

A man in a blue suit and a woman with glasses and a white lab coat are looking at a large, unrolled ancient scroll. The scroll is illuminated by a desk lamp. The man is pointing at a section of the scroll, and the woman is smiling. The scroll appears to be made of papyrus or parchment and has some text and drawings on it.

CWL

issue 02

INSIDE

the impenetrable Caerphilly castle

getting the most out of your Study Abroad experience

the Welsh Fulbright escapade

tracing Welsh ancestry in America

*The Study Abroad magazine
from Cardiff University*

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An exhibition from the Early Medieval section of the Origins Gallery at the National Museum Cardiff.

From the Study Abroad Manager

Croeso! Welcome to the 2013 edition of CWL, our Study Abroad magazine.

Created especially for you, we've put together this magazine so that North American students get a better feel of what Cardiff has to offer – be it our sporting culture, rich history or academic adventures.

In this issue, not only are we covering the six-week long Wales Fulbright Summer Institute, but for the historians out there, we've also included articles highlighting one of Britain's finest castles, Caerphilly Castle, as well as digging into the history of Welsh-American communities.

We caught up with Study Abroad student Grace Buckles, who's recently returned to the University of Vermont. She gives us her top tips on studying in the UK and how to navigate the fast-moving Study Abroad term.

Last but not least, Sherlock fans will be pleased to know that we are covering the locations used during filming here in Cardiff.

So enjoy the articles in this issue and remember to speak to your Study Abroad adviser for more information about studying at Cardiff University.

Rose Matthews

Study Abroad and Exchanges Manager



'Cwl' is pronounced and means the same as the English word 'cool'. CWL is also the location identifier for Cardiff Airport, which will be the first thing that greets you if you fly into Welsh territory!

Did you know that the Welsh language, Cymraeg, is one of Europe's oldest living languages?

CWL

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Founded in the Netherlands, Korfball is played mostly in Europe and is a combination of Netball and Basketball. Colgate students, Casey and Gaurav played it throughout their Study Abroad term and share their experience with us.

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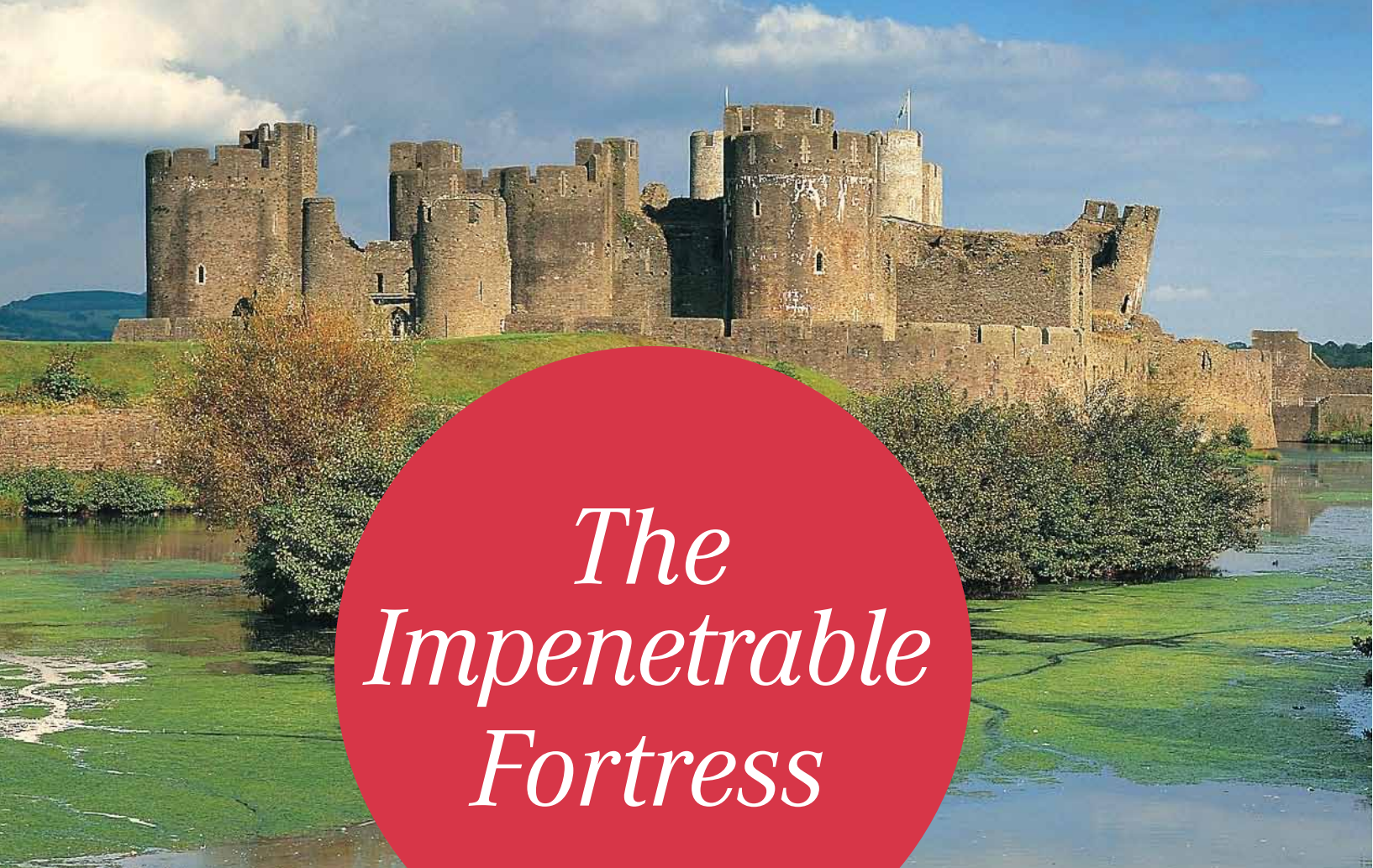


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The Impenetrable Fortress

Only a 20-minute train ride from Cardiff University, this 750 year old Castle is the largest in Wales and is the epitome of having 'history at your doorstep'. Taking you back to a time when secret mural passages, escape routes and siege engines were a way of life, the castle is full of breath-taking sights and is a perfect place to unwind.

Spanning an impressive 1.2 hectares in size, Caerphilly Castle is the largest castle in Britain after Windsor. It is the first truly concentric castle in Britain and boasts double concentric castle walls in addition to insuperable water defences built to secure its safety.

Built in 1268 and having only one instance of remodelling completed in 1320, Caerphilly Castle is a genuine example of 13th century revolutionary military planning and is a must-see attraction for visitors to Cardiff.

Visitors to the castle can appreciate the system of wall passages and concentric towers that guaranteed rapid and flexible access to any vantage point in the castle. Its large-scale water defences are revetted in stone and held by buttresses – proving a formidable deterrent to enemies.

Caerphilly Castle's south-east tower is famous because

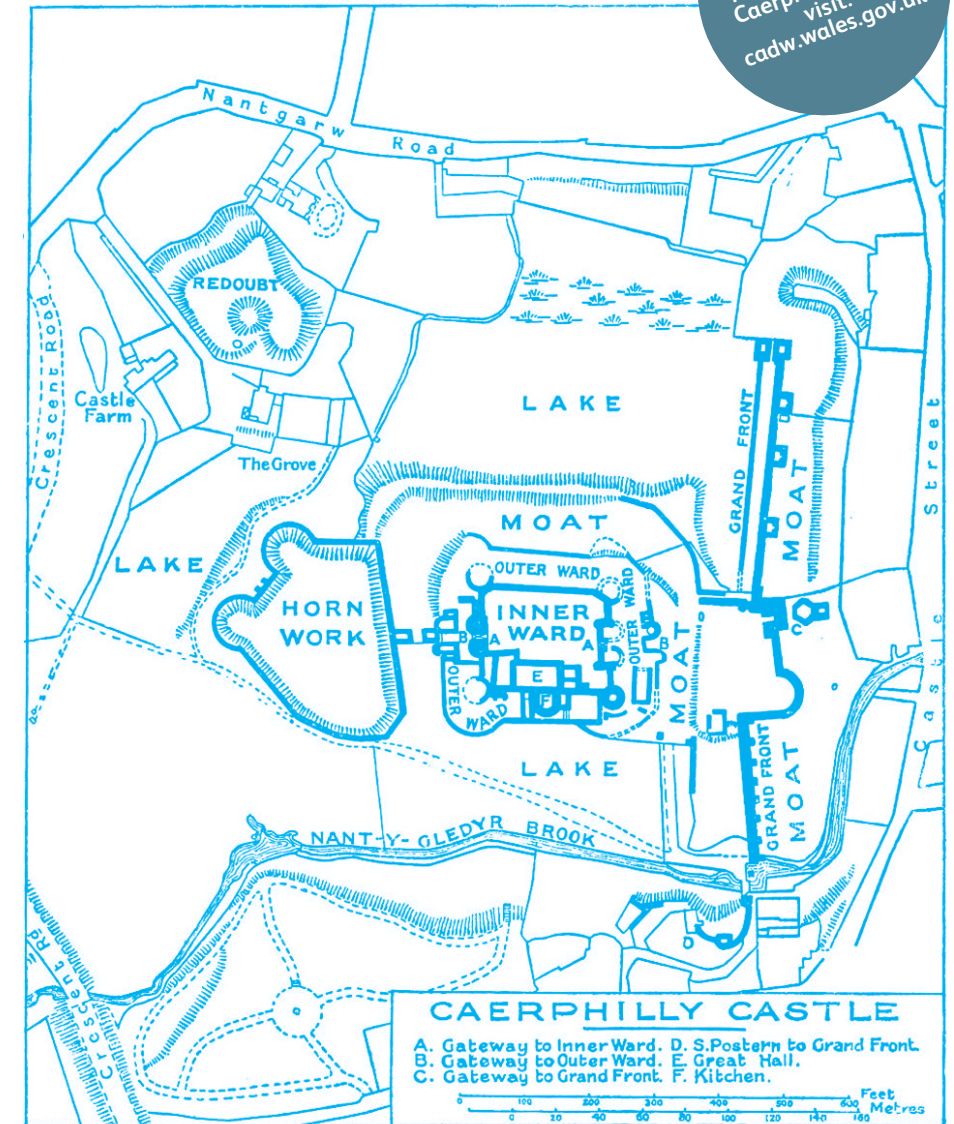
it leans more than the Tower of Pisa. It splits vertically at an angle producing a very obvious tilt. From a distance, it might seem as if the tower is about to gradually slip gracefully into the lake! Damage inflicted by Oliver Cromwell's army in 1648 is said to have caused this damage, but the cause of this 'lean' is subject to debate.

The town of Caerphilly is only 20 minutes by train or a 25 minute car ride away. Caerphilly Castle is nestled here and is open seven days a week. Massive refurbishment has taken place to ensure that its structure, surrounding lakes and halls have been maintained and restored to its former glory.

Due to its proximity to Cardiff, Caerphilly Castle is a perfect getaway for Cardiff University students who want to sight-see after a long week at university. Admission is cheap and the expansive grounds around the castle are a great place to unwind.

Mapping out Caerphilly Castle

- 1 Spanning three separate artificial islands, Caerphilly Castle stands in the centre island surrounded by two lakes and a moat.
- 2 The castle itself has a double concentric circuit of walls and four gatehouses.
- 3 Its concentric design allows rapid access to any part of the castle by narrow passages, wall-walks, towers and gatehouses.
- 4 Four replica siege engines are on display in the castle grounds - a ballista, a perrier, a trebuchet and a mangonel.
- 5 The south east tower has split vertically at an angle producing a very noticeable lean. The tower stands 20 metres high and leans 3 metres out of the perpendicular.
- 6 The outer castle ward is formed by a low wall with large semi-circular projections in the corners.
- 7 The much stronger inner ward has high curtain walls and circular corner towers.
- 8 Two impressive gatehouses command the east and west walls of the castle.
- 9 The great east gatehouse is the highest part of the castle and was its nucleus. It can be separately defended if necessary.
- 10 The well-tended grounds offer beautiful panoramic views of the castle and is perfect for a leisurely stroll.



If you'd like to read more about Caerphilly Castle, visit: cadw.wales.gov.uk

Event highlights at Caerphilly Castle

Caerphilly Castle hosts interesting events all year round, ranging from top international musicians to CSI-type case-solving activities with actual pathologists. Below are just a few highlights:

- Grand Harp Concert
- The Big Cheese Festival
- A Medieval Murder Mystery
- Fireworks Display
- The Christmas Medieval Fair

Getting there*

By train:

Start at Cardiff Central or Cardiff Queen Street to Caerphilly station. For more information, see: www.nationalrail.co.uk

By bus:

Stagecoach A & B or number 26 from Cardiff Central Station to Caerphilly. For more information, see: www.cardiffbus.com

Opening times:

Mar – Oct: 0930 – 1700
Nov – Feb: 1000 – 1600

Admission fee:

Student: £3.60

*Information was accurate at the time of print

Holmes in Cardiff

The cult British television series Sherlock amassed an impressive eight million viewers since its first broadcast in 2010. Sweeping an impressive two Critics' Choice Television Awards in 2012 and five BAFTAs (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) over the past two years.

This highly successful series was nominated for four Emmys in 2011 and was filmed across several locations in London, Dartmoor and Cardiff. Cardiff's popularity as a filming location lies in its wide range of scenery.

Television series like Dr Who, Torchwood and Sherlock utilise the idyllic green spaces, modern town centre and beautiful architecture that Cardiff has to offer.



Main Building and the School of Chemistry

Series 1, Episode 1 of Sherlock launched the series at an impressive 7.5 million viewership rate. 'A Study in Pink' shows Dr Watson coming back from Afghanistan and joining Sherlock Holmes in solving the current case of a chilling killer on the loose.

Gripping chase scenes are filmed along the School of Chemistry's corridors as Watson fights desperately against time to save Holmes. Cardiff University students will recognise the distinct, long corridors and wooden beams that frame them. As the camera reels to show a petrified Watson standing in shock, Victorian windows that surround him are the same ones that frame our beautiful Portland stone buildings that have become so characteristic of Cardiff University's campus.

'Roland Kerr College' is a fictional educational institution devised as the final location of 'A Study in Pink.' As police cars and ambulances converge to mark the climatic end to the first episode of the season, the twin buildings that feature at the end are part of Cardiff University's Main Building exterior.

Listed as a Grade II building by the government due to its special historical and architectural interest, the Main Building is at the heart of Cardiff's civic centre and is the focus of the Cathays campus. Charming, elegant and picturesque, its Victorian architecture reflects the University's rich history and stands as a testament to our proud 130-year heritage.

National Museum of Wales

In 'The Blind Banker' (Series 1 Episode 2), the National Museum of Wales doubles up for the fictitious National Antiques Museum. Originally founded in 1907, the museum is a five-minute walk from the Cathays campus and the town centre.

In this episode, Holmes is being chased by a lone gunman and navigates the foyer of the museum eventually hiding out in the 'Origins' gallery of the museum. Dodging in and out of skull walls, stone tools, artifacts and archaeological displays, he leans against a glass case, out of breath, and yells out to the killer: "careful! Some of those skulls are over 200,000 years old! Have a bit of respect... thank you."

"...careful! Some of those skulls are over 200,000 years old!"

The 'Origins' gallery traces life in Wales from the Old Stone Age to the end of the Middle Ages spanning a total of 230,000 years, so Holmes wasn't too far off in actuality.

Boasting Europe's finest collection of art, it has 500-year old drawings, sculptures and ceramics from all over the world including some of Europe's best impressionist works. Due to its free admission and central location, it is no surprise that many university students frequent it on the weekends or even in the middle of lectures if they've got a few hours to spare.



Cardiff Central Library

Scenes from the fictitious West Kensington Library were filmed at the Cardiff Central Library. In the episode 'The Blind Banker' (Series 1 Episode 2), Holmes is filmed racing down the escalators in a rush (obviously!), covering distances across bright open spaces, vibrant colours and wide expanses of glass. What the camera doesn't show are the spectacular views across the city of Cardiff that the library has to offer.



“I love Wales”

Getting the most out of your Study Abroad experience

“More people should be coming to Cardiff! It’s not as expensive as London and people are just amazing and friendly. I love the culture. I love Wales.”



When you begin your Study Abroad experience, the sudden change of class structure, assessment methods and course work can be a lot to take in. But have no fear, Grace is here! Currently an Arts and Humanities student at the University of Vermont majoring in Religious Studies, Grace has distilled some pretty savvy advice from her time at Cardiff University and how to navigate the differences between the US and UK education systems.

She says that it’s all about having an open and spontaneous mind about the experience – “because you’re gonna have one!”

Here are her tips on how to make the most of your Study Abroad experience:

What I’ve learnt in Cardiff definitely complements the system back home. I’ve gained skills that can be transferred over to my home university and which will help me develop. I’m now more prepared to start researching my papers beforehand and looking for literature beyond that given to me by my professor.

Grace’s checklist:

- ☑ Bring an umbrella - it rains here.
- ☑ Don’t be on Facebook every hour. Don’t be on your computer when you can be talking to your flatmates in the kitchen. If there is a chance to mingle with new friends and flatmates, then go and do that!
- ☑ Be open to any kind of adventure.
- ☑ Really live in Cardiff. Get to know where the markets are, where the discount stores are and where the mall is. We discovered a Sunday food market here and have been going ever since!
- ☑ It’s not just about travelling all over Europe, although I did go to Paris. I went to places in Wales too including Swansea and a cute little town called Tenby.
- ☑ Travelling in small doses here and there is great, but your Study Abroad placement should not be a ‘touch and go / check in check out’ experience.
- ☑ Immerse yourself in the culture. That was part of the experience that I absolutely loved about being here.
- ☑ Be open to the little things and realise that it’s not just the grand plans that make great experiences. Sometimes it’s the little misadventures which will be the unforgettable ones.



Differences 101 ...

Classroom terminology:

Lectures – where you attend a class in which the professor provides you with information. He/she would discuss the literature and the reading you then need to do at home. Unlike a seminar, there is less teacher-student interaction.

Seminars – this is where the students participate and talk in smaller groups. The professor or grad-student would lead the seminar with questions but input and discussion would come from the students. When you put them all together, it would be like all 3 weekly subjects put together back home.

Weekly studying habits:

Fewer hours in class - this meant that I sometimes had Mondays free. Fewer timetabled classes doesn’t mean that you have more time off, it means that you have more time to prepare for your essays outside class, do your own independent study and reading.

More independent study – this is where you have to be focused and self-motivated about finishing your course work. You need to get used to the structure here - fewer hours in class means more time researching your essays in the library. It’s a different balance.

Interactions with professors:

Professors operate an “open door” policy here and are always happy to see students outside of classes. Throughout the semester my professors were very helpful. If I had any questions I’d email them and they would usually respond within the day.

Everywhere I went, the staff were all very supportive, they would help with me with problems and weren’t short with you. It was really nice to come in and not feel so lost. It was very easy to get into the flow of everything.

Study skills:

The reading list – Use it! Given at the start of term, it contains the syllabus and recommended books to use. I found that I could read the title of the books to get an idea of what the curriculum entailed and what would help with my coursework due at the end of the semester.

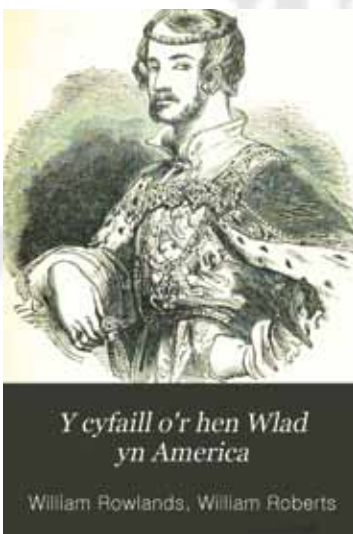
Essays - The topics I needed to cover for my papers and for my seminars were different, so I found that I needed to be a lot more independent with my reading and research as the topics covered were wide.

Assessment - As an Arts student, there were two graded papers for each course: a formative essay in the middle and a second essay at the end of the semester. Students I met from other departments had final exams. The main difference I found was that, whether you are assessed by exams or coursework (or both!) they tend to come at the end of your study period – there are rarely class tests or mid-terms.

Grace’s experience was typical for her Study Abroad programme. Students studying other subject areas may have different assessment and teaching processes.

Discovering Wales in America

E. Wyn James



There are actually a number of places in the USA named 'Wales' – in Maine, Massachusetts, New York State, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Kentucky, Utah, and even Alaska – indicative of the fact that the Welsh migrated to all parts of the States.

I have just become a Fulbright alumnus! I was privileged to be awarded one of the US-UK Fulbright Commission's Scholarships for 2011-12 and spent three months between mid-March and mid-June 2012 as a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University.

My research project at Harvard was about the attitudes of Welsh-American communities towards slavery and abolition in the period leading up to the Civil War. I was actually pleasantly surprised at how many of the people I met during my time in New England had not only heard of Wales but had visited the country on holidays. The beauty of the Welsh landscape was a constant theme in such conversations.

In addition, I met a number who could trace some of their ancestors back to Wales, and also got to know many of the small, but flourishing community of Welsh speakers and learners in the Boston area. But when it came to my research project, a frequent question, even from those familiar with Wales, was: were there any Welsh-American communities?

There most certainly were! There are actually a number of places in the USA named 'Wales' – in Maine, Massachusetts, New York State, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Kentucky, Utah, and even Alaska – indicative of the fact that the Welsh migrated to all parts of the States.

The main concentrations of Welsh immigrants in the first half of the nineteenth century were in Pennsylvania, Ohio and

New York State. It has been estimated that by 1850 there were about 50,000 Welsh immigrants living in the USA, rising to over 100,000 by the end of the century.

It is also important to remember that the majority of those living in Wales in the nineteenth century would have spoken only Welsh, and that therefore most of the immigrants to America from Wales during that period would have been Welsh-speaking.

By the 1840s Welsh people had migrated to the States in sufficient numbers to be able to support a Welsh-American press. A number of Welsh-language magazines were published in America from about 1840 onward. The three most important of these were *Y Cyfaill o'r Hen Wlad* ('The Friend from the Old Country'), *Y Cenhadwr Americanaidd* ('The American Messenger') and *Y Seren Orllewinol* ('The Western Star').

All three were published under the auspices of Christian denominations – Calvinistic Methodists, Congregationalists and Baptists respectively. This is not surprising, since religion was a key element in the cement which helped create and reinforce community identity in Welsh immigrant communities.

Content-wise, these American periodicals were in many ways very similar to denominational magazines back in Wales. In each issue there would, for example, be biographies of famous people, past and present, theological and biblical essays, sermons and devotional articles, a poetry section, correspondence, obituaries and extensive news coverage. They were, in many ways, a mirror-image of similar periodicals in Wales.

Part of my time at Harvard was

spent working through the Widener Library's rich holdings of Welsh-American periodicals. Nineteenth-century periodicals in Wales divided their news columns into 'home' and 'overseas' sections, and so did those in the States.

I must confess that it was quite a culture shock to read Welsh language periodicals in which the 'home' section included news items from places like Palmyra, Ohio; Racine, Wisconsin, and Utica, New York, while news from Wales was included among the 'overseas' items!

Reading these Welsh-American magazines proved invaluable towards my understanding of Welsh communities in America in the mid-nineteenth century, but ironically, and rather unexpectedly, in reading them I also found myself coming to a better understanding of Wales in that same period.

The editors of the Welsh-American journals trawled through the magazines they received regularly from Wales for news items and other materials to reprint in their publications. Their letters columns contained correspondence from Wales, and there were often guest columns written by someone back in the 'Old Country', reporting on developments in Wales and assessing their significance. Therefore, for me, one of the valuable aspects of my time at Harvard was the opportunity, not only to learn more of the Welsh immigrants in their new country, but also to deepen my understanding of the 'Old Country', through looking at it from a different angle and with a different focus.

The Welsh Fulbright Summer Institute

Following the success from the inaugural Wales Summer Institute 2011, three Welsh universities: Cardiff University, Bangor University and Aberystwyth University teamed up this year to put together a fantastic itinerary along the theme: 'Wales: Industry, Politics, Culture and Change'.

Eight undergraduates from colleges across the USA were chosen after a rigorous selection process based on academic achievements, extra-curricular merit and ambassadorial qualities to participate in the programme.

The Fulbright participants came from various parts of the States – Oregon, Kentucky, Nebraska, Texas, Washington, Florida and Illinois to experience Wales. From craggy mountain peaks, to dramatic coastal cliffs and long sandy beaches,

they found Wales to be a kaleidoscope of landscapes offering varied choices to the adventurous wanderer. As a young, vibrant European metropolis, Cardiff was a perfect study and a unique place to experience Welsh culture.

The following map traces the journey taken by the eight participants through various locations in Cardiff. The participants share their honest thoughts and experiences with us, offering us a rare glimpse of Wales through their eyes:

There were cottages that displayed how real life would have looked like. It was really cool to see normal vernacular life kept in this open-air museum.

Emily Mixon on St Fagans

Wales is a country small enough to hold out the promise of being understood, and yet large enough to always offer more to discover around every corner.

Clara Martinez



North Wales

Bangor

- 1 South Stack Lighthouse
- 2 Harlech Castle
- 3 Conway Castle
- 4 Bangor Cathedral
- 5 Llandudno and the Great Orme
- 6 Maynard Parys Copper Mine

Mid Wales

Aberystwyth

- 1 National Library of Wales
- 2 Ceredigion Museum
- 3 Snowdonia Forest
- 4 Cwmystwyth Valley

South Wales

- 1 Cardiff city centre
- 2 St Fagan's National History Museum
- 3 Senedd
- 4 Cardiff Castle
- 5 Cardiff Bay
- 6 Penarth
- 7 Big Pit Mining Museum
- 8 South Wales Valleys
- 9 Llandaff Castle
- 10 Castell Coch

The centre of the Senedd was breathtaking. It was gorgeous. I've never seen any kind of building quite so unique before.

Christine Goddard on the Senedd

I've gained so much knowledge and a much better understanding about this amazing country. I've also fallen in love with it and know I'll come back here in the future.

Alexandra Rawlings



Korfball

a venture into Scandinavian sport

Casey Sherman and Gaurav Ragtah from Colgate University made the most of their Study Abroad experience by trying their hand at Korfball – a Scandinavian sport originating from the Netherlands. Korfball is a co-ed sport developed from a blend of Netball and Basketball which makes for very interesting team dynamics where smart, fast and tactical teams win.

Casey and Gaurav qualified for the University's second team and played competitively throughout their Study Abroad experience. Casey even won 'Player of the Match' the first time he played. They share their sporting experience with us.

Q: So out of 120 societies at Cardiff University, why Korfball?

GR: We attended the sports fair at the Students' Union and it was somewhat random, there was so much choice. We hadn't heard about Korfball at all while the rest of the societies sounded pretty similar or familiar to what we had back home. This sounded really interesting, so we just thought we'd give it a shot.

CS: Our motivation was simply to try something new.

Q: How have you found the experience so far?

GR: It's been pretty fun. The sport itself is a mix between Netball and Basketball and is open to people of all levels, so it makes for an interesting dynamic. We got to play against people from all different sporting backgrounds who were also looking to try something new. **CS:** It's also a good social scene. Everyone's friendly, it's co-ed, there are lots of get-togethers and it's quite a close knit sort of group - good exercise too!



The Korfball team had gradations. So we had a first team, a second team, a third team and I think they added a fourth team too because they received so much interest this year. The first team is obviously the most prestigious but the second team is competitive too and contains good players who are trying their best to graduate to the firsts. The third team is recreational and is open to anyone who just wants to play – you can play for fun or to compete.

"I would definitely recommend it. Always be open to trying something new that you haven't done before. It's definitely a good way to meet new people and keep in shape."

Q: Did you enjoy the social side of sports teams?

CS: Sports teams are more prominent here than they are at Colgate. Students use sport as a way of bonding, with lots of social activities arranged around the sport. All the Korfball players know each other well and use the sport to socialise as well as compete. If you're a Study Abroad student, you want to get to know the locals and this is a great way to do it. **GR:** Back at Colgate, the frats dominate the social scene. Over here, sports clubs are very popular with a good number of students in each club. For many, it's more about the community than just the sport - joining a team is a great way to integrate into UK student life.

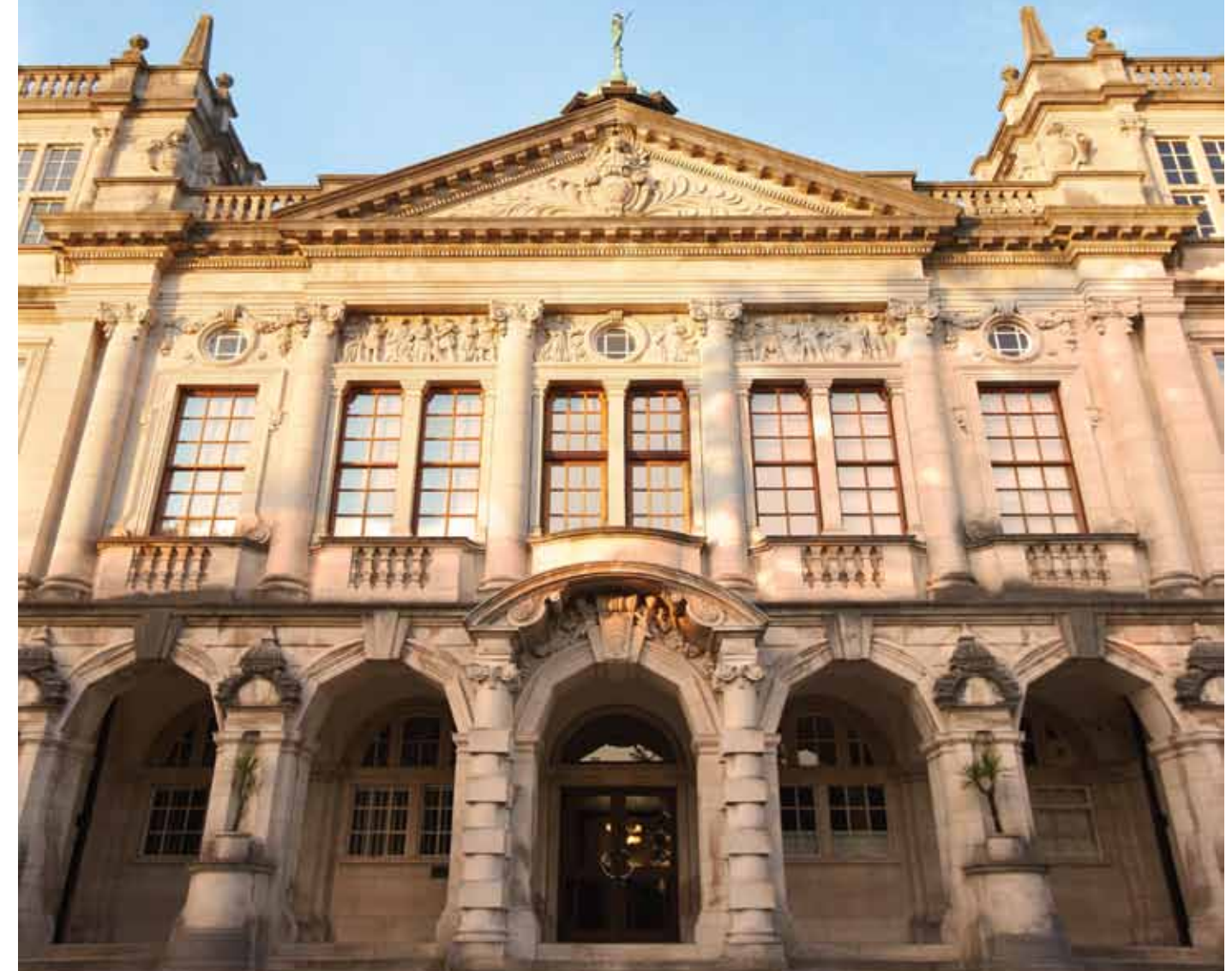
Q: Would you advise Study Abroad students to join sports teams here?

GR: I would definitely recommend it. Always be open to trying something new that you haven't done before. It's definitely a good way to meet new people and keep in shape.


Study Abroad at Cardiff University

Founded in 1883, Cardiff University is a world-class teaching and research institution and a member of the prestigious Russell Group of the top 24 research-led UK universities.

If you choose Cardiff University you will study at a highly ranked university with a unique Welsh cultural experience. To find out more about studying at, and applying to, Cardiff University please read the inner guide or visit the website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/studyabroad



Cardiff University's main building was completed in 1909 and was opened with Latin and Welsh odes.



The Study Abroad Office will support you throughout the application process and welcome you to the University. If you have any questions or would like more information at any stage, please contact us.

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