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government and Swansea University.



been proven to work, with the opening of the energy-positive classroom on the Swansea University Bay campus.

Professor Dave Worsley of Swansea University, head of research at the SPECIFIC project, and leader of the SUNRISE team, said:

"The energy-positive classroom we built shows that this technology works, successfully turning buildings into power stations. This funding will enable us to export this model to support India's plans to boost solar energy.

The Swansea team will be working closely with our partner universities in the UK and India. Our hope is that

if we can show this works on five villages in India, then it could be rolled out to other buildings in India and around the world.

To have Swansea University leading this project is recognition of our success with the energy-positive classroom, and proof of our research expertise in two of the most important industries of the 21st century, solar energy and steel."

The £7 million award comes from the UK government's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), which supports cutting-edge research that addresses the global issues faced by developing countries.

ALLYSON EDWARDS

Allyson Edwards is based in the College of Arts and Humanities at Swansea University. Her research focuses on militarism in post-soviet Russia during the 1990s.

"In 2015, the Global Militarisation Index (GMI) listed Russia as the fifth most militarised country in the World. This drew on annual reports dating from 1992 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In July 2016, I was awarded a studentship by the Economic and Social Research Council under the Doctoral Training Partnerships scheme to explore my research topic: 'Militarism in Post-Soviet Russia: War, Identity and Culture, 1990-2000'. My research focusses especially on the everyday processes of militarisation taking place in the Russian Federation from 1991 to 1999.

There is a belief that Russia is not as militarised as previously thought, but this is flawed and fails to consider a realistic timeframe necessary for significant social change to take place. With at least 400 years of militaristic tradition in Russia, my thesis postulates that while military prestige declined in the formative years of the Russian Federation, militarised structures remained and facilitated the remilitarisation of Russia under Vladimir Putin. After spending six weeks in Russia this year, teaching English, I encountered very pervasive processes of militarisation on a daily basis, for example,

clothing shops called "Army of Russia" that sold t-shirts with pictures of Vladimir Putin and the Russian special forces. The shop's aims, as stated on its website, are: "for the popularisation of service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation." This, alongside toy tank advertisements and Victory Day parade posters, reinforced my hypothesis.

My interest in militarism started while completing my undergraduate degree. It continued to grow when undertaking my master's degree in Contemporary History. Both of my dissertations examined public response to Soviet/American nuclear policy created under the pressures of the Cold War.

My interest in military history was motivated by the social aspects of militarisation that occur on a daily basis. The 1990s is a highly under-researched period and I felt compelled to tackle and examine this very significant and chaotic decade.

Following the analysis of the language in Russian newspapers, religious sermons and school history textbooks, I will be interviewing veterans of the Chechen War and their spouses in order to examine to what extent the



Career path

- ▶ **BA History – University of South Wales (2011-2014)**
- ▶ **MA in Contemporary History – University of Birmingham (2015-2016)**
- ▶ **PhD at Swansea University: awarded a studentship by the Economic and Social Research Council (2016-present)**
- ▶ **Co-founded the UK-based Defence Research Network for PhD and Early-Career Researchers (February 2017).**

language within these sources influenced how they felt when conscripted to war.

The research methods within my thesis can be applied to the current global climate, which is experiencing varied stages of demilitarisation.

During my time at Swansea University, I have participated in a number of presentations and conferences including the Out of the Shadows Conference hosted by Swansea University's Research Institute for Arts and Humanities, which featured leading experts in the fields of British and US intelligence.

In February 2017 I co-founded the UK-based Defence Research Network for PhD and Early-Career Researchers studying defence, security and the armed forces in relation to policy, strategy, culture and society.

My teaching experience in Russia this year was extremely valuable and really furthered my knowledge of the Russian language. I have since become a teaching assistant at Swansea University in both the History and Politics departments and volunteered to be part of the Politics and Cultural Studies weekly seminar organising committee."