



Universitat de Barcelona

Report on the academic year 2012-2013

The University of Barcelona

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A UNIVERSITY FOCUSED ON PEOPLE

Services for the university community
Institutional and cultural activities
Student services



“My four years of study at the University have helped me grow as a person and develop critical thinking skills, and have also given me the chance to improve my capacity to establish relationships with other students.”

Neus Borrego Martí,
student, Dentistry

Services for the university community

The University of Barcelona has continued to work actively to ensure the transparency of its management activities, implementing a best practices policy across all areas of its operation, publishing a third **Report on Social Responsibility**, and strengthening its internal control system to improve economic and financial management and guarantee the rigorous application of current legislation.

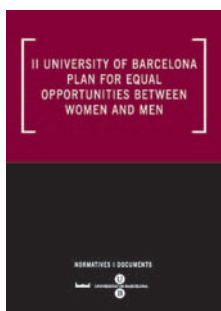
In the area of gender, the **Equality Unit** has continued its efforts to implement the positive actions set out in the UB's second Equality Plan, incorporating the concept of gender into policies and activities in all areas of daily life at the University.

To facilitate this work and to ensure that the implementation of the second Equality Plan is universally accepted and compliant with current legislation, dedicated working teams have been created, which bring together members from the equality committees at each of the UB's faculties and university schools. The teams operated under the general coordination of the Equality Unit.

The work of the Equality Unit addresses a variety of issues, and over the last year specific steps have been taken to increase the proportion of women in technical professions; to integrate an awareness of equality issues into research activities and specific training courses; to create a cooperation network with other specialist bodies and organize joint ac-

tivities with other international universities; to identify cases of and prevent gender-based violence and discrimination; to provide more extensive help and support to those seeking assistance; to improve the work-life balance; to promote general policies on equality; to raise awareness of equality issues affecting both women and men at the University of Barcelona; to improve the dissemination of information on gender-related actions and activities; and to increase the recognition afforded to women in a broad social sense.

The UB has passed the Spanish labour inspectorate's review of equality plans and protocols for the prevention of sexual harassment. In addition,



Presentation of the UB-Bullipèdia Unit at the Food and Nutrition Torribera Campus

Our commitment
to the
environment

60%

selective waste collection
of total waste generated
in 2012

the labour inspectorate of the Catalan Ministry of Business and Labour has approved the current degree of implementation of equality strategies at the UB.

The UB has completed the draft of a unified code of action to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and harassment relating to gender or sexual orientation. The code will be applied across all units at the University.

The **Ombuds Office** is an independent body charged with defending the rights and freedoms of students, teaching and research staff, and administrative and service staff. This year, it has responded to 243 complaints and queries, details of which are given in its annual report.

The University of Barcelona has a general commitment to promoting a culture of respect and humanization. In this spirit, the **Office for Conflict Resolution and Mediation** has continued its efforts to facilitate dialogue, resolve conflicts, and offer solutions through mediation, enabling parties to speak voluntarily and on an equal footing.

In the area of **risk prevention and sustainability**, the Health, Safety and Environmental Issues (OSSMA) unit pursued eight main lines of action: occupational health and safety, risk assessment and control, emergency preparation and response, occupational medicine, waste management, sustainability, social welfare, and other specific subjects.

In the area of **occupational health and safety** and risk assessment, conditions have been evaluated in a variety of workplaces, biosafety reports have been compiled for a number of research projects, and coordinated prevention initiatives have been carried out with external partners. OSSMA has provided technical support to a wide range of UB bodies and individual staff members seeking assistance. There has been a rise in the number of cases brought to the attention of OSSMA that deal with specific psychosocial risks and hazards, and numerous assessments have been conducted.

In the area of **emergency preparation and response**, the drafting, approval and implementation of self-protection plans have been completed within the established schedule. Eight emergency drills have been carried out and attendance of training courses has risen substantially.

In the area of **occupational medicine**, the UB coordinates specific health check-ups for staff in different types of workplaces, medical appointments in

The University of Barcelona's Food and Nutrition Torribera Campus will house a new knowledge unit for culinary information generated by chef Ferran Adrià's El Bulli restaurant. The unit will be called UB-Bullipèdia. Bullipèdia aims to be a leading source of information on food and gastronomy.

Diari de Girona, 24 October 2012



“Working at the UB allows me to interact with a very diverse collective, which means I am growing every day in knowledge and responsibility. Being involved in the exchange between different university groups is also very enriching.”

Dolors Güell Coll,
member of the administrative
and service staff, Corporate Training

cases of work-related injury or illness, vaccinations in the event of specific risks, and a flu prevention campaign. The Medical Service been placed under the management of the Occupational Medicine Teaching Unit, which means that medical interns in the Catalan health service now complete rotations at UB medical facilities as part of their specialized training.

In the area of **social welfare**, a new protocol has been drawn up to regulate effective integration of UB employees with disabilities. The protocol, which is currently in the implementation phase, sets out a series of provisions for monitoring the workplace integration of employees with any legally recognized impairment in order and aiding accessibility and adaptation.

Environmental activities in the last academic year have focused on complying with the requirements



of the UB's Sustainability Plan. Key actions include the reduction and optimization of electricity consumption, greater dissemination of the UB's natural heritage through guided tours of the gardens of the Historic Building, and the creation of a Mobility Committee for the Diagonal Campus, which brings together representatives of the UB, the Barcelona City Council and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

Other important actions carried out within the framework of the Sustainability Plan include a cost analysis for selective waste management, changes to the existing contract for medical waste collection, the extension of secure parking facilities, a redesign of the institutional sustainability indicators, and the drafting and distribution of monthly “eco-tips” bulletins to raise awareness of specific issues among the university community.

In the area of **institutional relations** dealing specifically with sustainability, the UB has subscribed

The actor and director Robert Redford has thanked the University of Barcelona for its commitment to the environment through its recent collaboration with the International Environmental Film Festival (FICMA). This year, the nineteenth edition of the festival was held. It was hosted by the UB for the first time.

elEconomista.es, 6 November 2012

Our commitment
to sport

69

medals won by
UB competitors in
university championships



to the Unesco Commitment to Sustainable Development and the principles of the Copernicus Alliance of the UN's Rio+20 Earth Summit. It has also contributed to the work of the Residu Zero waste management network and signed a collaboration agreement with the Conama Foundation, through which students of the bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences were offered the chance to take part in the 11th Spanish National Environmental Conference.

UB Sports offers 100,000 sq m of facilities for over fifty different sports, making it one of the largest and most comprehensive centres for sport and recreational activity in Catalonia. The facilities, which were originally opened in 1957 and have expanded to become a vital part of the city, are now used by some 1,200 people every day.



UB Sports activities have focused on three main areas: ongoing improvements to facilities, the promotion of physical activity and sports within the university, and opening the service up to the wider community.

UB Sports has achieved impressive levels of participation and its users have won a significant number of trophies and prizes. A total of 1,526 athletes make up the 151 teams involved in UB leagues in 15 different sports. UB teams won 17 medals at the Spanish university games and 52 medals at the Catalan championships. The ongoing financial assistance programme for high-level athletes provided funding for 67 students and involved 19 teaching staff as tutors.

20 million visits to the UB web site
(almost 55,000 per day)

Institutional and cultural activities

The **Doctors' Senate**, which has a membership of 944, awarded the sixteenth annual prize for doctoral theses to **Dr Manuel Irimia Martínez** of the Department of Genetics in the Faculty of Biology for his thesis on genomic change and evolutionary developmental biology, looking at the origin and evolution of the central nervous system in chordates.

Awards and honours received by the members of the university community during the academic year 2012-2013 include the following:



Award ceremony for the special doctorate prizes and the XVIth Doctors' Senate Prize



Award ceremony for the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation Social Council Prizes

- **National Prize in Research 2012**, Carles Simó
- **Medal of Honour from the Complutense University of Madrid**, Carmina Virgili
- **Honorary doctorate from the University of Almeria**, Jordi Nadal
- **Prize of the City of Barcelona 2012**, Raquel Pelta
- **Otero Pedrayo Prize 2012**, Basilio Losada
- **2013 Sant Jordi Awards from the Institute for Catalan Studies**, Giovanni Cattini, Fàtima López, David Amblàs, Caterina Riba, Arturo Valdivia, Santiago Eizaguirre, Berta Güell, Guillem Valero, Francesc Xavier Vila, Meritxell Talavera
- **2013 Serra d'Or Critics' Award**, Rosa Cabré, Pilar Bayer, Artur Travesa
- **2nd Joan Solà International Prize for Research in Catalan Philology**, Cedric Boeckx, Txuss Martín
- **3rd Ramon Turró Prize for Excellence in the Field of Nutrition**, Abel Maríné
- **Young Researcher of the Year Prize**, Albert Giralt
- **National Prize for Culture (Government of Catalonia)**, Josep Maixenchs
- **Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS)**, Xavier Batlle
- **2012 Professional Excellence Awards conferred by the College of Physicians of Barcelona**, Concepció Bru, Margarita Admetlla, Francesc Xavier Carné, M. Cinta Cid, Agustín Franco, Agustí Jornet, M. Asunción Moreno, Francesca Pons, Josep Roma, Ramon Salazar

“The services the UB offers the entire university community are of excellent quality, as they operate within facilities that are the envy of other institutions and, most importantly, are managed by professional, demanding and committed staff, so that every day the users get the services they deserve.”

Simón Campos Celada,
member of the administrative and
service staff, Secretary's Office
for Students and Teaching Staff,
Faculty of Psychology



- **9th Dexeus Foundation Women's Health Award**, Clara Menéndez
- **Lorenzo Martín-Retortillo Baquer International Award in Legal Research**, Juli Ponce
- **Agustí Duran i Sanpere History of Barcelona Award 2012**, Mireia Comas
- **Lilly Foundation Award for Biomedical Research 2013**, Jaume Bosch
- **Josep Trueta Award of the Academy of Medical and Health Sciences of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands**, Josep Maria Llovet
- **King Jaume I Prize in Basic Research**, Manel Esteller
- **Gold Medal for Merit in Education conferred by the government of Andalusia 2012**, Ramón Flecha
- **3rd Blasco Chair Award conferred by the University of Valencia**, Antoni Martí
- **European Commission's Reference Site Award**, Josep Roca
- **Joan Lluís Vives Prize in Scientific Communication**, Marc Andreu Acebal
- **President of the Institute for Catalan Studies**, Joandomènec Ros
- **President of the Spanish Society for Virology**, Albert Bosch
- **President-elect of the Spanish Society for Neuroscience**, Jordi Alberch
- **Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (Academic Committee of Spanish Universities)**, Dídac Ramírez



Tribute to Joan Veny, emeritus professor of Romance Philology

The jury of the **Board of Trustees Awards** presented the José Manuel Blecua Prize to Dr Conxita Boncompte Coll and the Ramon Margalef Prize to Dr John J. Aponte Varón. Some prizes are awarded jointly by the Board of Trustees and the Bosch i Gimpera Foundation; among them, the Antoni Caparrós Award for the best knowledge or technology transfer project was given to the Diopma research group, which focuses on the design and optimization of processes and materials, while the Senén Vilaró Award for the most innovative company went to Neurotec Pharma SL.

The University of Barcelona **honoured** the lecturer **Montserrat Jufresa** of the Department of Greek; the lecturer **Joan Veny**, professor emeritus of Romance Languages with the presentation of the book *De geolingüística i etimologia romàniques*; the lecturer **Roberto Corcoll**, former teacher of German for Business; the lecturer **Sebastià Bonet** of the Department of Catalan Philology; the poet **Witold**



"GEOflaix" Exhibition in the Historic Building

Gombrowicz, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his return to Europe, and the professor of Catalan Philology **Joaquim Viaplana**, who was the recipient of a festschrift in his honour, focusing on questions of flexive morphology and lexis in Catalan.

As part of the UB's programme of **institutional activities**, the inaugural address for the academic year was given by **Dr Carles Escera**, who spoke about concept of brain imaging in cognitive neuroscience. Dr Escera holds a chair in the Department of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychobiology and is director of the Faculty of Psychology's Institute for Research on the Brain, Cognition and Behaviour (IR3C).

Guided **tours** of the UB's Historic Building continued to present the significant historical and artistic heritage of the University. During the year, a total of 120 tours were given to more than 2,000 people.

The Historic Building hosted the following **exhibitions**:

- **"Time, space and innovation"**, by Àngel Orenszanz, was sponsored by the Office of the Vice-Rector for International Relations and Culture and curated by the artist himself. The exhibition featured sculptures and banners on display in the gardens of the Historic Building.
- **"Immanent Landscapes"**, by Domènec Corbella, celebrated the launch of a book of essays

on Corbella's paintings, entitled *Pels camins mudables de la pintura. Assaigs sobre l'obra de Domènec Corbella*. In the gallery of the Paranymp Hall, visitors could see fifteen works from the final years of Corbella's career, all drawing inspiration from the nature of landscape.

- **"GEOflaix! An alternative look at everyday objects"**, an exhibition of geological materials, was sponsored by the UB's Scientific Culture and Innovation (UCC+i) unit and organized by the UB's Faculty of Geology, the Jaume Almera Institute of Earth Sciences (CSIC) and the Geological Institute of Catalonia.
- **"Backward-forwards sculpture show"** was organized for the international seminar "Looking back to look forwards", organized by the UB's Centre for Australian Studies and the Centre for Peace and Social Justice of the Southern Cross University of Australia.
- **"Contemporary Art at the UB. Sorigué Foundation"** featured seven video creations and two sculptures by leading international artists. The exhibition, which was organized jointly by the Office of the Vice-Rector for International Relations and Culture and the Sorigué Foundation, was installed around the Historic Building, in the main vestibule, the main staircase, the Aula Magna, the Paranymp Hall, the Arts Library and the Ramón y Cajal Hall.
- **"Amb A d'AstrònomA"** was organized by the equality committee of the UB's Faculty of Mathematics in recognition of the contributions



Video art from the Sorigué Foundation's collection is shown in Barcelona in the exhibition "Contemporary Art at the University of Barcelona. Sorigué Foundation". The exhibition, in the Historic Building, comprises six examples of this innovative discipline and two sculptures. The works are displayed in several public areas of the Historic Building, which has been declared a national monument of historic and artistic interest. Entry to the exhibition is free.

La Vanguardia, 13 March 2013

made to astronomy research by internationally renowned women scientists over the past few centuries. (The name of the exhibition is a play on the feminine ending -a to indicate a female astronomer.)

- **Exhibition of Turkish art.** A display of Turkish calligraphy and art was exhibited in the Paranymp Hall on the occasion of an event promoting Turkish culture organized by Casa Turca in Madrid.
- **'Fotómetro'**, an exhibition of documentary photography linked to the project of the same name, was part of Circuit 2013, a series focusing on documentary photography in Barcelona.
- **"Ciència, i punt! L'alzinar"** was an installation recreating Mediterranean woodlands, particularly woodlands dominated by the Holm Oak. The installation was one of a series of activities sponsored by the UB's Scientific Culture and Innovation (UCC+i) unit to promote scientific knowledge.

gang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D Minor* (K. 626), performed by the University of Barcelona choir and orchestra.

The UB's **5th Film Cycle** celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of Richard Wagner, German composer, theatre director, polemicist and conductor. Entitled 'The Music of Richard Wagner in the Cinema', the cycle featured four viewing sessions examining Wagner's music in movie soundtracks. At the end of each session, experts spoke on the subject.

The **3rd Contemporary Dance Cycle**, this year called 'Drifts of Dance', featured three performances of contemporary dance with remarks by



The ground floor of the Faculty of Medicine hosted the **exhibition** "Santiago Ramón y Cajal at the University of Barcelona, the Gestation of a Nobel Prizewinner".

In the area of **cultural activities**, the UB's **26th Concert Cycle** featured eleven concerts, performed in the Paranymp Hall of the Historic Building, including two Christmas concerts featuring *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff, and a closing concert of Wolf-



Exhibition on "Santiago Ramón y Cajal at the University of Barcelona, the Gestation of a Nobel Prizewinner"

Guided tours
of the UB's Historic
Building

2,000

people
in 120 tours

Presentation of the
biography of poet
Salvador Espriu,
Espriu, transparent,
written by journalist
and author
Agustí Pons



Roberto Fratini, an expert in the theory of dance and theatre and a professor in the Barcelona Theatre Institute.

For the sixth consecutive year, the theatre workshop of the University of Barcelona organized the **UB Theatre Festival**, with eight theatre projects involving works by a variety of playwrights including Shakespeare, Marivaux, Pinter and Espriu. The gardens of the Historic Building were the setting for a performance of the *Ramayana*, a classic Hindu epic.

As part of a year of festivities celebrating Salvador Espriu on the centenary of his birth, the book *Espriu, transparent* by Agustí Pons was presented and performances were given of the multidisciplinary

shows 'Sentit a la manera de Salvador Espriu', which weaves together texts by the poet, and 'Espriu, Salvat i el nostre teatre'.

Barcelona **Poetry Classroom** organized the 19th Conference on Poetry and Interracial Culture, entitled 'Poetry: Rich Brother, Poor Brother'.

The UB's **Virtual Museum** launched a new virtual visit of the landmark spaces of the Historic Building of the University of Barcelona, including 360-degree views of the main staircase and the landing of the Rector's office, the Sciences Courtyard and the Paranymp Hall. In addition, the Architecture Collection has been added to the Virtual Museum, bringing the total number of collections to sixteen. The number of entries in the collections has risen and more items have been documented. The Virtual Museum has two new virtual exhibitions, while the section on temporary exhibitions at the various faculties and schools of the UB has featured 28 shows on a periodic basis.

Key **conferences, workshops and seminars** held during the year included an international conference on experimental poetry; a workshop on the Roman Forum from Antiquity to the digital age; a conference on opera composers; a series of three seminars on the works displayed in the exhibition 'Contemporary Art at the UB. Sorigué Foundation'; a conference on Verdi and Wagner and their influence on Catalonia, held on the occasion of the bicentenary of the year of their birth; and an internation-



“We have to make the most of tangible resources, like size and staff, and intangible ones, such as history and tradition, in order to maintain and improve our position with respect to other universities, both nationally and internationally.”

Fermín Osuna Sánchez,
member of the administrative
and service staff, Secretary's Office
for Students and Teaching Staff,
Faculty of Economics and Business

al research seminar entitled ‘Image, Devotion and Identity in the Modern Era’.

A tribute was held for people deported to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. Two books were launched, the first containing essays on the paintings of Domènec Corbella, entitled *Pels camins mudables de la pintura. Assaigs sobre l'obra de Domènec Corbella*, while the second is a bilingual edition in Japanese and Catalan of eight Mallorcan folk tales by Antoni Maria Alcover, entitled *Vuit rondalles mallorquines*. The Faculty of Fine Arts launched a scientific journal under the banner *BRAC*. Witold Gombrowicz was recognized at an event held in his honour. The fifty-fifth anniversary of Dutch studies at the UB was commemorated. The second international forum on culture, enti-



tled ‘Looking toward the Future’, took place thanks to the sponsorship of the Moscow-based non-profit cultural organization World of Culture. The seventh symposium of the Spanish Association of Literary Theory focused on discussions of reading. The UB held a seminar on Catalan cuisine as an intangible cultural asset of national interest and hosted the first international conference on the critical cartography of art and visuality in the global age.

In the area of institutional relations, the UB took part in the Coimbra Group's working group on culture, arts and humanities, attended the Coimbra Group's 2013 General Assembly; participated in the meeting of the working group on culture, arts and humanities at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and attended the 14th Universeum Network Meeting, which carried the title “University heritage today: Beyond public engagement?”.

The UB and Zurich Insurance Group announced the UB-Zurich Chair in Insurance and the process for the creation of seven more chairs was set in motion. In addition, the University of Barcelona signed agreements with the Sorigué Foundation, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the local heritage institution Organisme Autònom Local de Patrimoni Víctor Balaguer.

The **E-Administration and Records Office** has continued with its efforts to identify, describe and inventory the documentary heritage of the UB. New



Neus Català in the tribute to women deported to the Ravensbrück concentration camp