

ALUMNI

The eldest of the Balestrini brothers, Stephen is now out in the world of work and has had an interesting range of jobs.

Since leaving the school in 2009 after achieving, 3Bs and a C in Chemistry, Biology, English Language and History, he went off to Bangor University and after 4 years of studying graduated with a first and a Masters In Marine Biology. Here he is in his own words:

The Masters' degree is a 4 year degree which integrates the typical BSc with an extra year of research. It's a degree that has taken me to some cool places, from net fishing in the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia to otter trawling in the Kattegat Sea in Sweden. Following this I was employed as a Laboratory Assistant for a marine taxonomy consultancy. After a year I was lucky enough to secure a job as a research technician at the University (Bangor) for a year. I was responsible for a project investigating a reef building worm in Wales.



Lots of boat work and shore work which I love. We have some papers being published at the moment, highlighting the research and the conclusions we drew. I was then asked back at my old job with some additional responsibilities. I am taking a break and am working at the world's longest Zipline. It goes a bit downhill now, unfortunately the company hit some budget cuts and I was made redundant in February this year. I am currently working as an outdoor instructor at world's fastest zip line in an old quarry in Bethesda, it is also the longest in Europe. I'm still scoping the horizon to continue a career in the environmental science field and the team I was with at Bangor are submitting applications for research so we will see what happens...

My youngest brother Nick is still at university and he will update you on his career later. At the moment he is taking a year abroad on the Erasmus scheme in Copenhagen developing his studies in Business at Liverpool University.