The ‘jewel in the Crown’ of Swansea Law remains our Department of Postgraduate Legal Studies, described by Professor Linarelli as delivering, “… one of the best LLM programmes I have ever seen, anywhere.” The work of this Department is underpinned by our internationally recognised Institute of International Shipping & Trade Law (which incorporates our awarding winning project for supporting innovation, IP Wales®). September of this year saw the opening of our new Richard Price Lecture Theatre as the venue for the 10th Annual Colloquium of the Institute which was launched by Professor Iwan Davies, Pro VC for Internationalisation. It was a particular honour to welcome a member of the Supreme Court, Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony, to the Colloquium who chaired a session and also very kindly agreed to write the foreword for the book of the colloquium proceedings.

Two members of our Undergraduate Legal Studies staff who are having an important impact in the development of Child Rights are Associate Professor Jane Williams and Dr Simon Hoffman. September of this year saw our Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People also host a major international conference which was opened by the University Pro Chancellor Sir Roderick Evans (or the Honourable Mr Justice Roderick Evans to use his legal title).

The work of the Observatory will feature prominently in a Swansea University Texas Showcase being organised by Professor Mike Sullivan, Swansea University Vice-President (Strategic Partnerships) for the end of October and which will also feature another leading Swansea Law Professor Philip C. Bobbitt (who in addition to being a proud Texan is also the Herbert Wechsler Professor of Federal Jurisprudence and Director of the Center for National Security Law at Columbia Law School).

Our Criminology Department continues to engage in innovative research. In addition to a major student sex worker research project the Centre for Criminal Justice and Criminology is also active in the field of Cyber Terrorism and will help deliver an October workshop on this topic attended by representatives from NATO, the Home Office and Senior Police Officers. Recent events in Scotland serve to underline that we are working in an era of dramatic constitutional change. Since the Government of Wales Act 2006 the Welsh Assembly has passed 23 Measures and 15 Acts and the pace of change is quickening. The University has therefore agreed to invest heavily in the College’s ambitious plans to move to the next level of development as a recognised Centre for Welsh Legal Education within the Global Knowledge Economy. Anticipate College announcements of new staff and exciting new developments in the near future!
The research activities of the College of Law have gone from strength to strength since our last newsletter. The events referred to below largely speak for themselves. All this bodes very well for the future.

CONFERENCES
ORGANISED OR SPONSORED

Conferences organised or sponsored by the College this year have included an International Symposium on Legal Identities in Evolving Nations in February (Centre for Global Legal Priorities); a highly successful session in May in the City on offshore contracts under the auspices of the IISTL; a well-attended symposium on terrorists’ use of the Internet in June (Jointly arranged by Dr Stuart McDonald); and the IISTL’s 10th international maritime law symposium on shipbuilding and ship finance in September.

The Wales Observatory Conference 2014

Rights Here Right Now! 11 - 12 September 2014 was the Wales Observatory’s second major international conference on human rights of children and young people. Contributors from as far afield as Malaysia, Georgia USA, Switzerland and the Netherlands were joined by those from Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland for this opportunity for exchange of information, networking and learning about the many different challenges of implementation of human rights for children and young people. Young people from Funky Dragon (the Young People’s Assembly for Wales) and Swansea Young Single Homeless Project worked with the Observatory to plan and deliver the conference and chaired all the plenary sessions. These groups and young people from local youth forums, projects and schools also delivered workshops about their own work. The conference was chaired by young people and a welcome was given by Sir Roderick Evans, Swansea University’s Pro-Chancellor, followed by an opening address by the Welsh Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty. Sponsored by the Welsh Government with support also from the British Institute of Human Rights, Equalities and Human Rights Commission and UNICEF UK, this was a dynamic, inclusive event on which the Observatory’s co-directors, Dr Simon Hoffman and Jane Williams, are now building to further develop collaborations and funding bids for the Observatory’s future work. For a taste of the conference go to: youtube/29eGv8ecZeg

PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

Dr Richard Caddell in October 2013 presented a paper entitled “Wilderness Protection in Estonia” at a workshop of invited participants at the University of Tilburg. In the same month Dr George Leolouides spoke on the Montreal Convention at the fifth annual McGill Conference on International Aviation Liability & Insurance in Montreal, and Professor Baris Soyer addressed the Pireaus Bar Association’s International Conference on Maritime Law on the subject of early redelivery of chartered vessels. Jacky Tyrie delivered a paper in December at the eighth annual Conference of the Methodological Innovations Research Centre at Plymouth University on “Dilemmas and Decisions: The use of online technology to understand student sex work”. Professor Andrew Tettenborn in February 2014 delivered a CLP lecture at UCL on the subject of codification of contract.

A SELECTION OF COLLEGE PUBLICATIONS...

- R. Caddell, “Pursuing the northern rights: the emergent Arctic policy of the UK” (2014) 16 Env LR 122
- B. Soyer, Marine Insurance Fraud (Informa 2014)
- B. Soyer, “Calculation of damages for breach of time charterparties” (2014) 20 J.M.L 82
- B. Soyer & A.Tettenborn eds, Offshore Contracts and Liabilities (Informa 2014), with chapters by Profs Baughen, Soyer, Williams and Tettenborn, Dr Caddell and Simon Rainey QC.
- A. Tettenborn (part ed), Clerk & Lindsell on Torts (21st ed) (Sweet & Maxwell 2014)
- S. Baughen, “Holding corporations to account” (2013) 2 British Journal of American Legal Studies
- D. Patterson & M. Pardo, Minds, Brains and Law (OUP 2013)
- B. Soyer & A. Tettenborn eds, Carriage of Goods by Sea Land and Air (Informa 2013), with chapters by Profs Baughen, Soyer, Williams, Tettenborn and Thomas, Dr Nikaki and Leolouides, and Simon Rainey QC.
- E. Macdonald, “Dispatching the dispatch rule? The postal rule, e-mail, revocation and implied terms” (2013) 19 WJCLI
- M. Stallworthy, “Carbon Sequestration and the Limits of Regulation: a UK Perspective” (2013) 64 Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly 165
- S. Wen, Shareholder Primacy and Corporate Governance: Legal Aspects, Practices, and Future Directions (Routledge 2013)

In May, Professor Soyer was a speaker at the Genoa conference organised by the Italian Judicial School (Scuola Superiore Della Magistratura): his subject was insurance and multimodal transport. Dr Deborah Jones spoke at the fifth annual conference of the Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research in Aberystwyth in July 2014 on “A Hidden Student Population: Using Methodological Innovation to Connecting With Sex Workers in Higher Education”. In September Dr Theodora Nikaki delivered a keynote address at the InterIran Research Project Clashing Conference in Helsinki entitled “European Intermodal Sustainable Transport - Quo Vadis”, while Professor Tettenborn, in the same month, spoke at the Sixth European Colloquium on Maritime Law Research in Rotterdam on the highly important subject of the DCFR, good faith and shipping law.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Public lectures have included a lecture by the College’s own Professor Anthony Sebok on litigation finance in January at the inauguration of the College of Law; the Annual Lecture of the Wales Observatory on the Human Rights of Children and Young People, delivered in May this year by Mr Justice Hickinbottom under the title “And still the children sing”; and the Hywel Dda Institute’s Annual Lecture in August entitled “Atgyfnerthu Cenedligrwydd drwy Awdurdodaeth Gyfreithiol” (“Reinforcement of national identity through the existence of a distinct jurisdiction”) delivered in August by the Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd MP.

For further information on staff publications please visit: www.swansea.ac.uk/law/lawstaff

That’s just a summary of some of what has been going on in Swansea Law. We aim to deliver to students a curriculum that is enhanced by our own research in law, by our own participation in the wider legal community and by our enthusiasm for the development of our discipline. Maybe some of you will be the researchers of the future!
NSS SUCCESS 2014

The Department of Undergraduate Legal Studies at Swansea University has achieved further success in the latest National Student Survey (NSS), performing even more strongly than last year’s high ratings in academic support, student timetables, IT provision and library resources. The Department has beaten the sector scores on a wide range of criteria, showing high levels of student satisfaction. Students awarded particularly high marks in questions relating to academic advice and support and to the quality of feedback on assessed work.

Students also rated teaching highly, with 91% of students agreeing that Swansea Law staff are good at explaining things and 89% saying that the course is intellectually stimulating. Swansea students give higher ratings than law students across the sector for the quality of feedback on assessed work. Students agreed that feedback is prompt, detailed and helps to clarify understanding and that assessment and marking is fair. On academic support more widely, students said that staff availability was good and that they received helpful advice. The Department of Undergraduate Legal Studies also performs very strongly on employability. In the latest official survey, 94% of Swansea LLB graduates were recorded as being in employment and/or further study, and 67% of those employed held a professional or managerial job six months after the course. Students have the benefit of dedicated employability sessions and they are encouraged to take part in the Swansea Employability Award. A range of employability initiatives helps give Swansea graduates a lead over other applicants.

Ruth Costigan, the Programme Director LLB (Single Honours) said: “We are proud to deliver an outstanding legal education and are pleased to once again be ahead of the sector benchmark on a range of aspects of student experience. The employability success also shows the excellent preparation we provide for our students ahead of their entry into professional life or further study or training.” The National Student Survey is a comprehensive survey of students’ views across the UK, carried out by Ipsos MORI.

It has been another busy year for Swansea Law’s employability team who have organised and conducted a range of events designed to enhance the employment prospects of Swansea Law graduates. Swansea Law arranged two employability boot camps open to all undergraduate students. A series of events took place in late March and early April, which included workshops on CV and covering letter writing, effective interview technique, how to succeed at assessment centres and how to cope with psychometric testing. In addition, a talk entitled “Where does law take you?” was delivered by a number of law or law related professionals from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Swansea Law’s achievements have been recognised at the Swansea Employability Academy Award Dinner on 5th June 2014 when the Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People received an award in recognition of its “Outstanding Contribution to Employability”. The award was for the Observatory’s work in arranging and supporting work placements in the field of children’s rights. The award was presented by Pro Vice Chancellor Hilary Lappin-Scott and was received on behalf of the Observatory by Dr. Simon Hoffman and recent Swansea Law graduate, Michaela Smeaton. Michaela took part in one of the work placement schemes organised by the Observatory in 2013/14. Further evidence of the success of Swansea Law’s employability initiatives is provided by the award of Bar Professional Training Course scholarships to help with travel and accommodation costs. Former Head of the College of Law, Professor John Lainorelli said: “This is a tremendous opportunity for our students. It represents the sort of active and engaged learning which we are developing as the hallmark of Swansea Law. One of the best ways to learn the law is to experience it in action. Add to this the comparative element which Swansea Law students are getting in this California experience and the results will be transformative for our students.”

SUMMER WORK PLACEMENT SCHEME GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Swansea Law’s summer work placements scheme is now in its seventh year and offers over 90 work experience opportunities to law students. A varied range of placements are available including internships at local solicitors firms, barrister’s chambers, the public defender’s service and the United Kingdom Environmental Law Association, to name but a few. The placements take place during the summer vacation and offer Swansea Law students an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a diverse range of legal settings.

Graham Jones, senior partner at Smith, Uwelyn, solicitors in Swansea and Deputy District Judge said: “We are proud to support this excellent scheme. In today’s job market it offers students a valuable opportunity to develop new skills, increase their employability and make informed decisions about their future careers.”

In addition to placements within Swansea and the surrounding areas, six Swansea Law students spent six weeks just outside Los Angeles shadowing federal public defenders and staff in the offices of district judges. The students were tested and interviewed to win the places and received college scholarships to help with travel and accommodation costs. Former Head of the College of Law, Professor John Linorelli said: “This is a tremendous opportunity for our students. It represents the sort of active and engaged learning which we are developing as the hallmark of Swansea Law. One of the best ways to learn the law is to experience it in action. Add to this the comparative element which Swansea Law students are getting in this California experience and the results will be transformative for our students.”

Jeffrey A Aaron, Directing Attorney of the Office of the Federal Public Defender, said: “These placements will give the students the opportunity to gain valuable experience working with federal judges, or agency supervisors and their staff, and to be immersed in the practice and procedure of civil and litigation in the United States.”

Student James Denton said: “The time I have spent in California has been completely different to anything I have done before. Being able to spend time in the chambers of Federal Judges has been invaluable and observing a wide range of cases in their entirety in a court room outside the UK has been enthralling, especially due to LA’s famed crime and justice system. As a group we were welcomed with open arms by everyone we encountered and were made to feel very welcome. We also had the chance to visit the penitentiary unit of a prison, a Metropolitan Detention Centre and the Drug Enforcement Administration’s headquarters. Of course, we also ventured to some more traditional American events, such as an LA Angels’ baseball match, a county fair and a tour of Hollywood.”

Swansea Law Students enjoying a barbecue at the home of Judge Kozinski during their California placement. From left to right: Liam Bestwick, Charlotte Murray, Jood Alkahrwi, William Davies, Eirin Shanahan and James Denton.
Opportunity for students to study for the New York Bar at Swansea University

The College of Law at Swansea University is thrilled to announce that it has developed a special working relationship with Barbri International, the Number One provider of US law courses in the world. From October 2015, students who graduate from undergraduate programmes at Swansea Law will have an opportunity to study for the New York Bar at Swansea University following their studies. The opportunity to study for the New York Bar is also available to postgraduate students who satisfy the New York Bar requirements; namely a 3 year undergraduate degree in law from a common law jurisdiction. Students studying at postgraduate level, who are already qualified lawyers in their home jurisdiction, will also have the opportunity of studying for the California Bar. The exclusive arrangement with Barbri International means that Swansea Law will be the only Welsh law school able to offer its students the opportunity to study for the New York Bar, allowing students to study for an internationally recognised qualification in local and familiar surroundings.

Welcoming this new development is Professor and Associate Dean, David Daynack. The Swansea LPC are very proud of the links with the local profession which ensures that students are provided with and have access to many networking opportunities as well as work placement and employment information. As part of that commitment we work closely with the local law society and the junior lawyers division. Michaela Leyshon our LPC Admissions Tutor originally served on the law society when in practice representing the interests of young lawyers in Swansea and now represents the LPC on the committee. At the AGM held recently Michaela was re-appointed for 3 years. This role ensures that any changes or opportunities in the profession both locally and nationally that will affect students and trainee solicitors alike are discussed and disseminated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GDL & LPC STUDENTS OF 2012/13

In January a graduation ceremony was held at the Grand Theatre for GDL and LPC students who had successfully completed the GDL and LPC respectively. Students and staff celebrated an extremely successful year and are proud to have secured jobs in legal practice in many local firms such as Graham Evans & Partners, BWL and Hutchinson Thomas. At the ceremony GDL students were awarded their certificates. 2012-13 GDL class passed with flying colours the 100% pass-rate has become the ‘norm’ for the Graduate Diploma in Law Programme which is now moving into its 10th year at Swansea. Graduation does not mean the end of links with Swansea Law students as many GDL graduates have since moved on to study for their solicitors’ vocational examinations on the College LPC programme. Swansea LPC also recently hosted their annual Professional Legal Conference which was attended by a number of level 3 and GDL students who wanted to learn more about entering the legal profession and what Swansea LPC could offer them. Alex Jones a Trainee Solicitor at Avery Naylar spoke about her experiences on the conference on the LPC and also as a 3rd year Law student. The Swansea LPC team had prepared her for practice and also to support she had received from the LPC team. Andrew Meech a solicitor at JCP and also a former Swansea LPC student spoke about the importance of working hard and how his time on The Swansea LPC had cultivated his strong work ethic. The Swansea LPC will continue to develop the annual conference to provide students with the opportunity to explore what the profession has to offer them.

LPC CONTINUES TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE SWANSEA & DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY

The Swansea LPC are very proud of their links with the local profession which ensures that students are provided with and have access to many networking opportunities as well as work placement and employment information. As part of that commitment we work closely with the local law society and the junior lawyers division. Michaela Leyshon our LPC Admissions Tutor originally served on the law society when in practice representing the interests of young lawyers in Swansea and now represents the LPC on the committee. At the AGM held recently Michaela was re-appointed for 3 years. This role ensures that any changes or opportunities in the profession both locally and nationally that will affect students and trainee solicitors alike are discussed and disseminated.
Michael Draper and Amanda Rees were invited to attend a recent conference in Birmingham hosted by the SRA in relation to the Future of Legal Education. Views were shared by a host of LPC providers about the value of the LPC and the importance of training lawyers who are fit for purpose and will be a valuable contribution to any firm. One of the topics discussed was how trainee solicitors could qualify without the need for a formal training contract. Following the conference the SRA have produced their 2014 SRA Training Regulations which allow exemptions to training contracts to be granted to an LPC graduate who can demonstrate other assessed learning and work based learning through equivalent means of training. This will mean paralegals who have passed an LPC may now qualify as solicitors without having to complete a formal training contract.

**LPC COURSE DIRECTOR AWARDED EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARD**

Michael Draper, Director of the Swansea Legal Practice took the role as an expert panel member at the recent Conference on excellence in teaching at the Swansea Academy of Learning and teaching. Michael also delivered a presentation at a Conference with the President of the Student Law Society on the role of the Student Law Society in supporting learning and skills development. At the Conference The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Richard Davies, congratulated Michael by publicly conferring an excellence in learning and teaching award following nomination by students and colleagues. Some of the student’s comments are as follows: “Michael went beyond the call of duty when considering my future employment. I received a few invitations to interview and Michael gave me tips and guidance on how to succeed. He also gave me advice when dealing with different employment related options. His practical insight and encouragement was vital in me securing my training contract.” “I would like to thank Michael for a great year - It has been the best of my time at university and that is in no small part down to his teaching and support with my future employment.”

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

The Swansea LPC continues to stay in contact with and keep track of former students who are carving out successful and rewarding careers in legal practice. Nia Godsmark who was one of our very first students at Swansea has recently joined Swansea firm Peter Lynn and Partners. Chris Davies has moved from Llanelli firm Davies Parsons to JCP in Swansea where Mathew Wells has recently joined the family department. Matthew recently took part in the inaugural Swansea Bay Half Marathon and was first past the post. Well done Mathew!

**EMPLOYABILITY NEWS**

Committed to our student’s futures...

At the College of Law we recognise that helping students with their chosen career is about more than providing an excellent teaching and learning environment, it also includes helping students to develop skills and qualities, and to gain experience, which will help them on the road to their career of choice when they leave Swansea University. For this reason we have established ‘Employability’ as a key priority at the College of Law. Employability is about ensuring that students have the opportunity to undertake work experience, volunteering, and extra-curricular activities, which will make them more attractive to future employers, giving them a boost in the employment marketplace. In order to support student Employability the College of Law provides advice and guidance via a Director of Employability (Dr Simon Hoffman), who is able to offer advice on Swansea University Employability schemes and awards (e.g. the Higher Education Achievement Record, a recognised degree supplement recording student achievement whilst at university). The Director of Employability is also responsible for organising a range of Employability activities specifically for law students. Taking place during the academic year, these include: mock interviews, skills training (on topics such as CV Writing, Interview Skills, or Coping with Assessment Centres). Information about these initiatives is circulated to students via e-mail and various bulletin boards (including the College electronic Blackboard site).

**DOES ALL THIS WORK?**

We firmly believe that our Employability initiatives give our students a ‘degree plus’, the ‘plus’ is a competitive edge to boost student employment prospects. The evidence confirms that Employability works (excuse the pun)…recently available statistics from the Higher Education Statistical Agency shows that 94% of our graduates who are employed, are in graduate employment (see UNISTAT database: http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)

For queries about College of Law Employability contact: Dr Simon Hoffman: s.hoffman@swansea.ac.uk
Lectures in 2013-2014 included:
- Peter Grube, Chief PI Officer & Senior Education Officer at BIMCO – “The Role and Function of BIMCO in the Shipping World”
- Måns Jacobsson, former Director of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds and Visiting Fellow IISTL – “The Erika – The Civil Law Aspects; A Case Study”
- Fabien Lerede, Offshore Syndicate Claims Director, Charles Taylor, London – “PI Clubs”
- Hugh Shaw, SUGREP – “Dealing with Maritime Emergencies in the UK”
- Prof Dr. Bhishan Tham, Emirati Professor of Maritime Law, Founding Director of the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University – “Resolution of International Commercials and Maritime Disputes”

LLM Students Represent the Postgraduate Legal Studies Department at the Nanjing Summer Law Culture Programme

The Department of Postgraduate Legal Studies is building close links with the Faculty of Law at Nanjing Normal University. As part of this process, this year Nanjing again very generously offered two scholarships to Swansea LLM students to attend its Summer Law and Legal Culture Exchange Programme (held in the first two weeks of August). The aim of this programme is to promote further intellectual exchange between Chinese and foreign law students, allowing the latter to imbibe the ancient culture of Nanjing and its surrounding area and providing them with an unrivalled opportunity to understand both Chinese society and the legal system in China.

A very gratifying number of Swansea LLM students leapt at this opportunity this year. Following a rigorous application and interview process, Ms Toluwanimi Akeju from Nigeria and Mr Jonas Jansen from Germany came out on top and were chosen to represent Swansea at the summer school. During their challenging stay in Nanjing (which they would highly recommend to anyone), Jonas and Toluwanimi both very much enjoyed a series of demanding but highly interesting seminars and opportunities to enter into discussion with Chinese professors and students. As part of the summer course, they also visited the provincial court of appeal and the provincial law school and decided to enter into discussion with professors and students. As part of the summer course, they also visited the provincial court of appeal and the provincial law school and decided to enter into discussion with Chinese professors and students. As part of the summer course, they also visited the provincial court of appeal and the provincial law school and decided to enter into discussion with Chinese professors and students.

Swansea LLM Team Reaches the Final of Inaugural National Commercial and Maritime Mooting Competition

A mooting team comprised of Swansea LLM students Pernille Kuld-Eriksen, Konstantina Zormpa, Mardyros Tsakirian and Katharina Neide effortlessly reached the final of the prestigious Commercial and Maritime Law Mooting Competition organised by the Postgraduate Legal Studies Department and held for the first time this year under the aegis of 7 King’s Bench Walk, the leading Temple shipping and commercial chambers, and Informa Law. The initial rounds in Swanses were attended by 21 university teams from across the UK, not to mention an incredibly wide range of arbitrators, solicitors, academics and transport law experts who were prepared to give their time and trouble to help. The final was held at the Parliament Chamber in the Middle Temple on 23 June before an invited panel consisting of Mr Justice Flaux, Peter Macdonald-Eggers QC and Simon Pickens QC. It was a hard fight, demonstrating among other things how far students who had not been educated in a common law system had progressed in such a short period of time. Their legal arguments on a fiendish problem arising out of the law of international multimodal transport were commended by the arbitrators as very impressive and their skeleton arguments were graded particularly highly.

LLM Students Experience London Legal Practice at First Hand

As part of the rounded educational experience of our LLM programmes, the Department of Postgraduate Legal Studies this year organised for its students full guided tours of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, as well as Lincoln’s Inn, with a view of providing a direct view and understanding of two institutions that occupy a crucial position within the English legal system. The response to the offer was overwhelming; over 50 LLM students took part in this trip to London on 10 December 2013. The students found the trip extremely rewarding, not to mention an opportunity to make valuable contacts with leading London practitioners.

5th Annual LLM Career & Networking Fair

On 5 March 2014, the Department of Postgraduate Legal Studies hosted its fifth annual Careers Fair. The main objective of the event was to assist LLM students and recruiting companies and organisations by giving both the opportunity to meet and discuss recruitment plans and practices. This year’s event attracted a record number of employers, comprising law firms, management companies, P & I Clubs, and others, all of whom showed a great interest in our students. A notable feature of the Fair was once again the number of Swansea LLM alumni now themselves employed at these leading firms, including Kristoffer Snaprud Johannessen (Skuld P & I Club), Jessica Wearing-Evans (M. Taher & Co Solicitors) and David Williams (Charles Taylor Consulting PLC). Students who attended the event were delighted to meet a great number of representatives of leading international employers, and many of them made useful contacts which will undoubtedly prove to be invaluable in their future professional career. Representatives of the participating firms for their part found our LLM students to be enormously well-prepared and informed of the job opportunities available in the market. This was essentially down to the bespoke guidance and support provided continuously by the Postgraduate Legal Studies Department to our LLM students. Throughout the year, the Department offers employability sessions and personal support; it is this, combined with the reputation that Swansea LLM enjoys, that enables most of our students to find highly rewarding jobs in London and other leading shipping and finance centres.
New course on Oil and Gas Law launched to complement our internationally acclaimed LLM Programmes

The business of oil and gas has long been, and remains today, one of the most fundamental aspects of global commerce and natural resources law. It gives rise not only to awkward issues in commercial law, but also to ticklish regulatory questions, as witness the fallout from the Piper Alpha and Deepwater Horizon disasters. Reflecting these developments and the industry’s need for more experts in this complex area of law, a group within the College’s Department of Postgraduate Legal Studies and the IISTL developed a specialisation in this field. One result was that the IISTL devoted its ninth International Colloquium in 2013 to emerging issues arising out of the “Offshore Contracts and Liabilities”. Another, more lasting, one was the launch in September 2013 of a new LLM Module on Oil and Gas Law. This module, which supplements the already wide range of modules on maritime and commercial law, furnishes Swansea LLM students with a serious and in-depth understanding of the legal framework governing oil, gas and renewable energy sources at the national, regional and international levels, as well as the specific environmental standards and unique commercial arrangements engaged by energy production. Its inauguration was given a further boost when, in recognition of Swansea’s outstanding reputation in commercial shipping law generally, Holman Fenwick Willan (HFW), the leading law firm in the field, most generously took it on themselves to sponsor a prize for the best student in this module. The winner of the inaugural prize was Ms Jacqueline Okoro from Nigeria and Charalampos Pogiatzis from Cyprus respectively carrying off the awards for Oil and Gas Law and Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air. This year saw each worth £500 - are awarded to the best student in Admimralty Law, Oil and Gas Law and Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air. This year saw the admimralty prize, and Jacqueline Okoro from Nigeria and Charalampos Pogiatzis from Cyprus respectively carrying off the awards for Oil and Gas Law and Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air. This year saw them. These prizes known as the HFW prizes and key players in the insurance market. This year’s event was attended by a capacity crowd of 90 delegates. Apart from

As of 2014, student prizes are on offer for LLM students at Swansea. In particular, one of the foremost shipping and commercial law firms in the world, Holman Fenwick Willan (HFW), has very generously agreed to sponsor no less than three of them. These prizes known as the HFW prizes and each worth £500 - are awarded to the best student in Admimralty Law, Oil and Gas Law and Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air. This year saw an impressive international field, with Neelle Eiken from Germany as the inaugural winner of the Admiralty Prize, and Jacqueline Okoro from Nigeria and Charalampos Pogiatzis from Cyprus respectively carrying off the awards for Oil and Gas Law and Carriage of Goods. All three prizes were awarded at a reception at HFW’s London headquarters on 24 June 2014 in the presence not only of the winners, but of numerous HFW trainees and partners, not to mention five members of the Department itself. Similarly, a few years ago industry leader Ince & Co introduced an annual prize of £1,000 for the highest grade in the taught element of any of the LLM Programmes offered at Swansea, provided that the work has a direct connection with that undertaken by the firm. The winner of the Ince & Co Prize this year was Marilena Papagrigoraki from Greece. She was presented with her award by partner Jonathan Elvey at a ceremony held at Ince’s London office overlooking Tower Bridge on 24 June 2014. In addition to partners, associates and trainees of Ince & Co, several members of the Postgraduate Legal Studies Department attended the reception.

IISTL Organises a Seminar on Offshore Contracts at Holman Fenwick & Willan LLP

One of the main missions of the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law (IISTL) is to bridge the gap between legal practice and academia. To this end, the IISTL regularly organises evening seminars in collaboration with leading City commercial and shipping law firms directed at lawyers, traders, business people and key players in the insurance market. This year’s event was devoted to fundamental aspects of offshore contracts and was delivered at HFW’s London offices on 8 May. It was a sell-out, attended by a capacity crowd of 90 delegates. Apart from Professor Richard Williams and Simon Rainey QC from the IISTL, Emilie Brokor-Ingram and Rory Butler from HFW delivered papers on a wide range of themes, including the operation and construction of knock-for-knock clauses in offshore contracts and the complexities of the Windtime, Heavycon and Heavylift charterparty forms. The presentations sparked lively debate and even livelier questions from the audience. The evening ended with a reception generously hosted by HFW.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR SWANSEA LLM ALUMNI

The Postgraduate Legal Studies Department organised a reception for LLM alumni in London on board HMS Belfast, a stone’s throw from Tower Bridge and directly facing the City where many of those attending were busy with their professional careers. Despite the onset of autumn, the weather was excellent and everyone was able to spend a thoroughly enjoyable evening in the open on the main deck. Large numbers of Swansea graduates, now young professionals working not only in the City but in other major commercial centres, such as Antwerp, Hong Kong and Oslo, had an unrivalled opportunity to chat with ex-classmates and former lecturers and catch up with developments in Swansea since they left it. They were delighted though not particularly surprised to hear that the Law School was now in the top 20 in the UK in terms of teaching excellence; that the overwhelming majority of its research was classed as having international recognition; and that substantial numbers of new appointments had been made to strengthen the LLM teaching team in such a way as to cement its position as the leading academic centre in commercial and maritime law.
SOME STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES...

Jaime Albors (Spain-LLM in International Maritime Law)
Jaime completed his LLM in International Maritime Law in 2011. He is also the winner of the IISTL Prize for the best law projects. He is a Foreign Qualified Lawyer at the London office of Clyde & Co LLP, currently working in MIT 1 Marine and International Trade Department. Jaime deals with a wide range of cases, including charterparty disputes, marine insurance, commodities and large scale litigation with special focus in Latin America and Spain.

Michael Bilton (LLB, LPC & LLM in International Maritime Law)
Having completed his LLB at Swansea, Michael joined Waltons & Morse LLP, London as a Paralegal, gaining early valuable experience with the firm. He returned to Swansea to study the LLM & LPC and went on to qualify as a Solicitor with Waltons & Morse soon after. Since qualifying Michael has worked in all areas of the firm’s expertise, including marine insurance, carriage of goods by sea and extensive work in the piracy team.

Benedikte Johansen (Norway-LLM in International Commercial and Maritime Law)
Benedikte Johansen was invited to participate in an internship with the London offices of Standard P&I Club / Charles Taylor - this was a contact Benedikte established at the Swansea LLM Career Fair. The internship consisted of several exercises, presentations and introductions into the varying and complex practical issues within the marine insurance industry. She found it to be a highly challenging, but especially valuable experience and it has certainly helped her understand what lies ahead, giving her great motivation for the future.

Qin He (China- LLM in International Maritime Law)
Qin obtained an LLM in International Maritime Law in 2008. He is currently employed at COSCO International Freight Co. Ltd, one of the world’s biggest shipping groups specializing in international freight forwarding, shipping agency and full supply-chain services.

Fergus Moffatt (GDL & LPC)
Fergus achieved a BA in International Relations before embarking on the GDL and LPC. He is currently a Parliamentary Researcher in the House of Commons working for the MP for Portsmouth South and has been involved in several high profile legal cases.

CONTACT DETAILS
Undergraduate Programmes (LLB):
llb@swansea.ac.uk
Postgraduate Taught Programmes (LLM):
llm@swansea.ac.uk
Professional Courses: LPC Enquiries:
M.E.Leyshon@swansea.ac.uk
GDL Enquiries:
karen.davies@swansea.ac.uk
Research Degrees:
lawpostgradresearch@swansea.ac.uk
General Enquiries: Helen Sumner-Obasi,
Recruitment & Marketing Officer:
H.A.E.Sumner@swansea.ac.uk

www.swansea.ac.uk/law