The last 12 months have been an exciting time for the University. One great piece of news is our recognition as one of the Top 30 universities in the UK. This news affects all our alumni, as employers recognise the quality of our graduates. We have also been listed in the Top 10 for graduate prospects and in the Top 5 for student satisfaction. Alongside our rise in the various rankings, we have continued our expansion of the impressive Bay Campus: The Computational Foundry, The College (for our foundation year students) and accommodation for 2,000 students, being the latest buildings to open their doors.

After a rigorous selection process, we have announced our new Vice-Chancellor-Elect, Professor Paul Boyle (read more about Professor Boyle on page 2).

This year has also seen the completion of our alumni survey, the response of which has been fantastic. The results show that you want to engage with us, support each other and help our current students. This gives us great optimism that we can build mentoring and volunteering opportunities to create links between the student and alumni communities. Over the next few years these programmes will be crucial in helping to maintain our appeal to new students, and build on the community spirit that makes Swansea University so special.

We look forward to keeping you up-to-date with developments.

Gerard Kennedy,
Development & Alumni Relations Manager

#Ourswansea

Everyone needs some Swansea University branded merch in their life, which is exactly what we’re giving you the chance to win!

All you have to do is let us know your favourite memory from studying at Swansea. Yes, it really is that simple.

To enter create a post on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #Ourswansea

@SwanseaUniAlumni  @SwansAlumni  @Swansea_Alumni
I have recently had the honour of being appointed as Vice-Chancellor Elect at Swansea University, a role I am excited to have taken up. The University is a special place for me holding many happy memories, as it is where I began my academic career as a young geographer. Now years later, returning to Swansea, it is a pleasure to work with staff and students across the entire organisation as we face exciting times ahead. I also look forward to meeting many alumni at future events.

Clearly, our University has made enormous strides since my time here in the early 1990s. These include the opening of the new Bay Campus, a significant growth in the number of students, and a rise in some important University rankings. For example, we are in the top 3 UK universities for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey, in the top 10 UK universities for graduate prospects (among the highest percentage of students in full-time work or further study six months after they leave university), and have won the Times and Sunday Times Welsh University of the Year for 2019. Most recently, we are hugely proud to have been crowned the Whatuni Student Choice Awards University of the Year for the second time in five years. This is particularly special as it is voted for by our students, who are at the heart of everything we do. It is testament to the exceptional performance of our staff across the University, and the strength of our relationship with the student body through the Students’ Union. We are also a research powerhouse in many areas, from leading steel innovation into the 21st century, designing energy generating buildings of the future, advancing our understanding of terrorists’ use of the internet, or developing award-winning trauma simulation models which are invaluable in both military and civilian trauma care settings.

Of course, despite our successes these are challenging times for universities in the UK, and we need to make sure we can be resilient. Brexit brings many challenges and uncertainty for us and our European colleagues. Our University’s success in attracting European funding has been remarkable, and we need to make sure that whatever the outcome such research and innovation is not stymied. Our students also benefit considerably from study abroad opportunities through the European Erasmus+ system, and it would be a retrograde step if such experiences were lost. The good news is that our European university colleagues are as determined to retain our various collaborations as we are, and as Vice-President of the European University Association, which represents over 800 universities in 48 countries, I will work hard to help present evidence to the UK Government and EU Commission and Parliament which explains the value of continued cooperation in research, innovation and student mobility.

Universities are only as good as the staff and students who inhabit them. I firmly believe that our staff and students can and should work together to champion change and, by providing the opportunities for views to be expressed, we will continually improve on our impressive performance to date.

I am also delighted to launch our new alumni platform, Swansea Uni Connect. The platform will enable alumni and students to connect more easily, support each other and stay in touch with University news. When I worked at Swansea University early in my career, I was hugely impressed by how supportive and friendly it was. In a matter of days, it is clear to me that this special spirit remains. I know that many alumni feel the same and are enthusiastic about maintaining links with the University. I look forward to working with others to continue the great work.
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES SIXTH SANTANDER CYCLES HUB IN MUMBLES

In the last edition of Sail we announced that Swansea University, with the help of the surrounding community, raised £100,000 for the Santander Cycles University Challenge. This amazing achievement resulted in Swansea being provided with 55 bikes at five conveniently located hubs, including; Swansea University’s Singleton Park Campus, Civic Centre, Waterfront Museum, Fabian Way Park & Ride and Swansea University’s Bay Campus. The scheme has already proved to be extremely popular, so much so that a sixth hub has recently been launched in Mumbles. The new hub, located at five conveniently located hubs, including; Swansea University’s Singleton Park Campus, Civic Centre, Waterfront Museum, Fabian Way Park & Ride and Swansea University’s Bay Campus.

The scheme offers a more affordable and healthier way of travelling across Swansea. For more information about registration and prices visit santandercycles.co.uk/swansea

SCIENTISTS DEVELOPING WAY OF USING WASTE PLASTIC TO CREATE CAR FUEL

Scientists at Swansea University have developed an innovative process that transforms discarded plastic into hydrogen.

Light-absorbing material is added to the plastic, before it is placed in an alkaline solution and then exposed to sunlight, which creates hydrogen. This process could be cheaper than recycling because any kind of plastic can be used and it does not need to be cleaned first.

The world currently produces nearly 300 million tonnes of plastic each year, with roughly 50% of this being used once and thrown away. With this in mind, Dr Moritz Kuehnel and the University’s chemistry department are trying to find a use for what is not being recycled.

Most plastic bottles are made from PET (polyethylene terephthalate) which can be recycled, but often end up being burned or thrown into landfill.

Dr Kuehnel said, “Even if you recycle plastic, it needs to be very pure – so only PET, nothing else mixed in with it, and it has to be clean. The beauty of this process is that it is not very picky. Even if there is food or a bit of grease from a margarine tub, it doesn’t stop the reaction, it makes it better.

The process produces hydrogen gas. You can see bubbles coming off the surface, which has the potential to fuel a hydrogen car.”

NEW PROJECT AIMS TO OFFER TREATMENT AS OVARIAN CANCER CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

A new £2.6 million project led by Swansea University aims to dramatically improve the diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer – one of the deadliest forms of cancer for women.

The Cluster for Epigenomic and Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC) Therapeutics (CEAT) project has been awarded £1.2 million from the European Regional Development Fund via the Welsh Government’s SMART Expertise programme and the Welsh European Funding Office. CEAT aims to utilise novel epigenetic drugs to manipulate chemical compounds creating a new route for the treatment of ovarian cancer.

Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs) are a powerful new class of therapeutics in medical oncology, where antibodies that target specific cancers are coupled with cytotoxic agents. CEAT, through extensive planning between all project partners, has been developed as a systematic programme to advance a group of novel epigenetic drugs and ADCs using technological approaches to tackle ovarian cancer development and progression.

The project is being led by Swansea University with partners Porvair Sciences, Bruker UK, GE Healthcare UK, Axis Bioservices and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). A new Antibody Drug Conjugates company will join the project in its second year.

SWANSEA SPORTING SUCCESS

The University’s men’s rugby union team will now play in the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Super Rugby league for the first time in the 2019/20 academic year, having beaten Nottingham Trent University in the playoff final.

This is the highest level of university rugby union, having comprised the 10 best university teams across the UK, and has helped launch the careers of many international players.

In other sporting news, Swansea University’s Hayley Baker coached the Great Britain swimming team at this year’s World University Summer Games in Naples. Hayley was selected from a talented pool of coaches at universities across Britain for this summer’s event, which took place from 3-14 July.

“IT is a great honour to be selected and to be a representative of not only Swansea University but all the British universities in such a high level competition,” said Baker.

The World University Summer Games – known as The Universiade – is an international multi-sport event organised for university athletes by the International University Sports Federation (FISU). It takes place every two years, with over 10,000 participants from 150+ countries taking part and is the largest multi-sport event in world apart from the Olympic Games.

INTRODUCING THE COMPUTATIONAL FOUNDRY

The Computational Foundry is a new £32.5 million world-class facility and a beacon for research collaborations. Backed by £17m from the European Regional Development Fund, it will drive research into computational and mathematical sciences, making Wales a global destination for computational scientists and industrial partners.

The Computational Foundry consists of Swansea University’s Computer Science and Mathematics departments as its core team. This facilitates cross-disciplinary research, working with a ‘wider’ computational science community, encompassing academics from other disciplines within the University where academic interests overlap.

The Foundry will be a place where industry partners can work with and test new ideas. People from all disciplines can link up on research collaborations, where the digital innovators of tomorrow are completing their studies.

Please read our full data protection statement for alumni and supporters at: swansea.ac.uk/alumni/contactus/privacy-policy
You can also find a summary on the Stay Connected form enclosed with this magazine.
When Swansea University alumna Hannah Lamden attended an event in Swansea for International Women’s Day, we couldn’t resist asking her a few questions about her jobs as Simon Cowell’s PA, former Media Director at Syco Music and Founder of Finery Media (the company who manage the stars of the popular TV show, Love Island).

You studied American Studies at Swansea. What was it that started you on a path to working with showbiz personalities?

I was doing a degree in American Studies and wanted to find a part-time job, so I started working at the Union bar. I then discovered that there was a whole entertainments department who organised events and parties. I got to know Russell and Ben in the Students Union and they eventually offered me a job. I started off organising the SU [Students’ Union] events and liaising with a lot of the London based promoters and agents. I would book acts (DJ’s, singers and comedians), and I was responsible for talking and negotiating their fees.

I found that networking was quite a natural part of my personality, and the professionals I would meet would offer to introduce me to their contacts, and would also help me find internships and work experience placements. From working in the Ents (Entertainments) team I was able to take advantage of these opportunities during the University holidays.

What advice would you give to anyone looking to get involved in Ents or the Students’ Union?

After I graduated, I stayed on with Ents for another 12 months to manage the team with Russell. The brilliant thing about the SU is that it gives you a really great snapshot of what working life is like. It’s a microcosm of working culture, where you have to be responsible, you have to do your hours, and you get a good grasp of office politics in a safe and friendly environment before going into the wider world. I would attribute the success I have now to the experience and opportunities I had with the SU.

How did you end up working with Simon Cowell?

After an extra year of working with Ents I went back to London and got an internship with the record label XL Recordings, who work with artists like Adele, Radiohead and the White Stripes. I also worked with Wise Buddah, who represent a lot of artists including Greg James, Scott Mills and Katherine Jenkins. The internships involved being an assistant within the wider team; dealing with logistics, booking travel, writing schedules and basically helping with anything that needed to be done. To do well in that environment you needed to have a positive, upbeat, can-do attitude. I was balancing interning with part-time jobs, just trying to make it all work. I then submitted my CV to Sony Music, which was quite meaty thanks to all the work I had done at Swansea. Because of this, I was offered an interview. I didn’t know what the job was for at first, and it wasn’t until my third interview that I discovered the role was to be one of Simon Cowell’s PAs.

What was it like working with Simon Cowell?

It was pretty much as you would imagine it to be. A bit like working in the film ‘The Devil Wears Prada’, with the exception that Simon Cowell is much more charming and nice to work with. The industry is cut throat and can be very demanding, so you need to make sure you deliver what is expected in the job. It was very glamorous, with lots of parties and international travel. I even lived in LA for six months. I am very grateful for all the things I got to see, witnessing how the world’s wealthiest and famous live their lives.

What does a typical day look like for the founder of a media company?

Every day at Finery Media is different. Right now I’m currently at a photo shoot with Perrie from Little Mix. I have lots of clients with different needs, so I have to be a bit of a chameleon and adapt to the situations around me. I could be meeting new clients, working on photoshoots, filming, managing interviews, troubleshooting or working as part of other teams that look after different aspects of a client’s career.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of starting their own business?

There has never been a better time to start a business. There are so many digital tools at our disposal, that there really is no reason not to give it a go! The advice I would give is to set sensible goals. Give yourself time to learn on the job, and adjust as you go along. Also, be open to asking for help. Over the past two years people have been so willing to give me an introduction or to make a connection that has helped put me on the right path.

Who do you represent from Love Island, and what does this involve?

I am Kem Cetinay, the winner of Love Island 2017, publicist. Alongside his management team we look after everything he does, working with him every day, and he’s doing really well. He’s been named as Primark’s Men’s Fashion Ambassador, he’s working on This Morning on ITV, he’s the backstage presenter on Dancing on Ice and hosts The Love Island podcast. I’m very proud of everything we have done with him. I also work with Jordyn Woods, an American social media star, the Little Mix girls and Georgia Toffolo who won I’m a Celebrity a few years ago.

What do you like most about returning to Swansea?

Going back to Swansea feels like going home, and I have such fond memories of the University. It’s a moment in life that you don’t realise how special it is until you leave. We had an open-door policy amongst our friends, and we were in and out of each other’s houses all the time. Going out every night was great, and I think it’s the social side that I miss most. Everyone has great memories of our time at Swansea.

You are clearly a good networker. The Swansea Alumni network has more than 120,000 members. What are your tips for alumni to make the most of that network?

Reach out to relevant contacts. Look for people in the industry or jobs you are interested in. People have lessons and experience that they can pass on to you. LinkedIn is an incredible resource and my connections have been so useful to me over the years. The fact that 120,000 people all have Swansea University in common makes the connections quite easy.

**HANNAH LAMDEN**

**AMERICAN STUDIES, 2008**

**Simon Cowell, Love Island and what she misses about Swansea**

When Swansea University alumna Hannah Lamden attended an event in Swansea for International Women’s Day, we couldn’t resist asking her a few questions about her jobs as Simon Cowell’s PA, former Media Director at Syco Music and Founder of Finery Media (the company who manage the stars of the popular TV show, Love Island).

What was it that started you on a path to working with showbiz personalities?

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WELSH Varsity

In April, Swansea alumni helped us cheer on the Men’s and Women’s rugby teams at the 23rd Welsh Varsity tournament.

The evening started with food and drinks, accompanied with a livestream of the Women’s nail-biting victory over Cardiff (30-27). We then headed over to the Principality Stadium just in time for the Men’s match. It was a tough game to watch, but they gave it their all.

Cardiff may have won both the Victory Shield and Cup, but we’re already sensing a Swansea win next year! We hope you can join us at Welsh Varsity 2020, when the match is back on home turf in time for our centenary.

SWANSEA IN MANCHESTER

At the end of 2018, we invited alumni to networking events in London, Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester.

With plenty of drinks and canapés, alumni spent their time connecting with their fellow Swansea graduates, whilst also getting up-to-date with the latest developments from the University.

We’re already looking forward to this year’s networking events, and we hope that you’ll be able to attend. Remember to make sure that you’ve updated your contact details so that you receive future invitations.

SOM ALUMNI EVENT

The School of Management winter alumni event welcomed a number of current students as well as graduates from a range of companies, including; Marks and Spencer, Tata Steel, NHS and Swim Wales.

The evening was enlightening, with three speakers sharing how they made the most of their experience at Swansea University and the impact it had on securing employment.

Amy Riley, Sales and Marketing Executive at Swim Wales, stressed the importance of the opportunities she undertook whilst at the School of Management, such as her role as student ambassador and her placement at Copper Bay.

Frank Holmes, Partner at Gambit Corporate Finance LLP, shared the importance of taking risks in his career and how he wouldn’t have got to where he was today without doing this.

Osman Faisal, Assistant Economist, Heat and Business Energy Analysis, Clean Growth Directorate, discussed his role and how he transitioned from his undergraduate and postgraduate studies into the workplace.

If you would like to speak at a future School of Management alumni event, please email somcareers@swansea.ac.uk

SWANSEA IN Nigeria

Our alumni in Nigeria hosted an event to formally mark the launching of the Swansea in Nigeria Alumni Network. The event took place in December, at the NAF Conference Centre and Suites, Abuja, and it was a great success.

This alumni network in Nigeria will be a great source of support, advice and guidance for students thinking of studying in Swansea or returning to Nigeria after the completion of their studies.

Swansea University has informal alumni chapters all around the world. Run by alumni for alumni, they’re the perfect opportunity to network, attend events, find jobs and much more.

Visit swansea.ac.uk/alumni/stay-connected/international-chapters for more information.

Have you attended one of our events? Email us at alumni@swansea.ac.uk with any pictures you may have, and they could be featured online.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Over the last year, there have been a record number of alumni events taking place. Helping you to make new connections and friends, our events allow us all to leave a little bit of Swansea wherever we go. Here are just a few:

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SWANSEA IN...
Are you thinking about making a trip back to Swansea to catch up with old friends? Do you want to show your family around the city where you spent a lot of your time as a student? Well, whilst you’re visiting, why not head back to your old campus?

To make things even easier, you’ll be glad to hear that alumni can now get a discounted rate on rooms at the Swansea Marriott Hotel.

To book, just call central reservation on 01792 642020 and quote Alumni, followed by cluster code 799.

You can also book online. Simply visit our Alumni Benefits page to find out more: swansea.ac.uk/alumni/benefits

Please note that this offer is subject to availability.

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**JOIN US IN LLANRWSTI**

Swansea University is proud to be sponsoring the Babell Lên literary pavilion at the 2019 National Eisteddfod in Conwy. All alumni are invited to attend the Hywel Teifi Memorial Lecture held in the Babell Lên on Thursday, August 8th at 11:00am, which will be delivered by Professor Gwynedd Parry, Department of Welsh, Swansea University on the subject of the trials and tribulations of the Conwy Valley writers and poets.

Following the lecture, a reception for Swansea University alumni and friends will be held in the company of Huw Chiswell. Come and join us to hear more about the latest developments at Swansea and the plans to celebrate the University’s centenary in 2020.

To find a full list of events being held by Swansea University during the Eisteddfod week, visit either swansea.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-events or check out the Events section on our brand new alumni platform, Swansea Uni Connect (see page 3).
LIAM DUTTON
Broadcaster, Meteorologist, Musician

GEOGRAPHY, 2002

Why did you choose to study at Swansea University?
I chose to study at Swansea University because I wanted a degree course that offered a lot of flexibility, enabling me to pursue subject matters that I was interested in and would be beneficial to my career aspirations.

Tell us about your time at the University. What would you say is your defining memory of studying at Swansea?
My defining memory of studying at the University is the wholesome environment, the resources, the experience that I had, which really paid off, because I presented my first weather forecast on TV within just nine months – coincidentally on BBC Wales Today.

What does your day normally consist of?
On a typical day, I get into the newsroom at around 11.30am and spend around an hour or two looking at the various weather computer models to see what the forecast is going to be. I also see if there are any big weather stories going on around the world, which can mean that I make an additional appearance on the main news programme.

What is one thing about your job that may surprise people?
What most people don’t realise, is that weather presenters don’t read autocue. We ad-lib and present the weather from a story that we’ve built inside our heads. This also allows us to be flexible and talk for varying amounts of time at short-notice.

What does your YouTube channel explain?
Your YouTube channel explains various aspects of the weather in less than two minutes. Why are these videos so important to you?
The weather videos are such a useful way in which to take complex ideas and communicate them in an engaging way that is accessible to everyone. I don’t have time to cover everything in my TV forecast each evening, so it’s another place where I can be more expansive and more reactive to what people are interested in.

I recently made a YouTube video on how to spot fake weather stories. It’s something that I’m passionate about and feel is an important conversation to be having. Weather affects us all and influences a lot of what we do, so everyone should have the right to know whether what they are reading has been written with the intent to inform, act as clickbait, or even a mix of the two.

Why did you choose to become a forecaster instead of another type of climatologist?
Although there’s an obvious close link between weather and climate, it’s always been the weather side of things that I’ve had the greatest passion for. People are always talking about the weather, so for me to be able to inform, educate and engage with everyone about it is a dream.

I’ve had such positive feedback from a varied demographic of people, who really appreciate being able to find out more about something that interests them. I think it’s an important part of my role to make sure that there is high-quality and credible weather content for people to access.

The weather is a constant topic in newspapers. How much would you say is fact, and how much is “clickbait”?
I think that the quality of weather content in newspapers is on a varying scale, with the worst being at the clickbait end and the best being at the factual end. What I try to do in my role – especially on social media – is to educate people what to be wary of when reading weather stories in newspapers.

I normally spend some more time on social media around 5pm, as this is one of the best times for audience engagement in the UK. It is also a time of day when people are about to travel, so offering weather advice for the commute is popular.

Next is a trip to make-up to ensure that I don’t look shiny in the strong TV studio lights, before going into the studio to present my TV forecast.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of going into a career like yours?
The media landscape is constantly changing and difficult to get into – especially for weather broadcasting, of which there are relatively few jobs in the UK. Therefore, patience, persistence, hard work and a backup plan are essential qualities to have for a career like mine.

What advice do you have for those who have recently graduated?
I would say that the key to ongoing success is to stay relevant – especially in your specialism – and keep up with the constantly changing world. Don’t just focus on what you’re doing now, but also look to the future and think about the direction in which things are travelling, and where you and your aspirations can fit into that.

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I then spend some time on social media and often post a few things – videos, pictures or useful information – to see what people are most interested in on that particular day.

I then spend a few hours preparing weather graphics, using special software that is like a blend of PowerPoint and Google Earth. It effectively allows me to show a variety of weather information for anywhere on the planet for up to 10 days ahead.

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The media landscape is constantly changing and difficult to get into – especially for weather broadcasting, of which there are relatively few jobs in the UK. Therefore, patience, persistence, hard work and a backup plan are essential qualities to have for a career like mine.

What is one thing about your job that may surprise people?
What most people don’t realise, is that weather presenters don’t read autocue. We ad-lib and present the weather from a story that we’ve built inside our heads. This also allows us to be flexible and talk for varying amounts of time at short-notice.

We also prepare the graphics and, in my case as a trained forecaster, I work out the forecast myself. It’s a largely one-person band from start to finish.

Your YouTube channel explains various aspects of the weather in less than two minutes. Why are these videos so important to you?
The weather videos are such a useful way in which to take complex ideas and communicate them in an engaging way that is accessible to everyone. I don’t have time to cover everything in my TV forecast each evening, so it’s another place where I can be more expansive and more reactive to what people are interested in.

I recently made a YouTube video on how to spot fake weather stories. It’s something that I’m passionate about and feel is an important conversation to be having. Weather affects us all and influences a lot of what we do, so everyone should have the right to know whether what they are reading has been written with the intent to inform, act as clickbait, or even a mix of the two.

Why did you choose to become a forecaster instead of another type of climatologist?
Although there’s an obvious close link between weather and climate, it’s always been the weather side of things that I’ve had the greatest passion for. People are always talking about the weather, so for me to be able to inform, educate and engage with everyone about it is a dream.

I’ve had such positive feedback from a varied demographic of people, who really appreciate being able to find out more about something that interests them. I think it’s an important part of my role to make sure that there is high-quality and credible weather content for people to access.

The weather is a constant topic in newspapers. How much would you say is fact, and how much is “clickbait”?
I think that the quality of weather content in newspapers is on a varying scale, with the worst being at the clickbait end and the best being at the factual end. What I try to do in my role – especially on social media – is to educate people what to be wary of when reading weather stories in newspapers.

What advice do you have for those who have recently graduated?
I would say that the key to ongoing success is to stay relevant – especially in your specialism – and keep up with the constantly changing world. Don’t just focus on what you’re doing now, but also look to the future and think about the direction in which things are travelling, and where you and your aspirations can fit into that.

The key to ongoing success is to stay relevant – and to keep up with the constantly changing world.”
Elephants for Africa is a charity that is dedicated to the conservation of elephants and other wildlife. Through research and education, the charity empowers local villagers to live alongside wildlife; encouraging them to understand elephants, whilst trying to minimise the damage that they can sometimes cause. So how did this amazing charity begin? Well, it all started with award-winning behaviour ecologist, conservation biologist and Swansea University alumna, Dr Kate Evans.

As a child, Kate was already advocating for nature, always looking under rocks for woodlice, and trying to save stray dogs. Whilst she had a love of all animals, it was elephants that truly captured Kate’s heart and imagination, and at the age of seven she made herself promise she would help their conservation and wellbeing.

Kate struggled academically at school, and was eventually diagnosed with dyslexia. Whilst academia didn’t come naturally to her, she persevered, saying, “I wasn’t sure whether further education was the right route for me. Thankfully I found myself in the safe environment of Swansea University, on a course that I loved and excelled at; Zoology.”

After graduating, Kate then went on to gain experience volunteering on various projects throughout southern Africa. With more field experience under her belt she then returned to Swansea, where she successfully studied for a Masters in Zoology, focussing on Lion Parasitology. It was at this point that Kate realised what she really wanted to do. “There was an opportunity for me to continue with Lion Parasitology through to a PhD, but for me it was elephants and their actual wellbeing that I always found to be important, not academics itself. The best way for me to achieve this goal was by pursuing a PhD on adolescent male elephant behaviour, which formed the foundation of the charity Elephants for Africa.”

Kate founded Elephants for Africa on completion of her PhD, and now heads up the charity which has a holistic approach to elephant conservation, focusing much of its work in Botswana, home to the largest remaining elephant population.

Kate continues to be inspired by the wilderness of Botswana and is passionate about the importance of conserving African elephants. Knowing that Swansea University has played a large part in helping her through this great journey, Kate says “I have always taken the road less travelled. When I went for an interview all those years ago at Swansea, I am very glad that the Professor saw my potential and passion above my academic achievements to that date.”

CEFAS is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), a world leader in marine science and technology. CEFAS scientists work and collaborate across the world to provide impartial research and advice to address the challenges, and harness the opportunities relating to the marine and freshwater environment. Our science helps to ensure there are thriving marine economies, sustainable fisheries and food safety. It also protects marine biodiversity, and addresses the serious threats of climate change, marine litter and pollution.

As CEFAS is also an applied marine organisation, I was involved in various fieldwork activities which included ground-truthing multibeam surveys for the designation of new Marine Protected Areas, and collecting water, sediment and fish samples to analyse the effects of eutrophication and contamination. Part of the sample gathering process also includes the monitoring of during the annual contaminant assessment for the UK, but CEFAS provided me with the opportunity to develop further. Some highlights include from my career:

- Setting up a benthic marine litter survey protocol which is currently used across the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- Advising the Secretary of State for DEFRA on recent assessments that were made on the effects of plastic bags on the marine environment
- Working with scientists of the Kuwaiti Environment Public Authority (EPA) on assessing the contaminant loads in surface waters
In 1945 the minimum age for admission to university was lowered to 17 years and 4 months, which meant that I was eligible for a place to study. In October of that year I arrived at Swansea University in time for Freshers’ Week, where I began my time in Beck Hall, a place I would live for the next 4 years. The Warden of the Hall was Miss Mary Wilkinson, who summoned the new students to the Common Room after dinner one evening in order to demonstrate how we had to make our beds. “Envelope Ends” were mandatory. No mention was made, however, about how we should light the fires in our rooms to stay safe. There was no central heating in those years and we were advised to stay safe. There was no central heating in those years and we were advised to make our beds. “Envelope Ends” were mandatory. No mention was made, however, about how we should light the fires in our rooms to stay safe. There was no central heating in those years and we were advised to make our beds. “Envelope Ends” were mandatory. No mention was made, however, about how we should light the fires in our rooms to stay safe.

The Americans were generous and at Thanksgiving in November, they arranged a dinner at the Canopic Restaurant in Mumbles and each was allowed to invite one guest. The servicemen were much in demand and the engineers were always great company!

On Saturday evenings there was usually a “hop” held at one of the temporary huts located near the Refectory. Afterwards some of the American servicemen would escort the women back to Beck Hall before Miss Wilkinson locked the front door at 10:30 pm. The men would walk away singing, “Good Night Ladies!”

At the end of that autumn term all the Beckian women were invited by the American servicemen to a Farewell Ball held for them at Brangwyn Hall. Beck Hall also held a Christmas Party and we were allowed to invite one guest. The servicemen were much in demand and the engineers were always great company!

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The collections held in the Archives are wide ranging, and include items such as:

- Minute books of the Swansea and Mumbles Railway Company
- Photographs of the South Wales Coalfield
- Plans of the former copper works at Hafod, now home to the Liberty Stadium and Morfa Shopping Park
- Teenage diary of the actor Richard Burton
- Oral histories of previous staff and students at Swansea University
- Annual Reports of the East Side District Nursing Association, Swansea
- Early photographs of Singleton Abbey

The Richard Burton Archives is the corporate memory of Swansea University and holds material of local, regional and national significance.

Did you know that the Richard Burton Archives at Swansea University is home to 1.6km of archives? Located on Level 1 west of the Library on the Singleton Park Campus, the archives are open to students, staff, the public, and you, our alumni!

Archives are unique and irreplaceable records that provide first-hand information or evidence relating to historical events, organisations and individuals. Archival records come in many forms including letters, reports, minutes, registers, photographs and films, sound recordings, maps and plans. The Richard Burton Archives is the corporate memory of Swansea University and holds material of local, regional and national significance.

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Everyone is very welcome to visit the Archives, so if you are interested in finding out more, or if you’d like to visit to access records, please visit:

swansea.ac.uk/library/richard-burton-archives
archives@swansea.ac.uk
@SwanUniArchives

1. Front entrance of Singleton Abbey, c.1920s, Richard Burton Archives, Swansea University
2. Annual Reports of the East Side District Nursing Association, Swansea
3. ‘The Archives Treasure Hoard’, Richard Burton Archives, Swansea University: © Ian Vine
4. The Rhondda Co-operative Butchery Productive Society, c.1920s-1940s; Selection of student newspapers, Swansea University Student’s Union, c.1920-2000s; Share certificate, Swansea & Mumbles Railway Ltd, 1894
What are some of your fondest memories of your time at Swansea? Early morning walks and surfs before lectures, the colourful and passionate characters in the Anthropology Department and making my first anthropological film.

Is there any advice you’d like to give to our current students and recent graduates?

Always try and choose a path in life where you are following a passion. If you believe in what you are doing, and love it, you will do it to the best of your ability.

What are the city and your time at the University?

The free time in between studying to surf and walk the coast. It turns out that working full time and having a young family means there isn’t as much time to catch waves!

From champion surfer to documentary film maker. How important would you say the role of the documentary film maker is in highlighting the impact of humans on the planet?

Over the years I have seen many ways in which people interact with their environment. Human Planet was a series based on highlighting our connection with nature all over the world – be it fishermen on the Mekong River reliant on the catfish migrations, or the training of fig tree roots to make living root bridges that combat monsoon floods in Meghalaya. There are some astonishing relationships that we have with nature – but not all are in far flung places. It’s important to remember that here in Wales, many people live with and are reliant on the seasons, like the hill farmers in Snowdonia, or the crab fishermen off the Cardigan coast. Ultimately we all have a connection with the natural world, and this is something we should all respect and understand, especially as our environment shifts.

You’ve set up your own production company with James Honeyborne, creator of the BBC’s Blue Planet series. Can you tell us about some of the projects you are working on together?

James and I set up Freebore Media to bring together the best of our skills and experience. It is a really exciting and fresh collaboration, and we plan to continue to make films that share important messages across the planet. The Blue Planet 2 effect has been so powerful that its impact still goes on today with our awareness of plastics and the health of our oceans. Freebore is now in creative partnership with Netflix, and together we intend to continue to tell powerful stories in captivating ways.

You’ve worked on programmes like Human Planet, so you must have seen some amazing things. What sticks in your mind most and why?

I have been lucky enough to travel to some of the most remote places on earth, spending my time filming and telling stories. Human Planet was a real treat to make. I travelled to Fez in Morocco to tell the story of the leather tanneries, where people so painstakingly prepare their hides.

It was one of the most unpleasant shoots I’ve ever done due to the smell of the pigeon poo they use to soften the hides. That being said, it was also one of the most visually stunning with the bright bold colours. Equally, filming elephants by moonlight in Kenya was a wonderful experience. The camera man and I would sit silently for hours under the stars, waiting for the elephants to come to drink. Despite their size, elephants move fairly silently across the land, so you always feel really lucky to suddenly see them arrive.

On my latest series, Hostile Planet which goes out on National Geographic, we filmed Homoydrys baboons in Awash National Park, Ethiopia. We filmed them from the ground, and also from the air, to give an amazing new perspective. The drone we used could fly high enough without them knowing it was there, but it could move fast enough to keep up with troops as they battle with neighbouring groups, which is really something to witness.

Have you also witnessed some things that have been quite tough?

Filming on a rubbish dump in Mombassa was tough – the living conditions were brutal. Young families rifling through waste bags which would arrive every day to the dump. Dogs, sacred ibis, egrets, humans, cows… all competing for the same resources. Yet there was an amazing order among the residents of the rubbish dump, and a strong social solidarity in the community there.

Image credit: BBC

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The results of our Alumni survey had a very strong theme running throughout... COMMUNITY. So many of you (regardless of graduation year) mentioned the strong community feeling that Swansea University has. A testament to that community spirit is your willingness to stay involved with the University and to support our current crop of students. Following on from the survey we are looking to establish more mentoring opportunities to take advantage of your impressive skills and experience, and we are also looking to set up an Alumni garden volunteers’ group to help us maintain the gardens on campus. We are delighted to have had several alumni back on campus to give talks to the students about their careers, entrepreneurship and their areas of specialism. Support from the alumni community helps make Swansea an attractive place to study. It also supports our students in their career aspirations and helps maintain the excellent reputation of the University and our graduates to employers.

**STAY INVOLVED BY TAKING PART IN ONE OF OUR CAREER EVENTS**

There are a number of opportunities throughout the year for you to get involved and inspire our students:

- Take part in a round-table discussion with students
- Secure exhibition space for your organisation at our Careers Fair for students on Friday 4th October 2019 at a discounted rate. This exclusive alumni offer means that you will pay £350 instead of £450
- Provide a career profile to give an insight into your career path
- Provide placement or internship opportunities for students

**STAY INVOLVED BY SUPPORTING STUDENT RECRUITMENT**

Inspire the next generation of students by;

- Speaking with prospective students at one of our UK Open Days (Dates on page 9)
- Joining us on the University stand at one of UCAS’ Recruitment Fairs and chat with prospective students

“Share your expertise to help current students, and stay connected with the University and its community.”

To find out more about volunteering opportunities at Swansea email alumni@swansea.ac.uk

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**OBITUARY**

Swansea University is proud to honour the lives of:

- Leonard Maunder 1947 Mathematics
- Ieuan G Jones 1950 English
- Stephen C Bird 1985 Hydrology
- Gaynor Marsh 1984 English
- Arlene Chambers 1977 French
- John F Forbes 1974 Civil Engineering
- Janet H Mantle 2012 Nursing (Adult)
- Neil R Hooper 1997 Zoology
- Rhian F Collins 2015 Nursing (Mental Health)
- Lisa Gratte 1993 Geography
- Thomas Alun Jones 1950 Chemistry
- Roderick Richards Mp 1974 Economics

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Invest in the future. Invest in Swansea.

Your gifts are helping the University transform real ideas into ground breaking advances, enabling us to build on the success of the last one hundred years.

swansea.ac.uk/alumni/makeadonation
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Extra Information

If you have any news or views that you’d like to include in either the next edition of Sail or our newsletters, please email alumni@swansea.ac.uk

For more information on what we currently do, visit: swansea.ac.uk

Our plastic wrap is widely recyclable.