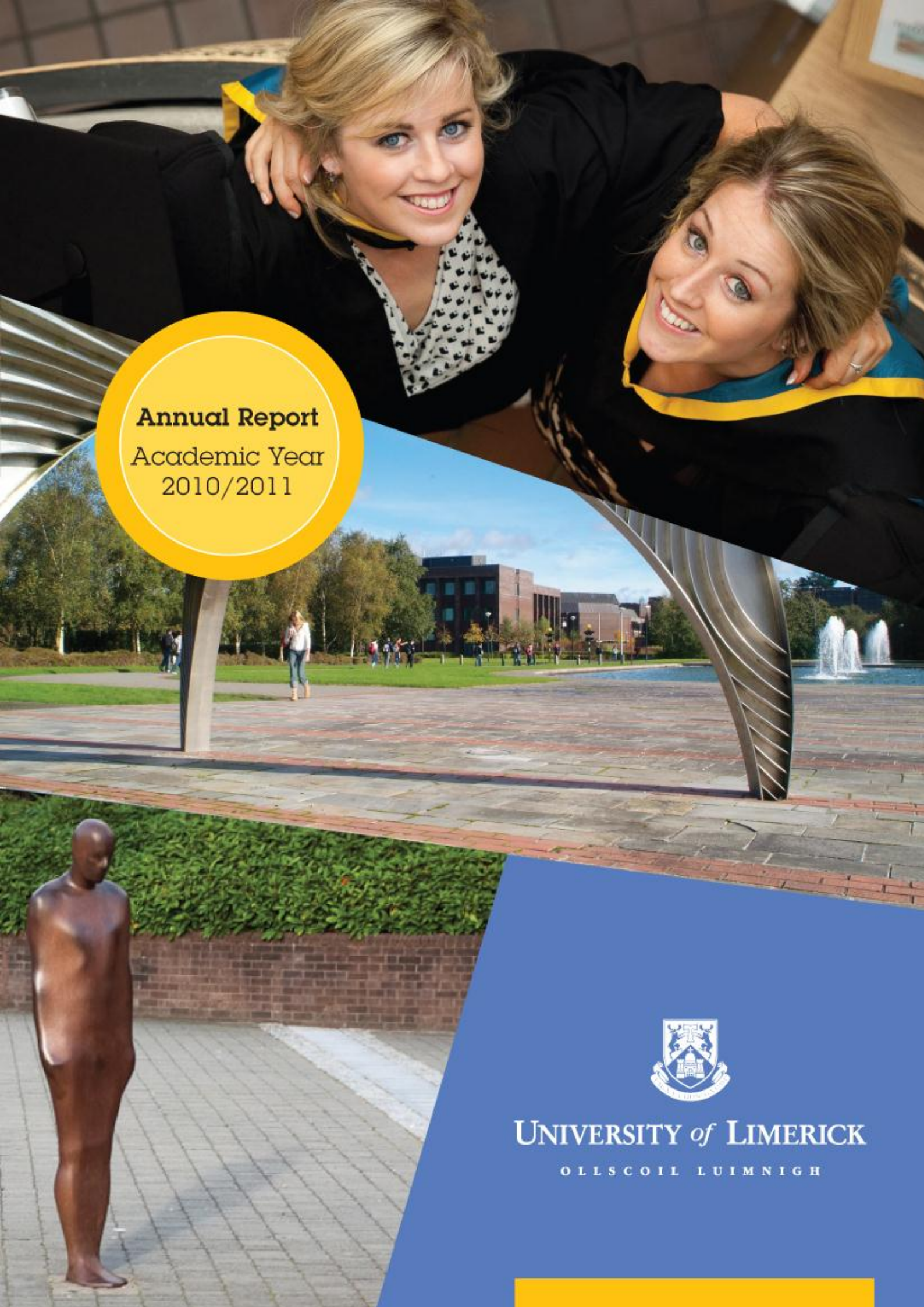

Annual Report

Academic Year
2010/2011

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

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This Annual Report covers the period 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011.

It is also available on the UL website.

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Annual Report
Academic Year 2010/2011

Contents

CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT 4
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT 5
GOVERNING AUTHORITY 6
List of Governors 6
Corporate Secretary's Office 7
ACADEMIC 8
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences 13
Irish World Academy of Music and Dance 16
Faculty of Education and Health Sciences 17
Faculty of Science and Engineering 20
Kemmy Business School 26
Centre for Teaching and Learning 29
Cooperative Education and Careers Division 33
International Education 34
Department of Lifelong Learning and Outreach 35
Quality 37
FINANCE 38
RESEARCH 41
ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES 44
Student Support Services 44
Information Technology 46
Library and Information Services 47
Human Resources 50
LIFE ON CAMPUS 52
Visual Arts Collection 52
Campus Life Services 52
Sports and Recreation 54
GRADUATE STATISTICS 2010 55
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK FOUNDATION 57
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT 59

CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

This is my fourth Statement for the University of Limerick's Annual Reports since my term of office as Chancellor began in January 2008. During 2010/11, the University of Limerick continued to be impacted by the ongoing recessionary situation resulting in the Governing Authority having to approve a challenging budget strategy in order to achieve a balanced budget for the third year in a row. The President, Professor Don Barry, and his staff continue to deliver an outstanding educational experience despite these financial difficulties.

It is important to remain positive in these challenging times, and a major highlight throughout the year was the launch of "*Pioneering & Connected* – Strategic Plan 2011-2015". The plan commits to forging new ways of teaching and learning for students as well as seeking innovations in research that will attract resources while advancing the economic, educational and social development of the Shannon Region and the country. "*Pioneering & Connected*" was very broadly supported and welcomed by the Governing Authority and embraced by the UL Community and is very much a 'living' plan.

Advances continue through the UL/NUIG Strategic Alliance with joint academic planning and development of programmes increasing the variety and quality of programmes on offer to our students.

The end of 2010 saw the official opening of the Kemmy Business School and 2011 began with confirmation that state capital funding of €6m was received to fund the wonderful Irish World Academy Building. Both facilities are key to the continuing development of the University.

UL's reputation as Ireland's Sporting Campus continues to grow with success in a very broad selection of sports and the development of new sporting facilities on the North Campus which began to open in 2011 and includes four state-of-the-art, all-weather, full-floodlit pitches. The UL Arena welcomed a visit from His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader in April 2011.

June 2011 saw the first Graduate Entry Medical School graduation, this is a highly innovative curriculum that aims to produce doctors who are well equipped to meet the existing and emerging needs of Irish society and I congratulate all who were involved in this wonderful development.

The University of Limerick continues to produce a high standard of graduate, sought after in the world of business and industry. The University's record for graduate employment has always ranged between 8 - 12% higher than the national average, and this is a strength that the University continues to emphasise and build upon.

I wish to acknowledge the work undertaken by the members of the Governing Authority during the year and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the President, Professor Don Barry.

I look forward to continuing in my role as Chancellor in the knowledge that the University of Limerick will do all in its power to continue to develop and prosper despite the current adverse conditions.

Peter Malone

Chancellor

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

It is a privilege and a pleasure to present this Annual Report of the University of Limerick outlining our combined achievements during the Academic Year 2010-11. In the year under review there has been a wide range of special events and singular achievements, some of which are outlined in this report. I will summarise it simply by saying that here at UL we believe we have much to be proud of and we are appreciative of the combined endeavour of the entire "UL family", without which this progress could not have been achieved.

As we report on the advances made in the past year and look forward with hope to the years ahead, I want to pay tribute to all who have contributed to the UL story over the past twelve months and helped to build our foundations for the future advancement of the University. I wish our students continued success in their studies and, ultimately, fulfilling careers. I hope that all our Alumni will enjoy careers and lives that are both challenging and satisfying. And I would like to thank our staff for their dedication, hard work, creativity and continued professionalism despite the challenging environment in which we continue to pursue our mission. I acknowledge and welcome all the assistance UL receives from the wide coalition of external supporters we are fortunate to count as friends. And I want to record my appreciation to the Chancellor, Mr Peter Malone and the members of the University of Limerick Governing Authority for their on-going guidance and support.

I feel sure we can work collectively to achieve the ambitious goals of this young, vibrant and path-finding institution as we seek to advance the economic, social and cultural development of our region, our country and the world. In this regard I am heartened by the combined efforts of governors, staff, students, alumni and external stakeholders that have resulted in "Pioneering & Connected" - our Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2015. This charts a course for the University of Limerick that will build on our previous successes and preserve UL's reputation as a pioneer in higher education.

Our achievements have been possible because of the commitment we all have to this much-loved institution. It is that commitment which makes UL special. And it is that commitment which will ensure our continued success as we maintain our vision of transcending the borders of the academy to connect with the outside world for the benefit of the communities we serve.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Professor Don Barry

President

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Chancellor: Peter Malone

Members

1 October 2010 – 30 September 2011

Professor Sean Akins
Professor Don Barry
Dr Marie Bourke
Cllr Maria Byrne*
Mr Damien Clancy
Mr Dan Comerford^
Dr Peadar Cremin~
Mr Derek Daly^^
Ms Breda Deedigan
Dr Eoin Devereux
Mr Ruan Dillon-McLoughlin^^^
Mrs Kay Doyle
Professor Jane Edwards
Mr John Fox
Professor Tom Garavan
Ms Anne Gleeson
Dr John Hillery
Mr Michael Houlihan
Mr Tadhg B Kearney
Professor Peadar Kirby
Dr J J Leahy
Mr Fiach Mac Conghail~~
Professor Paul McCutcheon
Ms Annette McElligott
Dr Seán McGrath
Mr Joe O'Connell
Mr Bobby O'Connor
Mr Fachtna O'Driscoll
Dr Máirtín Ó Droma ~~~
Ms Jackie O'Shaughnessy
Mr Pat Rockett
Cllr Michael Sheehan**
Ms Liz Stac

** Succeeded by Cllr Mary Harty in June 2011
^ Succeeded by Sarah Jane Hennelly in June 2011
^^ Succeeded by Tara Feeney in June 2011
^^^ Succeeded by Derek Daly (previously DP, ULSU) in June 2011
~ Retired August 2011
~~ Resigned June 2011
~~~ Elected November 2010
~~~

CORPORATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

The Corporate Secretary reports to the President and has responsibility for a number of areas including:

- Management of the University governance function including attendance at Governing Authority meetings and management of all Governing Authority Committees;
- Ensuring compliance with the Universities Act, 1997;
- Development, revision and distribution of University statutes, regulations, corporate policies and procedures;
- Legislative compliance;
- Management of University corporate legal affairs;
- Management of the University's risk management function;
- Administrative responsibility for the University's internal audit function;
- Management of recruitment and appointment processes for the President, Academic Vice Presidents and Deans;
- Management of governance for research ethics;
- Management of the University's Visual Arts Collection;
- Management of a range of internal appeals processes;
- Records management;
- Management of the development, progression and completion of corporate-wide projects.

The office provides a service and regulatory guidance to Governing Authority whose term of office is 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2012. The responsibilities of Governing Authority include, inter alia, the approval of appropriate university statutes, policies and procedures and the monitoring of their implementation.

During the period under review, the Governing Authority:

- Approved "*Pioneering & Connected* – Strategic Plan 2011-2015";
- Approved the appointment of Dr Mary Shire as Vice President, Research;
- Approved the appointment of Professor Tom Lodge as Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences and re-appointed Professor Mary O'Sullivan as Dean, Faculty of Education & Health Sciences and Professor Kieran Hodnett as Dean Science & Engineering for second terms;
- Approved a number of internal audit reports;
- Approved "Regulations Governing the Composition of Academic Council under Statute No.6 of the University of Limerick";
- Approved Access & Widening Participation Policy
- Approved the UL Governance Statement for year ended 30 September 2010;
- Approved the University budget strategy for AY2011/12;
- Approved University of Limerick Policy Approval Process
- Approved the following Human Resource related policies:
    - Flexible Working Hours – Pilot Scheme
    - Probation Policy
    - Contract Management: Research Posts
    - Code of Conduct for Employees
    - Retention Scheme for Academic Staff
    - Employee Transfer Policy

- Job Rotation Policy

In addition, Governing Authority:

- Approved "A Guide to the Quality Review Process for Academic Departments";
- Approved "Process for Development of New Building Projects";
- Approved staff appointments;
- Considered undergraduate intake levels for AY2010/11 and CAO applications for AY2011/12;
- Approved concept design and funding plan for reconfiguration of Central Core – Physical Education & Sports Science (PESS) Building;
- Approved funding plan for UL-HSE Clinical Education & Research Facility, Dooradoyle;
- Approved the publication of four quality peer review reports on the UL website.

ACADEMIC

The Vice President Academic and Registrar is the senior academic officer and assumes responsibility for all matters pertaining to the academic function of the University.

Academic Council

During the course of the year under review Academic Council approved the following programmes:

- Politics and Public Administration Summer School;
- Certificate in History of Family and Genealogical Methods;
- Certificate in Lean and Quality Systems;
- Certificate in Oral Heritage Studies (Evening/Online);
- Certificate in Nurse Prescribing Nurse/Midwife Prescribing;
- Certificate in Science and Engineering;
- Certificate in Technical, Industrial and Employment Skills;
- Diploma in Supply Chain Management;
- Specialist Diploma in Supply Chain Management;
- Specialist Diploma in Technology Commercialisation;
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Education, Business Studies and Religious Studies (St Patrick's College Thurles);
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Education, Irish and Religious Studies (St Patrick's College Thurles);
- Bachelor of Arts in International Business;
- Bachelor of Arts in Management Practice;
- Bachelor of Engineering in Design and Manufacture;
- Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Health Fitness;
- Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Therapy;
- Postgraduate Certificate in Neuro-rehabilitation;
- Postgraduate Certificate in Occupation and Well Being;
- Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Clinical Practice;
- Postgraduate Certificate in Pain;
- Postgraduate Certificate in Developmental Speech and Language Disorders;
- Master of Arts in Sociology (Youth, Community and Social Regeneration);
- Master of Arts in Guidance Counselling;
- Master of Arts in Psychology;
- Master of Science in Finance and Information Systems (Full-Time);
- Master of Science in Project Management (Full-Time);
- Master of Science in Project and Planning Management (Part-Time, Distance Learning);
- Master of Science in Software Engineering and Entrepreneurship;
- Master of Science in Sports Performance;
- Master of Science in Sustainable Resource Management;
- Master of Taxation;
- Structured PhD in Science and Engineering;
- Structured PhD in Philosophy of Art and Culture (UL/NUIG/MIC).

Academic Council also approved a Faculty of Education and Health Sciences Exit Award Strategy.

Springboard 2011 (HEA)

In December 2010 the Tánaiste and the Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of a new €20m multi-annual higher education fund. The Fund, entitled Springboard, which is being managed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills, is one of a number of State initiatives providing education and training opportunities to support unemployed people.

The new fund, formerly Labour Market Activation (LMA) programme, is designed to help unemployed people to remain as close as possible to the labour market by accessing part-time flexible higher education and training opportunities to upskill or reskill in areas where sustainable employment opportunities may arise as the economy recovers. UL led the co-ordination of a regional submission on behalf of the Shannon Consortium and was successful in securing 100 places (total value €350,000) at UL on the following programmes:

1. Certificate in Science and Engineering (Undergraduate NFQ 8 54ECTS) (On-Campus / Distance Learning) (50 places awarded)
2. Specialist Diploma – Lean Systems (Postgraduate NFQ 9 36ECTS) (On-line / Distance Learning) (20 places awarded)
3. Specialist Diploma - Six Sigma (Postgraduate NFQ 9 36ECTS) (On-line / Distance Learning) (20 places awarded)
4. Diploma in Project Management (NFQ 7 60 ECTS) (Blended Delivery – 2.5 contact hours per week with additional On-line/Distance Learning) (10 places awarded)

Strategic Plan

The document entitled *"Pioneering and Connected - Strategic Plan 2011-2015"* was presented to Governing Authority for approval and subsequently officially launched in January 2011. The document is now available in published format and online at www2.ul.ie/pdf/521283169.pdf

The following was agreed in terms of its implementation in the coming years:

- Overall responsibility lies with Executive Committee
- Management Council of circa 60 members was established for development of strategic priority projects annually in line with the priorities of the Strategic Plan
- In 2010/11, eight Management Council Task Forces were established in Spring around key Strategic Plan initiatives. The final reports of the task forces were presented in May 2011. Feedback to be provided by UL Executive in November 2011.
- Regular updates will be formally presented by the President to GA
- Formal review at end of 2012

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)

All SIF2 projects were completed August 2011 with Shannon Consortium Final Report "Statement of Outputs & Outcomes" presented to the HEA, October 2010. Mainstreaming/sustainability plans for all projects presented in the Final Report with the following outcomes:

Access and Life Long Learning

- SIE (regeneration) – sustained through philanthropic investment of €2 million for additional 3 years;
- Class 2014 (St Enda's School Limerick) & Northside Learning Hub (MIC) – sustained for an additional 2 years.
- 2 x Regional Learning Centres [Ennis (MIC) and Killarney (ITT)] – Killarney to be discontinued post SIF funding.

Teaching and Learning

- NCE-MSTL –Short-term sustainability plan in place to June 2012. Further review required in 2012. Additional funding likely from HEA in late 2011.
- T&L Incubation Centre and sub-projects – Learner Centres adopted under new funding model (RAM) from core "learner support" budget to ensure sustainability. Other project to be self-funded/discontinued.
- Young Entrepreneurs Programme (YEP) - IT Tralee-led - secured corporate funding for sustainability in post SIF phase

Shannon Consortium Procurement Network (SCPN)

- The SCPN has acted as service provider for procurement exercises outside the consortium involving NUIG and the other HEIs participating in the Lionra collaboration throughout the BMW region; bringing significant savings across the participating institutions.
- The SCPN has formalised a service agreement with HEA *vis-a-vis* procurement services for the entire IoTI sector (2011).
- Similar discussions are ongoing across the university sector with a view to linking the tendering process with similar tenders by UL and NUIG under the UL-NUIG Strategic Alliance (ongoing)
- C&AG audit reported the SCPN as a "best practice collaboration" in the HE sector under a review of SIF (2010)

The Shannon Consortium steering committee has agreed to frame future activity in context of the HEA's Hunt Report (National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030, published in March 2011) in the post SIF phase (September 2011 onwards). This will involve a detailed mapping exercise to include academic activities and programmes; T&L innovation; Research and graduate training; shared services; internationalisation; etc. A Heads of Agreement to be developed in 2012 as the basis of an MOU between the consortium post SIF.

NUI Galway- UL Strategic Alliance

Two detailed presentations/Progress Reports on the NUIG-UL Strategic Alliance were presented by the President to the Governing Authority (January and September 2011). A joint website has been developed and will go live in the October 2011. (http://www.nuig-ulalliance.ie). To date, seven joint programmes are being planned/delivered:

- MSc in Sustainable Resource Management (commenced Sept 2011)
- MSc in Finance and Information Systems (re-launch 2012)

- Bio-Innovate Ireland Fellowship Programme
- MSc in Sports and Exercise Medicine/Physiotherapy (re-branding as joint programmes 2012/13)
- Structured PhD in New Media and Film (Inter-Institutional)
- Structured PhD in Philosophy of Art and Culture – led by Mary Immaculate College [Commenced September 2011]
- Structured PhD in Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine

There was also a decision, with agreement of the HEA, that NUI Galway concentrate on the provision of **Undergraduate Medical programme** for NUI Galway, with concentration by UL on Graduate Medicine.

Link to Learn

- Student exchange initiatives in Business (BBS) - 8 students from UL attended NUI Galway in AY 2010/11.
- MBA: Summer electives provided by NUI Galway and UL being offered to the students of both programmes in summer 2011. 29 UL students and 27 NUI Galway students participated on modules offered in the partner institution in summer 2011.
- UL modules available to Galway MA (Arts) students as electives – First students will arrive for new AY 2011/12
- Through the use of the latest video conferencing technology, students from both institutions can share ideas and benefit from the learning experiences with the launch of the Link-to-Learn initiative. A range of modules are shared including; industrial biochemistry, oceanography, nanotechnology, radiation, medical physics
- Identified need for further exploration of video technology to enable Link to Learn acceleration.

Research and Technology Transfer

Biomedical Science and Engineering: MSSI and NCBES – enhanced relationship - to provide rapid and effective access to the physical capacity and capabilities for enterprises and entrepreneurs. Formal Launch of METRIC planned in 2012.

SAAL – Smart Ambient Assisted Living: Four thematic priorities: Secured funding – FP7 - in May 2011 of 500k (NUI Galway) and 300k to M&M Qualtech. Identified as a priority initiative for 2012 with seed funding authorised for the development of joint initiatives.

Software/ICT: LERO CSET renewal for period 2011-2016 - Proposal approved (€17 million). CISC/NUI Galway has now formally joined the LERO Research Centre.

Engineering & Informatics Joint Research Day: NUI Galway hosted a joint Engineering and Informatics Research Day with UL on campus on Thursday, 7 April 2011. Display of 174 research posters, 40 from UL. Published in a "Book of Abstracts".

MedTEch Accelerator Fund: Kernel Capital has launched the €10million (US$13.6) Bank of Ireland MedTech Accelerator Fund. The launch of this latest fund marks the introduction of NUI Galway as an investor with Kernel Capital. NUI Galway joins UL, Bank of Ireland and Enterprise Ireland in supporting this unique initiative for early stage Medical Technology companies.

Georgia Tech Ireland: First Annual Report presented to Alliance SC Sept 2011 – identified need for closer academic/industry engagement in Yr 2.

Innovation Centre, Ennis: The TTOs, supported by the consortium partners rolled out a new Regional Innovation Centre Ennis initiative as a mechanism of enhancing business start up and business development for the Ennis region. Formal launch planned in 2012.

Shared Services

- Procurement – utilities – co-ordinated by UL Procurement Office and now feeding into National Procurement Service (OPW)
- Legal Services - pre-qualification questionnaire will go online in September 2011 and will be scored in early October.
- Security: agreed to co-ordinate a joint procurement process with NUI Galway and Shannon Consortium.
- Research Support System joint procurement completed in Sept 2011.
- Translation Services: Translation Service provided by Acadamh na hOllscolaiochta Gaeilge – will be provided to UL from AY 2011/12 onwards.

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The mission of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is to create knowledge and a better world. The Faculty prides itself on the quality of its teaching and its commitment to research and places a strong emphasis on the role of debate and discussion in the development of knowledge and analytical skills.

The Faculty is home to the following five academic units:

- Department of History
- Department of Politics and Public Administration
- Department of Sociology
- School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication
- School of Law

Close academic relationships exist with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.

The Faculty has over 2,500 students registered for taught and research programmes.

Key Events included:

Agenda Setting Public Lecture

Professor Diarmaid Ferriter UCD delivered the 3rd Annual AHSS Agenda Setting Public Lecture which this year was organised by the Department of History under the title*: Civic Engagement: Historian, Media and Public.*

Moot Court

Chief Justice John Murray performed the official opening of a state-of-the-art replica of a courtroom at the School of Law. The courtroom permits UL law students the opportunity to integrate their theoretical knowledge within a simulated practical application.

Current Issues in Irish Journalism

"All in a life" - An open interview with former Taoiseach Dr Garrett Fitzgerald about politics, political reform, the Irish media, and the imminent election took place on 21 February 2011. This was followed on 23 March 2011 with an open interview with Geraldine Kennedy, Editor, The Irish Times.

Teaching Awards

Jennifer Schweppe, School of Law, was the winner of the UL Small Group Teaching Award. She was also awarded a NAIRTL (National Academy for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning) *National Award for Excellence in Teaching* 2011.

Dr Amanda Haynes, Department of Sociology, was selected by the University's Teaching Award Task Force as the "clear winner" of the *Large Group Teaching Award* competition. This is the second time that Dr Haynes won this award – she was a recipient of the same award in 2006.

Dr David Coughlan, School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication, was the winner of the First Seven Weeks Teaching/Advising Award. First year students nominated him as the teacher/tutor or advisor who had the most positive impact on their learning experience at UL during their first seven weeks.

Teaching Days

Three further teaching days took place during the year in October 2010, January 2011 and September 2011. These Teaching Days continue to be an opportunity for Faculty to learn from each other and to identify infrastructural supports that need to be in place to facilitate teaching and learning. They draw on both internal and external expertise. Format includes presentation and workshops.

Research

During the year faculty continued their high output of first class publications including twelve single authored or co-authored books as well as seven edited books.

IRCHSS Award

Professor Tom Lodge, AHSS Dean and Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies together with three faculty at NUIG were awarded a €50,000 grant by the IRCHSS under its Department of Foreign Affairs Projects in Conflict Resolution Scheme. The project is part of the ongoing attempt to expand and integrate research and teaching collaboration between NUIG and UL.

Professor Dermot Walsh, School of Law, was announced as an elected member of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). Membership of the RIA is considered one of the highest academic honours in Ireland.

Research Conferences and Symposia

- Annual Conference of the Newspaper and Periodical History Forum of Ireland – *"The Practice and Profession of Journalism Through the Ages"*.
- Gender ARC Network Meeting (a UL and NUIG inter-institutional research consortium on gender-related research).
- Development Studies Association of Ireland Workshop.
- ISSP-CALS-LANGNET Summer Symposium – **"***Using Discourse Analysis in Doctoral Research"*.
- Language in the Media – "*The role of the media in relation to the representation, construction and/or production of language"*.
- The Songs That Saved Your Life Again: A Celebration of Morrissey.

Summer Schools and Winter Schools

- UL English Language Programmes
  The University of Limerick Language Centre offers a range of courses for adults and juniors throughout the year and completed another successful Summer Programme. The programme included the junior summer programme; General English and English for Academic Purposes courses, and an innovative teacher development series.

- Summer School in Irish Studies
  The UL Summer School in Irish Studies offered students the opportunity to experience Ireland through this worthwhile learning, social, and cultural programme. Students studied one course option on a full-time basis over a three-week period, with a choice of five courses across the areas of Irish Literature, History, Sociology, Media, Law and Creative Writing for three academic credits (6 ECTS).

- 3rd UL Winter School in Social Science Research Methods
  Jointly organised by the Department of Sociology and Department of Politics and Public Administration, the School offered training in qualitative and quantitative methods appropriate to PhD level research and was provided free to PhD students at ISSP institutions.

- Politics and Public Administration Summer School
  Organised in partnership with the Limerick City Development Board, the theme was 'Renewing Local Democracy and Civic Engagement'. Participants at the school included local government officials, elected representatives, community based organisations and academics.

- UL Languages Week
  Celebrating the European Day of Languages on a large scale, the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication hosted UL Languages Week.

Professional Accreditation

The BA (Education) Languages met the degree and teacher education requirements of An Chomhairle Mhúinteoireachta/The Teaching Council for curricular subjects French, Spanish and German.

The BA (Joint Honours) met the registration requirements of An Chomhairle Mhúinteoireachta/The Teaching Council for curricular subjects CSPE, Economics, History, Mathematics, English, French, German, Irish and Spanish.

Student Publications

The journalism students at UL produced two newspapers benefiting city and suburban communities in Limerick. The City Voice and the Parish Voice focused on St Mary's Park and followed the production of previous papers the Moyross Voice in 2009 and the Southill Voice in 2010.

Two further editions of Student Journals were launched in January 2011 - the latest edition of the History Society Journal and Socheolas the Limerick Student Journal of Sociology.

IRISH WORLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE

The spectacular new home of the Irish World Academy of Music and was officially launched during this academic year by An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD. The launch was marked by a cultural celebration including performances by the Chieftains, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, Rex Levitates Dance Company and by students of the Irish World Academy across contemporary, traditional and world dance as well as classical and traditional music performances.

The €20 million building was specifically designed to combine the elements of research, performance and teaching by leading French Architect Daniel Cordier, who was appointed following an international design competition. It accommodates two performance workshop theatres, the Tower Theatre and the Main Theatre as well as dance performance studios, recording spaces, music performance practice rooms, seminar rooms, exhibition areas and an international research centre.

The building is acoustically treated and includes sprung floors throughout. Most recently, the Academy acquired a continuo organ for the development of early music practice.

Other Key Developments

A National Dance Archive, sponsored by An Chomhairle Ealaion / the Arts Council, was established at the Glucksman library through the academic leadership of the Irish World Academy.

A new professional contemporary dance initiative, aimed at young Irish dancers who have completed training at international centres entitled 'Step Up' commenced at the Irish World Academy in association with Dance Ireland and sponsored by An Chomhairle Ealaion / the Arts Council

The Stepping Stones scholarships initiative was launched which targets postgraduate students from parts of the world underrepresented at the Academy. Applications included students from China, Malaysia, Ghana, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Russia and Israel. These scholarships are available for any taught Masters in the Academy and successful candidates will have the opportunity to explore further study at the doctoral level.

The BA Voice and Dance is completing its first full cycle and continues to attract students from a wide spectrum of music and dance backgrounds. The Arts Practice PhD continues to grow and specialist research areas include Indian classical music performance, African indigenous music ensembles, new Irish choreography and chant performance.

Appointments

Recent appointments at the Academy include a new course director in Ritual Chant and Song, Wolodymyr Schishmekywych, internationally renowned singer with the early music ensemble 'Sequentia'. early music specialist and piano accompanist, Dr Yonit Kosovke and contemporary dancer and scholar, Dr Jenny Roche along with two additional support staff.

Graduates of the Academy continue to attract national and international fellowships and scholarships including an IRCHSS postdoctoral fellowship, a Fullbright and a FONCA, Mexico's most prestigious scholarships for the arts.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences (EHS) is a constellation of six departments (Clinical Therapies (CT), Education & Professional Studies (EPS), Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS), Nursing & Midwifery (N&M), Psychology (PSYC) and Physical Education & Sport Sciences (PESS)).

Research Achievements

- Doctoral Students have increased from 144 to 158
- ISI publications have increased from 334 to 366
- Prestigious books have increased from 14 to 24
- Citations have increased from 3888 to 4696
- Patents per €1million have increase from 0.29 to 0.38
- EU funding has risen from €799k to €1.3m

During the academic year EHS developed:

- A Research Strategy
- Education Structured Doctorate Programme (first cohort Sept 2010, 36 students to date)
- Structured Doctorate Programme in Health Sciences (First cohort Sept 2012)
- Personal Development Plan modules available to ALL PhD students (UL)
- EHS Peer review panel for IRSCET/IRCHSS applications to build on our success record, 3 received in AY 10/11

Internationalisation

- Non-EU undergraduates up from 149 to 177
- Non-EU taught postgraduate up from 93 to 116
- Number of students who spend a period of study abroad up from 299 to 374
- Depts. of Physical Education & Sport Sciences/Psychology and Clinical Therapies have built experience abroad into Undergraduate programmes

Contribution to the Community

- Hospice at Home Evaluation report was completed for Milford Care Centre
- EHS supported the after-school study programme with St Marys and Southill
- EHS and Milford worked together to provide one of the foundation partnerships of the All Ireland Institute Hospice and Palliative Care
- Various Staff at EHS are still involved in Limerick Regeneration initiatives

Conferences and Events

- The International Association of Physical Education in Higher Education (AIESEP) 2011
- The Department of Nursing and Midwifery held the 2nd European Transcultural Nursing Association conference
- Rehabilitation and Therapy Research Society annual conference was held in UL on 13th May. If was hosted by the Department of Physiotherapy
- The then President of Ireland, Mary McAleese visited UL on 25th February 2011. She addressed the Graduate Entry Medical School students as well as staff, medical professionals and educators for across the region.
- EHS held two Inaugural Lectures, Prof Walter Cullen 16th May entitled 'Is Primary care the Answer?' Prof David Meagher on 21st March entitled 'Delirium: confusion at the brain-body interface'

During the year work was continuing to maintain the Quality of Student Experience:

- Personal Development Plan Modules were designed and are available for ALL PhD students (UL).
- New EHS Programmes included;

  - MSc Sport Performance
  - Postgraduate Certs in Clinical Therapies
  - New EHS Structure PhD to be introduced in Sept 2012
  - BSc in Exercise and Fitness (NCEF)

- EHS Faculty are currently working on;

  - UTEB – Teacher Education Structures
  - Student Exit/Programme goal setting
  - New Paramedic Programme
  - Revamping Postgraduate programmes in CT, N&M EPS

Student/Staff Highlights and Awards

Úna Britton – 2nd year Sports and Exercise student qualified for the European under 23 Cross Country championships. Úna will represent Ireland at these Championships in December 2011.

Four students from Nursing and Midwifery programmes were shortlisted in the top 10% of the 2011 undergraduate Award of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Special Distinction Awards: Kim Siekerman (BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences) was awarded the Silver medal at August Graduation and Marie Ryan (Bed in Biological Science) received the Teaching Practice award.

Aileen Sheahan (2nd year Physical Education) reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Over €100k was raised for the Irish Heart Foundation. The Director of NCEF was also a member of that group, Maura OSullivan Ryan.

Dr Patricia Mannix McNamara (EPS) won the UL Excellence in Teaching Award.

Staff Appointments

- Professor Amanda Cotter – Professor in Obstetrics & Gynaecology (GEMS)
- Dr Rachel Mestfi – Senior Lecturer (Dept of Psychology)
- Dr Patrick Ryan appointed Head of Department of Education and Professional Studies.
- Prof Alison Perry – Professor of Clinical Therapies
- Prof Anne McFarlane – Professor of Primary Healthcare Research

Retirements

Jim Pidgeon – Technical Office EPS

Dr Jim Gleeson – Senior Lecturer EPS

Faculty of Science and Engineering

The Faculty of Science and Engineering comprises 10 academic departments: Chemical and Environmental Sciences, Computer Science and Information Systems, Electronic and Computer Engineering, Life Sciences, Manufacturing and Operations Engineering, Materials Science and Technology, Mathematics and Statistics, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, Physics and the School of Architecture. Supported by over 230 members of staff, the faculty is a vibrant community that offers 40 undergraduate honours degree programmes to 3018 students.

The faculty offers taught and research postgraduate programmes at graduate diploma, undergraduate, masters and PhD degree levels. The number of researchers pursuing PhD qualifications during the year was 497. The research interests of the faculty cover a wide spectrum of disciplines under the aegis of three world-class research institutes: Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI), Stokes Research Institute and the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre (Lero), as well as a large number of research centres. A major emphasis has been placed on applied mathematics through the Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) and energy and sustainable environment research under the Charles Parsons Initiative, which was launched in 2008. The Faculty graduated 59 PhD doctoral recipients and 173 Masters students in AY2010/2011.

Key Developments

Conference and Events

Re-Thinking Technology in Museums 2011: Emerging Experiences.

The 3rd edition of the international conference "Re-Thinking Technology in Museums" took place in UL, hosted by the Interaction Design Centre (Dept. of CSIS) with the collaboration of the Irish Museums Association. The IDC brings together academics and practitioners to discuss novel ways of designing the museum experience in light of the presence of interactive technologies. The 2011 event on the theme of "Emerging Experiences" included social scientists, museum education and communication experts, curators, exhibition designers, interaction designers and computer scientists from 14 different countries. The conference papers can be downloaded from: http://www.idc.ul.ie/techmuseums11/

FM2011 Formal Methods Conference

Lero hosted the FM2011 (Formal Methods) Conference in conjunction with the 34th Annual IEEE Software Engineering Workshop (SEW), Communicating Process Architectures (CPA) and COST. Between the four events Lero hosted 235 delegates from 35 countries. The FM2011 Symposium was based around the theme *Formal Methods Come of Age* which highlighted and celebrated advances and maturity in formal methods research, education, and deployment via tool support and industrial best practice, and their role in a variety of industries, domains, and in certification and assurance.

IDATER Online Conference

The 1st IDATER online conference on Graphicacy and Modelling was successfully hosted by the Technology Education Research Group at the University of Limerick, in collaboration with the

Design Education Research Group in Loughborough University. The event was supported by the Design and Manufacturing Technology (DMT) department. The conference aimed to promote discussion on graphicacy and modelling and their role in design and education. The event was well attended at both a national and international level, with external vested parties such as members of the State Examinations Commissions and the Technology Subject Support Service (t4) in Ireland also attending. Research emerging from the conference and developed upon since the event will form the basis of an essential book co-edited by Dr. Niall Seery of the Design and Manufacturing Technology department and the Technology Education Research Group (TERG) here at UL, with Professor Eddie Norman of Loughborough University.

UN Economic Commission for Africa Address

In recognition of his work in spearheading attempts to bridge the global "digital divide", one of Ireland's leading researchers in software localisation was invited to address the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Mr Reinhard Schäler (CSIS) of the Science Foundation Ireland-funded Centre for Next Generation Localisation (CNGL) at University of Limerick spoke at the Second Meeting of the Committee on Development Information, Science & Technology (CODIST-II) of the UN's Economic Commission for Africa, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mr Schäler addressed senior officials and experts from African member states on the theme "Localisation as an Industrial Strategy".

82nd European Study Group with Industry

The 82nd European Study Group with Industry is a week-long intensive problem-solving challenge involving industry and academic collaboration. Organised by 'Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry' (MACSI) UL, the conference was formally opened by Dr Thibaut Lery, Science Officer at the European Science Foundation. Study Groups involve six or seven industrialists presenting problems to an audience of academics: mostly mathematicians but other scientists are welcome to participate. The participants work together to formulate the problems as mathematical questions and to analyse the resulting equations. Some of the problems worked on this year involved: roll coating technology with DSM, efficient usage of O-negative blood with the Mid-Western Regional Hospital and demand side management with Crystal Energy. For further details see: http://www.macsi.ul.ie/esgi82/

Elite Force Teams up with Civil Engineering at UL

An elite force of engineering faculty and cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, USA came to UL, among them Colonel Stephen Ressler, Professor of Civil & Mechanical Engineering at the US Military Academy, along with two further West Point Engineering Faculty members and seven military cadets. The party visited seven schools around Limerick over a two week period presenting a high energy extravaganza to show how civil engineers use maths and science to design the structures that are part of our everyday lives.

Schools participating in the ten day extravaganza included; Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Ahane NS, Model School, Milford NS and Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh.

Computer & Video Game Localisation Summer School

The 2011 LRC Internationalisation and Localisation Summer School took place at the University of Limerick and Computer and Video Game localisation was the theme of the event. Supported by the Centre for Next Generation Localisation (CNGL), 38 eager participants had a unique opportunity to experience a different side of the localisation industry and gain insight into one of the most exciting and fastest growing areas of the localisation industry: games localisation. Representatives from Big Fish Games, Enzyme Testing Labs, Guerilla Translations, Keywords International, Language Automation Inc., Microsoft Games Studios, Mi'pu'mi games and OnLegends gave talks and workshops that were both interesting and engaging.The Summer School was supported by Kilgray Translation Technologies & PopCap Games.

DESIGNed11

'DESIGNed', the annual Product Design and Technology showcase once again exhibited the innovative product designs of the BSc Product Design and Technology students. The 2010/2011 exhibition presented the work of 16 students with ideas ranging from a universal swimming pool access device to a redesigned hurling helmet. High quality representational models and large format graphic presentations demonstrated the products and their innovative concepts and features. Three awards were presented on the night; Denis O'Keefe of Logitech presented The Logitech Designer of the year prize to Kevin O'Sullivan for his product 'Encoretm' an innovative new heart valve delivery system which has also gained him a co-patent. The second prize was awarded to Cathy O'Neill for her practical and innovative camping shower, 'Clean Camping'. This year the ProCAD 1st Year Designer of the Year award was presented to Jamie Wade by Cormac Lyons of ProCAD. The showcase event also marked the official opening, by the President Don Barry, of the Product Design and Technology studio space. The new studios are located in the lower ground floor of the foundation building and provide the students with a purpose built product design facility.

Funding and Awards

ICMR

Dr Cathal Heavey of the Enterprise Research Centre (ERC) is collaborating with the Enterprise Processing Research Centre (EPRC) of Dublin City University on two Industry-led projects with the Irish Centre for Manufacturing Research (ICMR) (www.icmr.ie), which was launched this academic year**.** The research involves two strands: sustainable modelling and management of the variability. The companies involved in these strands are Seagate, Intel, Analog Devices, De Puy, Boston Scientific and Bombardier. The Sustainable Model Based Decision Support Systems strand introduces a means for rapid modelling manufacturing systems for analysis prior to implementation of decisions. Such models improve responsiveness to rapidly changing market environment. The ICMR has recently been granted a €5 million budget to apply innovation to manufacturing.

SFI Awards

In the Science Foundation Ireland, (Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology) program, UL have achieved significant successes:

- Lero – the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre led by UL was reviewed by an international panel and congratulated on its achievements since it was set up in 2005.
- In SFI's SRC (Strategic Research Cluster) program, the Solid State Pharmaceutical Cluster passed its mid-term review. The SSPC is widely regarded both in Ireland and internationally as an exemplar of best industry-academic research collaboration. Indeed, it was awarded an additional €1m funding over its initial award of €7m in recognition of new work that was viewed as extremely desirable to pursue.
- In SFI's PI (Principal Investigator) programme, UL had three successes totalling over €3m. Prof Noel O'Dowd, Prof Ake Rasmuson of MSSI and Dr Conor Ryan of the CSIS Department were awarded PI grants. In Conor's case, he has the extremely enviable record of now having had three successive PI grants – a major testament to the excellence of his research.

Coolmore Prize

The AY2010/2011 Coolmore Prize for Best Final Year Project in the Department of Life Sciences was awarded to James McGregor for his project 'The Effect of Yearling Sale Price on Racing Performance.'

Critchley Prize

Instituted in honour of the late Dr Robert Critchley, Senior Lecturer in Applied Mathematics (1977-2007), this prize is awarded to the student who obtains the highest QCA in first year in Mathematical Sciences or Financial Mathematics. The 2010/11 prize-winner is David Cleere (Mathematical Sciences).

Robocode Competition

The UL entry in the 2011 national Robocode competition, held at Tipperary Institute, came 2nd in the overall competition. Eight institutions had robots in battle and after the first round of bouts UL held the number 1 slot but were piped into second place in the finals. This competition is open to 1st year undergraduates nationwide, both UL team members, Daniel Keohan and Ryan Kerswill, are 1st year Multimedia and Computer Games Development (LM110) students.

XNA Challenge Cup 2011

Science and Engineering entrants in the XNA Challenge Cup 2011 won in the Best Windows 7 game and Best Original Story categories for their unique implementations of the FROGGER game theme. This competition is open to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year undergraduates nationwide, all our winners are 2nd year Multimedia and Computer Games Development (LM110) students – Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Irish Ergonomics Chair

Leonard O'Sullivan, Department of Design & Manufacturing Technology, was recently elected Chairman of the Irish Ergonomics Society.

2011 BOC Gases Postgraduate Bursary

Treasa Golden, a postgraduate student in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Sciences, was presented with the 2011 BOC Gases Postgraduate Bursary. Her research focuses on the application of nanotechnology to produce novel catalysts for the reduction of trans fatty acids in hydrogenated vegetable oils. This includes an investigation into the morphological and electronic effects of catalysts on trans selectivity in the hydrogenation reaction. Hydrogenated oils are a component of many food products as they increase shelf life and flavour stability but they generally contain large amounts of trans fats which can lead to coronary heart disease.

Research

One Island Project

The One Island project is a project by The Intelligence Unit (IU) at the School of Architecture at The University of Limerick that aims to adjust the way people imagine and visualize the physical form of society created by those who live on it through defining the living space of the island of Ireland. This research project lifts all of the boundaries that define the extent of disciplinary / governance / infrastructure remit, and looks at 'Living Space' the way people experience it – as one continuous place. Lifting the boundaries allowed the region to be analysed at a variety of levels simultaneously; transportation (movement), energy, education, land use, nature, environment. Research will centre around two counties as pilot sites, Mayo and Fingal. Additional data from the surrounding counties will also be used. The chosen sites have conditions which vary greatly, and share some similarities. Fingal County contains Ireland's major airport, while Mayo County is the site of a new and highly controversial natural gas pipeline. IU Project Leaders: Merritt Bucholz, Peter Carroll IU Collaborators: Eleanor Moloney, Eugene O'Callaghan, Cornelia Foley, Danny Holland, Eamonn Kelly, David Williams, Jim Murphy, John Byrne

Structured PhD Programmes

MSSI was awarded €2.5m HEA PRTLI 5 Strand 2 funding for its participation in three four-year Structured PhD Programmes which will commence in September 2011.

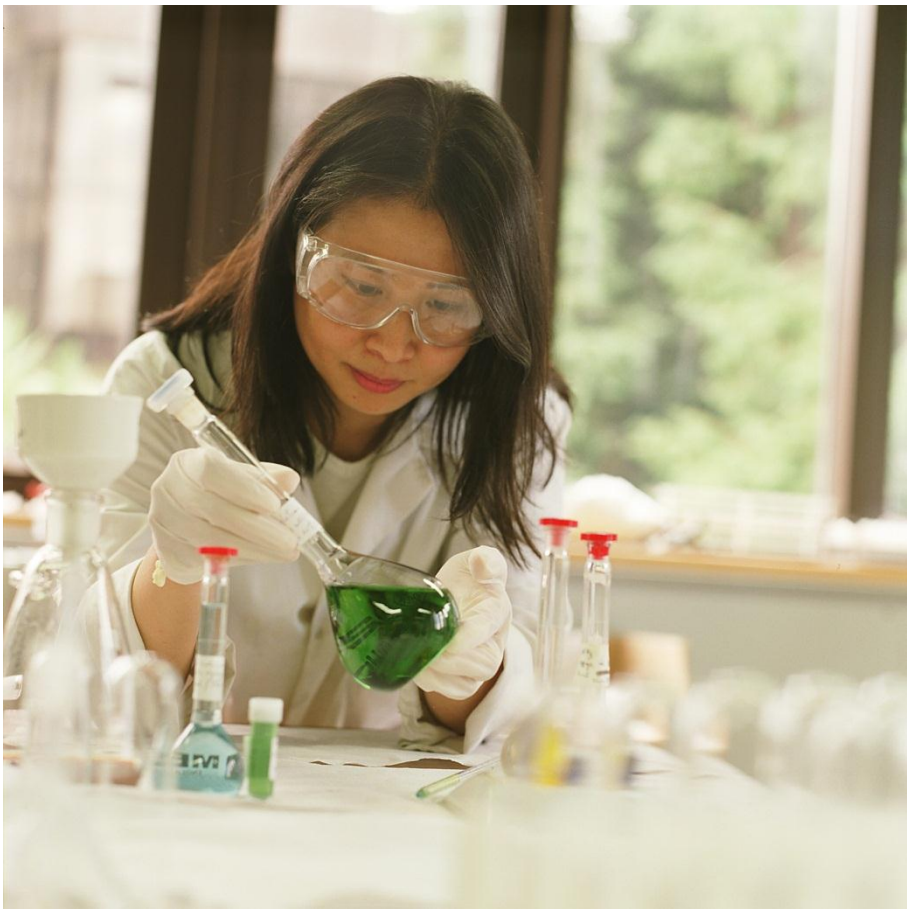
The programme in Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine will be delivered by a core partnership of institutions: National University of Ireland Galway, University of Limerick (MABE, MSSI) and University College Cork, linked with a wider consortium of institutions nationally and internationally, including Queen's University Belfast, Georgia Institute of Technology, The Mayo Clinic, USA and the Irish Medical Devices Association (IMDA). This programme will provide a combination of world-class research and focused clinical and industrial interaction, the latter facilitated by the direct involvement of IMDA with its membership of over 100 medical technology companies in Ireland.

The programme in Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies will be delivered by the INSPIRE consortium: University of Limerick (MSSI), Cork Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, Dublin Institute of Technology, National University of Ireland Galway and University College Cork. INSPIRE is the Irish national consortium in nanoscience and nanotechnology, providing a shared research infrastructure and national curriculum.

The programme in Earth and Natural Sciences is offered by University of Limerick (MSSI), University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and National University of Ireland Galway. This PhD programme is innovation focused and provides students with a set of disciplinary skills and multidisciplinary knowledge focused at the interface of energy and environment.

Research Fellow

Marie Travers has been accepted as a research fellow at BioInnovate Ireland following the completion her M.Sc. in Software Engineering at the University of Limerick. BioInnovate Ireland Fellowships are Fellowships based on medical device innovation and product design. The programme is a national, inter-institutional initiative and is modelled on the prestigious and internationally-recognized Biodesign programme offered at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. Marie completed her M.Sc. dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Jim Buckley (Lero/CSIS) on the topic of 'Interface Identification during Component Recovery' where she designed, developed and evaluated a lightweight prototype tool (The MNC tool) that facilitated the partitioning of interfaces based on mnemonic cues in the method names of recovered components.



Kemmy Business School

The Kemmy Business School is one of the largest business schools in the country with almost 2,600 full-time and part-time students taking a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The KBS has over 100 staff and is comprised of four departments: Department of Economics; Department of Personnel and Employment Relations; Department of Management and Marketing; and Department of Accounting and Finance.

Key Developments

Official Opening of the new Kemmy Business School Building

The key event of the year was the official opening of the new Kemmy Business School Building. The official ceremony was performed by Minister Tony Killeen T.D. on Friday 5 November 2010 at an event attended by over 250 guests and members of the university community. The opening ceremony was followed by the annual KBS Distinguished Lecture which was delivered by Mr Peter D. Sutherland S.C. on the subject of "Ireland's Economic Condition."

Strategic Plan

Staff commenced the process of producing the new Strategic Plan, 2011-15.

Internationalisation Task Force

An Internationalisation Task Force, chaired by Professor Jim Deegan, produced a report highlighting the strategic imperative for the college of entering into strategic alliances with international business schools. This will significantly inform the Strategic Plan.

Alliance with NUIG

As part of UL's alliance with NUIG, KBS has been actively engaged with its counterpart in NUIG in developing a number of programmes and initiatives. During the year, both approved a joint MSc in Finance & Information Systems, a novel degree that will see students take their first semester of study in UL and their second in NUIG. This new programme builds on an existing arrangement that enables MBA students to take summer school modules in either location.

19th John Lovett Memorial Lecture

Mr Kieran Mulvey, CEO, Labour Relations Commission was guest speaker at the annual John Lovett memorial Lecture, presenting a talk to a large gathering entitled "*All's changed, changed utterly – new times, new engagements and new solutions: how the employment relationship is changing*".

Research

Faculty ISI publications increased significantly from 19 in 2009 to 31 in 2010. PhD graduates declined from eight to four in 2010.

Faculty approved a proposal to apply for "priority" research centre status for Organisation Science and Public Policy. While led by KBS, this would be open to membership across the University.

The Department of Accounting & Finance secured an estimated €200,000 funding for an Innovation Partnership research collaboration to be co-funded by Aldus Aviation and Enterprise Ireland.

Dr Stephen Kinsella was awarded a grant of €120K by the Institute for New Economic Thinking to work on stock flow consistent macro models for Ireland.

Professor Tom Kennedy and RPV O'Sullivan were awarded the Emerald Literati Network Outstanding Paper Award Winner 2011 for their article "What caused the Irish Banking Crisis", *Journal of Financial Regulation and Compliance*.

Programme Developments

MSc in Project Management (Full-time)
MSc in Project and Programme Management (Part-time)

A new MSc in Project Management (Full-time) and MSc in Project and Programme Management (Part-time) were approved to replace the existing Masters in Project Management (Distance Learning/On Campus).

MSc in Taxation

A new MSc in Taxation programme was approved, further consolidating the KBS position as the leading centre for Tax education in Ireland.

Gradireland Graduate Recruitment Awards

At an award ceremony in Dublin, the MSc in Financial Services was named as national winner of the award for Postgraduate Course of the year.

Faculty Achievements

Dr Stephen Kinsella won a JCI Outstanding Young Person of the Year Award.

Professor Michael Morley, Department of Management and Marketing, received the Award for Faculty Research Excellence 2010, at the August 2010 Conferring Ceremonies.

Dr Noreen Heraty, Department of Personnel and Employment Relations, received the Award for Excellence in Service to the Community 2010, at the August 2010 Conferring Ceremonies.

Dr Elaine Doyle, Department of Accounting & Finance, received the Award for Excellence in Teaching 2010, at the August 2010 Conferring Ceremonies.

Dr Conor Carroll, Department of Management & Marketing received the National Award for Excellence in the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL).

Retirements

A number of long-standing members of KBS faculty retired during the year.

Mr Joe Wallace, Senior Lecturer in Industrial Relations, retired after 32 years of service.

Mary Davern, Faculty Manager, Dean's Office, also retired after 22 years of service.

In addition, after serving as Dean for 9 years and, prior to that, as Associate Dean for 12 years, Professor Donal A Dineen stepped down as Executive Dean of the College.

CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) works closely with academic staff to develop an iterative strategy for enhancing teaching and learning processes within and beyond the University campus.

Key Developments

- Dr Amanda Haynes won the University award for large group teaching and Dr Patricia Mannix McNamara won the University award for small group teaching. The Regional Excellence in Teaching Award process was won by Dr David Brancaleone, Lecturer in Critical and Contextual Studies (Fine Art), Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT Limerick Institute of Technology and Dr Jennifer Schweppe won a NAIRTL National Teaching Excellence Award.
- Peer observation has continued to provide a forum for partners to learn both from being observed and acting as the observer. With 29 additional participants engaging with the process during the year, the project continues to be valuable.
- A series of workshops and lunchtime seminars were attended by 494 UL staff.
- The first cohort of the Specialist Diploma in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship graduated in Summer 2011.
- CTL continues to support ITT in the area of Teaching and Learning with the delivery of five CPD workshops
- A number of CPD workshops and presentations also delivered (for example to St. Patricks College, Thurles and EDIN)
- Working in collaboration with Faculty from PESS on a project on the Student as a Teaching Consultant, initial results to be disseminated at American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, April 2012
- Facilitating a teaching portfolio development working group for members of the womens forum

National Digital Learning Resources (NDLR) Services

- Undertook and completed the redesign and development of the CTL website
- Introduced social networking applications, such as Twitter and Facebook, to the CTL website
- Contributed to the First Seven Weeks working group
- Set up and maintained the First Seven Weeks Facebook page
- Contributed to the module on Teaching Innovation on the Specialist Diploma
- Supported the local UL applications for NDLR national digital resource development funding

- Assisted in the development of the Technology Enhanced Learning Community of Practice (TELCoP) website
- Presented at the TELCoP Showcase
- Redesigned the NDLR webpage
- Assisted in the migration of the NDLR from pilot to full service in April 2010
- Participated in the Conversations in the Consortium series
- Promoted and presented the NDLR as a CTL resource amongst the UL academic community
- Organised and hosted the NDLR Fest 2011: annual showcase of digital learning resources in March 2011, at which a multitude of University of Limerick projects were showcased and included in poster sessions.
- Published the Proceedings from the NDLR Fest 2011: annual showcase of digital learning resources in which four papers from University of Limerick academics were included.

Teaching Technology

- Management of the Technology Enhanced Learning Community of Practice at UL, secretary of the Educational Developers of Ireland Network (EDIN), and member of the Steering Committee of the Irish Learning Technology Association (ILTA)
- Continuation of the Multi-institutional VLE survey (http://www.nairtl.ie/), leadership role. Publication in AISHE special number, coordination of evaluation round 2011, updated student survey, NARTL proposal for funding, and integration within ILTA research sub-group.

Continued support to the Learning Management System (Sulis) and anti-plagiarism software (Turnitin) with:

1. A total of 314 faculty members attending training and TEL consultations and 447 training, technical and advice calls responded (ITD RMS records)

2. Continuous quality and improvement, including: coordination of upgrades to 2.7 and 2.8 versions with ITD, coordination with ITD Service Desk and project technical leader, updated all documentation version 2.8 and completion of the Turnitin-Sulis integration

3. Support to the strategic review of the LMS: stats collection for LMS/e-learning group, provided FEHS stats on engagement with initiatives, student survey 2011 launched, briefing to eLearning Taskforce on feedback from TEL CoP, collection of case studies, national survey, and provided final proposal and budget for eLearning Taskforce.

Provided technological expertise to the student evaluation of teaching process (SET), including:

1. Streamlining current processes, design and testing of software for production of reports, design of production templates, contribution to strategy, administration of the cumulative database of student evaluation of teaching, and report automation

2. Production of standard reports (n=195)

3. Production of on demand reports (SET institutional report for Institutional Review Panel, Report for AHSS Strategic Plan on CTL engagement rates, Qualitative analysis of student responses for 5th FAHSS Teaching Day, Medical School weekly evaluations, report for Journalism department).

Other

- Collaboration with "First Seven Weeks" project, including co-design of the marketing material and evaluation and report for the mid and end of programme evaluation.
- Investigation and piloting of new tools for TEL including e-portfolios, multimedia platform, virtual classrooms and audience response systems.
- Collaboration in the project "Promoting flexible learning in the Faculty of AHSS for non-traditional students". Financed by Quality Unit (QIFAC).
- Contributed to seven scholarly publications on technology enhanced learning (two of them in Web of Science journals), five conference presentations at national and international events, and two presentation at institutional events.
- Member of Editing Committee of Revista Española de Orientación y Psicopedagogía, reviewed for Studies in Higher Education, Irish Journal of Management, and EdTech (annual conference of the Irish Learning Technology Association)
- Module leader for "Information and Communication Technologies for Intercultural Education" in the Euro-Latin American Master in Intercultural Education (European Commission ALFA project), in collaboration with the National Open University of Spain (UNED)

Income Generation/Funding

Lincs NDLR grant allocated (€2,400); participant member of the NDLR teaching grant allocation (€15,000); NARTL allocation to EDIN while being a member of its committee (€15,000); QUIFAC funding allocation by Quality Office (€5,000)

Regional Writing Centre, UL

1. In June 2011, the Regional Writing Centre hosted the 6th biennial international conference of the European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing (EATAW), welcoming 300 international delegates to the University. The Regional Writing Centre is now recognised as a centre for excellence in the pedagogy of academic writing development, and the chair of the EATAW association now resides in the University of Limerick.

2. During this period, the Writing Centre played an extremely effective role in the development of innovative learner development and support in writing, enhancing fundamental transferable skills that are relevant to students from all disciplines. Such initiative include the following:

    a. Design, deliver and co-ordination of Writing-in-the-Disciplines initiatives in order to encourage the integration of writing into course support and curriculum development. A total of 37 Writing-in-Disciplines initiatives were conducted, with a total of 1,112 students participating from across all faculties.

    b. Design, delivery and development of modules in writing, including: Academic Literacies 1 & 2; Applied Writing and Editing Skills; Advanced Technical Communication for Engineers; Thesis Writing; and Peer-tutoring in Academic Writing. These modules were delivered to 844 students.

    c. Expansion of the one-to-one Peer-tutoring in Academic Writing initiative. A total of 663 undergraduate and postgraduate students participated in one-to-one writing consultations.

    d. Design, deliver and co-ordination of early academic development and teacher training, including modules on the Specialist Diploma in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship.

    e. Launch of the 'How I Write, Ireland' series of interviews, welcoming the celebrated Limerick poet and painter Jo Slade as the inaugural guest.

3. The Writing Centre has delivered on its promise to bolster recruitment and retention efforts by facilitating early intervention and providing on-going support for targeted groups such as mature students, students in Access and foundation programmes and non-native speakers of English. A total of 9 initiatives were delivered to 290 pre-entry (Downtown Centre), Access and Mature students.

4. The Writing Centre has been recognised as a source of competitive advantage supporting research and scholarship as well as teaching and learning. The Centre facilitated postgraduate and faculty writers' groups to enhance publication and conducted one-to-one consultations with staff wishing to enhance their own research and scholarship.

5. Writing Centre staff have played an important role in furthering research in best practices in writing and writing pedagogy, publishing research in international peer-reviewed journals, participating on national/international boards/networks to promote writing development, attending national and international conferences on writing, and hosting national and international conference on writing.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND CAREERS DIVISION

The Cooperative Education & Careers Division (CECD) is responsible for the development of the Cooperative Education, Teaching Practice and Careers programmes at the University of Limerick. Over the past year, placements have been secured for students of all disciplines across UL's network of over 1,700 employers. In an increasingly harsh economic climate, the Division's strategy has been to extend its sectoral and employer coverage, with a particular emphasis on developing placements in high-value organisations, both national and international, that are capital, skills and knowledge-intensive.

With over 20% of students undertaking an international placement, the international placement programme at UL continues to be very significant. The programme has a strong financial, IT and manufacturing focus. Over the past year, placements were identified for students in Europe (e.g. Luxembourg, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain); the Americas (US, Canada, Mexico, Argentina); Africa (Ghana, Uganda, South Africa); Asia (Japan, China); and Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, Samoa). Under the EU Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), the Division has been awarded €380,000 to support students going on placement within the EU member states. In the past year, a UL undergraduate who undertook an international placement was selected as an Erasmus Student Ambassador. A UL graduate who completed her Coop placement in Luxembourg was selected as a Youth on the Move Ambassador.

UL has the largest Teaching Practice placement programme in the country. In the past year, the Division secured Teaching Practice assignments for over 800 students from UL's range of 12 undergraduate and postgraduate teacher education programmes. These students had the opportunity to apply their academic learning in a live classroom environment across UL's network of over 500 participating schools.

The CECD has a strong employability focus and the Careers Service provides a comprehensive programme, which includes individual careers consultations, career seminars, employer presentations and interviews, job vacancy notifications and a range of careers and postgraduate-study-related resources. These core services are supported by customised services for mature students, students with disabilities and postgraduate students. For doctoral students, a key feature has been the design and delivery of a Career Management Skills module. The University's commitment to employability is reflected in our high level of graduate employment, which is consistently above the national average. The most recent HEA survey of graduates shows that over 58% of UL graduates go directly into employment with a further 27% of students going on to further study or training.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The International Education Division (IED) implements the University's strategic objective of promoting an international focus across key areas of activity. Particular emphasis is placed on the recruitment of international students at all levels – full degree (undergraduate and postgraduate), study abroad and summer schools – and the administration of international student exchanges with partner universities in the EU and internationally. UL welcomed students from 97 countries in 2010/11. International students are defined as full-time and visiting non-Irish students.

IED undertook promotional activities in a wide range of countries, including Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA, with a view to the recruitment of fee-paying international students. In the USA the services of two representatives (West and East coast respectively) have been retained to grow the Study Abroad programme and develop recruitment at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Personnel in IED have also engaged with emerging markets such as Malaysia and the UAE. In many cases, IED worked closely with colleagues in other third-level Irish institutions and various Irish state agencies. The rebranding of Education in Ireland took place in March 2011.

The University signed new memoranda of understanding with non-EU partner universities, including Beijing Jiaotong University, Zheijiang University of Finance and Economics (ZUFE), Henan Polytechnic University, Tianjin Foreign Studies University and Shandong University of Technology, China. These agreements focus primarily on the development of joint programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. UL welcomed 4 students on the new 3+1+1 programme from the University of Science and Technology Beijing. This programme is expected to grow to include 50 USTB students annually. IED is currently working with a number of Chinese partner institutions to set up joint programmes in engineering, design, computer systems and business.

In 2010/11, new student exchange agreements were signed with 22 European institutions, bringing the total number of EU partner universities to 264, in addition to 50 international partnership links. A total of 289 UL students studied abroad under the LLP Erasmus Programme, while a further 85 students spent an academic placement at a university outside Europe. The comprehensive range of UL international exchange partners worldwide provides valuable educational and experiential opportunities for UL students as well as contributing to the creation of an international community on the UL campus through the presence of visiting students and academics. Teacher and Staff mobility visits are steadily increasing within the University. Work continues apace on the internationalisation of the campus, in particular the embedding of international experience as a formal element of academic programmes at UL.

2010/2011 Figures

Category	Student Numbers
Full degree international students	1023
Visiting students: Study Abroad and Exchange	933
Outgoing UL exchange students	374
International Research students	159

LIFELONG LEARNING AND OUTREACH

The Department continued to provide a wide range of services to several departments and initiatives. The demand for the Joy of Learning programmes continues to decline but there is a sign of improved demand for the various blended learning options provided by the faculties. The broad area of labour market activation continues to support a number of initiatives and the University is still the market leader in offering such programmes within the university sector.

The Department remains involved in a number of European projects which ensures a good profile for the university and extending its involvement in a number of important networks. The two major ongoing developments are the Downtown Centre and SSIRL - Supporting Social Inclusion & Regeneration in Limerick

A detailed report on each of these follows.

Downtown Centre

Pre-entry support services continued to be provided to disadvantaged and other adult learners through the Downtown Centre in Limerick City, an initiative of the Shannon Consortium, of which UL, through the Department of Lifelong Learning & Outreach, is lead partner. 2010/11 was the fourth year of the Downtown Centre's operation, during which the Centre was mainstreamed by the Shannon Consortium partners and moved to LIT George's Quay in October 2010. An official opening of the Downtown Centre took place in February 2011 to mark its permanent new location and the ongoing collaboration of the Shannon Consortium in the initiative.

Free pre-entry educational guidance was provided to 236 external clients in 2010/11, while an additional 46 clients received educational guidance at the Ennis Regional Learning Centre. The Certificate in General Studies, a pre-entry foundation programme for third-level, was again delivered and co-ordinated by the Downtown Centre, and also delivered in the Ennis Regional Learning Centre, funding having been successfully secured for the programme through the Labour Market Activation initiative. Twenty-seven of thirty-nine successful participants from the programme progressed to third-level studies in September 2011. Graduation for the 2009/10 participants of the programme was hosted by UL and the DLLO in January 2011.

The Downtown Centre continued to co-ordinate the DELL EGF funding initiative for UL during 2010/11. The Centre also participated in a number of inter-agency events which took place during the year, including co-ordinating the third-level involvement in the inaugural Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival in June 2011 as well as the Tus Nua Employability event in May 2011.

Strategic Innovation in Education -SIE
Supporting Social Inclusion and Regeneration in Limerick - SSIRL

The Strategic Innovation in Education (SIE) team, established by the University in response to the Limerick Regeneration Programme, brought a 15-month investment in support of social regeneration objectives to a conclusion at the end of 2010. This programme, involving investment from the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Limerick Regeneration Programme and UL, enabled significant collaborative planning and development activities across statutory, community and voluntary sectors in Limerick, particularly in the areas of i) enhanced service responsiveness, quality and integration and ii) greater community participation in the programme of regeneration.

Following significant negotiation by SIE in the latter half of 2010, a further three-year investment by the aforementioned investing partners was secured. Titled *Supporting Social Inclusion and*

Regeneration in Limerick (SSIRL), this round of investment is designed to *add value* to the social objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Programme by applying the committed resources of the investing partners to:

- increasing the capacity of statutory, community and voluntary agencies in Limerick to strengthen and enhance mainstream services and programmes targeted at disadvantaged communities;
- contributing to a framework for learning within the wider programme of Regeneration in Limerick;
- demonstrating a model for strategic social inclusion investment in Limerick;
- identifying good practice in Limerick with the potential to influence national social policy.

This broad purpose will be enabled by the establishment of a *Programme Innovation and Development Fund* to be awarded to local consortia within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors seeking to *strengthen current social inclusion practice* and/or *introduce innovative practice* in support of Regeneration. The bulk of 2011 has been devoted to putting in place the necessary systems and arrangements to enable the transparent and accountable administration of the fund. Invitations to participate in the fund will be issued to key strategic multi-agency consortia in the final quarter of the year.

QUALITY

The Quality Support Unit (QSU) manages the quality reviews of academic and support departments and oversees the delivery of a wide range of quality improvement projects and activities. Quality is now embedded in all UL activities, and the outcomes of the many quality improvement initiatives provide key inputs to strategic planning and decision-making. The second cycle of academic department reviews is in progress and responsibility for quality matters rests with the Governing Authority Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Committee.

The work of the QSU includes preparing departments for review, managing the review process and guiding follow-up after the review. During AY2010/11, the following departments were engaged in those processes as follows:

Department	Stage of review process
Manufacturing and Operations Engineering	In follow-up process after review visit 2009/10
Chemical & Environmental Sciences	In follow-up process after review visit 2009/10
Education & Professional Studies	In follow-up process after review visit 2009/10
Life Sciences	In follow-up process after review visit 2009/10
Computer Science & Information Systems	Undertook review in 2010/11
Physics & Energy	Undertook review in 2010/11
School of Law	Undertook review in 2010/11
Civil Engineering and Materials Science	Preparing to undertake review in 2011/12
Accounting and Finance	Preparing to undertake review in 2011/12
Irish World Academy of Music and Dance	Preparing to undertake review in 2011/12
Management and Marketing	Preparing to undertake review in 2011/12

During the autumn of 2011 the university will undertake an Institutional Review managed by the IUQB and the follow-up activities will continue throughout 2012.

The QSU continued to support a suite of quality improvement projects during the year under the QIFAC (Quality Improvement Fund Allocation Committee) scheme. Each project was jointly funded by academic and support departments.

The UL Exit Survey was deployed to all graduating students and the results published for the second time. A similar survey was conducted in Mary Immaculate College.

The QSU has been actively involved in a number of wider projects with the Irish University Association Quality Officers Group and the Irish Universities Quality Board.

FINANCE

Income

Income increased to €119.39 million from €117.63 million, representing a growth of 1.5% over the previous year. State grants decreased from €55.59 million to €48.66 million representing a decrease of 12.5%, while student fee income increased 14.1% from €55.84 million to €63.69 million, reflecting the State's decision to significantly increase the student service charge while reducing the State grant by the corresponding amount.

Income from other sources increased from €6.20 million to €7.04 million, a growth of 13.6%, due mainly to increases in non-EU student fee income and interest income.

Academic and Related Services Expenditure

Expenditure on Academic and Related Services dropped from €118.70 million to €115.77 million, a decrease of 2.5%. Within this pay costs fell by 4.6% mainly as a result of the pay cuts ranging between 5% and 15% which were imposed by the State on all public sector workers with effect from 1 January 2010, thereby impacting on 9 months expenditure in these financial statements. Pay represents 68% of this expenditure (2009: 69%). Colleges and Departments still account for 76% of the total pay expenditure excluding pensions (2009: 76%).

Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects

Contract Research income decreased by 17.9% from €31.02 million to €25.47 million during the year under review. After several years of growth, this change in trend is a concern and reflects the difficulty in attracting research projects in the current economic conditions.

Expenditure on self funded projects decreased by 3.6% from €17.69 million to €17.06 million, which again reflects the negative impact the current economic environment is having on the University's continued focus on increasing non State income.

Capital Programme

University capital expenditure amounted to €29.1 million during the year, €3.9 million related to equipment, and the balance relating to land and buildings.

€5.5m was spent during the year on a new building for the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance on the Clare side of the campus which was officially opened in September 2010. This new building provides a wonderful riverside space for musicians, dancers, composers, singers, conductors and choreographers. Other projects on which work has progressed significantly during the year include the Graduate Medical School Building and Medical School Accommodation and the Tierney Building which will contain the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre (Lero) and the Tierney Incubation Centre.

The successful implementation of the University's physical development programme is being made possible by the very significant funds being provided to the University from private sources in partnership with State funding.

With its Shannon Consortium partners, the UL Procurement and Supply Chain Office developed the Shannon Consortium Procurement Network Phase 1. Phase 2 of the consortium was inaugurated in January 2012, with a further eight Institutes of technology joining. The Consortium is a UL-based shared services operation that provides procurement services across the four higher education institutes. The Consortium provides individual procurement services to each institution as well as aggregating spend across the twelve institutions and tendering as one. The aims are to provide an efficient procurement process for all four partners while using the economies of scale from aggregation to deliver savings and more efficient processes.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

CURRENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT **YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER**

INCOME	**NOTES**	**2010**	**2009**
		€'000	**€'000**
State Grants	1	48,658	55,591
Student Fees	2	63,692	55,838
Other Income	3	7,041	6,200
		119,391	117,629
Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects	4	42,533	48,710
		161,924	166,339
Mary Immaculate College			
State Grants		21,079	21,397
Student Fees		9,693	9,408
Less amount transferred to College		(30,772)	(30,805)
Total		**161,924**	**166,339**
EXPENDITURE			
Colleges and Departments	5	65,686	67,741
Academic and Other Services	6	10,164	11,144
Premises	7	12,755	12,684
Amount allocated for Capital Purposes	8	1,591	1,487
Central Administration and Services	9	10,862	10,449
General Educational Expenditure	10	1,935	1,946
Student Services	11	3,783	3,955
Miscellaneous Expenditure	12	8,994	9,293
		115,770	118,699
Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects	4	42,533	48,710
Total	13	**158,303**	**167,409**
Surplus/(Deficit) on Activities before Amortisation of Capital Reserves and Grants, Ancillary Services and Depreciation of Fixed Assets		**3,621**	**(1,070)**
(Deficit)/Surplus on Ancillary Services	14	**(153)**	**97**
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	15	**(10,743)**	**(10,327)**
General Reserve Movement	16	**10,896**	**10,230**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year	24	**3,621**	**(1,070)**

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

BALANCE SHEET		**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER**	
	NOTES	**2010**	**2009**
		€'000	**€'000**
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	17	356,899	339,157
INVESTMENTS	18	6,274	18,800
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank Balances and Cash		60,989	55,108
Debtors and Prepayments	19	15,350	14,097
		76,339	69,205
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	21	(83,680)	(81,421)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		(7,341)	(12,216)
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Creditors due after one year	27	(13,197)	(14,425)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES		**342,635**	**331,316**
REPRESENTED BY		**€'000**	**€'000**
General Reserve	22	320,330	312,864
Restricted Reserves	23	24,345	24,113
Revenue Deficit	24	(2,040)	(5,661)
		342,635	**331,316**

RESEARCH

Our focus is on research with consequences for economic and social benefit. This is characterised by the convergence of discrete disciplines working together to achieve fundamental breakthroughs whilst adopting a translational approach to ensure research results are translated more rapidly towards commercialisation.

Research Office

The Research Office, under the leadership of the Vice President Research, is responsible for providing strategic direction to, and for supporting and monitoring, the University's research and innovation activities. The Research Office is comprised of three departments:

1. Research Support Services provides assistance and intelligence to researchers on a range of funded research programmes supported by national and international agencies.
2. The Graduate School supports the development and delivery of research and taught postgraduate programmes across the University and provides a range of support services to postgraduate students.
3. The Technology Transfer Office supports the innovative activity emanating from UL and ensures that opportunities for the commercial development of the University's intellectual property are pursued and implemented.

Key Developments

- The Stokes Research Institute is a partner in the CTVR, the telecommunications research centre, which was awarded over €19 million in funding under the SFI Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology programme. The Stokes Research Institute leads the thermal management strand of the CTVR research programme.
- UL researchers were awarded over €2 million in funding for three Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Principal Investigator awards, investigating the crystal nucleation of pharmaceutical compounds, advanced high temperature materials for power generation, and evolutionary computation software for multicore computing architectures. A further four awards were received by UL researchers under the SFI Research Frontiers Programme, amounting to over €0.5 million in funding.
- UL was awarded over €1.8 million in funding from Enterprise Ireland under the Innovation Partnership programme, involving collaborative research projects between UL and industry. The research areas covered included innovation in manufacturing processes, microelectronics, materials for medical devices, and equine feedstocks.
- UL was awarded over €1.3 million from Enterprise Ireland & IDA under the Competence Centre programme, ranging from Microelectronics, to Energy Efficiency, and to Manufacturing Competitiveness.
- Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology (IRCSET) awarded UL funding for 14 postgraduate scholarships, 2 Enterprise Partnership Scheme postgraduate scholarships, as well as an Empower Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship in Science, Engineering and Technology, with a total award value of over €1.2 million.
- The Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) awarded UL funding for 10 postgraduate scholarships, one postdoctoral fellowship award, as well as 4 Research Development Initiative awards, with a total award value of over €0.8 million.

- UL was awarded over €1 million in EU Framework funding across a number of thematic areas, including ICT, Transport, and Research for the Benefit of SMEs.
- 23 new invention disclosures were received from UL researchers, 8 new patent applications were filed and 2 new campus companies, ALR Innovations and Poly Pico Technologies Ltd, were approved as UL Campus Companies.
- 8 license agreements were signed with companies based Ireland to commercialize technologies that emerged from UL research activities.
- 60 research agreements were entered into with industry covering engagements from the provision of test services to research collaboration. UL researchers in Lero successfully secured research funding in excess of €350,000 from the European Space Agency.
- A cross-disciplinary team of clinicians and biomedical engineers based at The Centre for Applied Biomedical Engineering Research (CABER) at UL's Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) won the Inaugural Cleveland Clinic Enterprise Ireland Innovation Award. This award comes with a $15k Feasibility grant and mentoring from the Cleveland Clinic, US.

Postgraduate Figures

Numbers of registered research postgraduate students 2010/11

Faculty	Masters F/T	Masters P/T	Masters Total	PhD F/T	PhD P/T	PhD Total	Total
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	8	0	8	133	12	145	153
Business	2	5	7	42	28	70	77
Education & Health Sciences	23	10	33	54	27	81	114
Interfaculty	0	0	0	5	0	5	5
Irish World Academy Music & Dance	0	0	0	21	3	24	24
Science & Engineering	66	17	83	318	58	376	459
Totals	**99**	**32**	**131**	**573**	**128**	**701**	**832**

Numbers of registered taught postgraduate students 2010/11

Faculty	Masters F/T	Masters P/T	Masters Total	Grad Dip F/T	Grad Dip F/T	Grad Dip Total	Total
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	214	33	247	16	0	16	263
Business	179	122	301	0	0	0	301
Education & Health Sciences	167	57	224	209	126	335	559
Irish World Academy Music & Dance	65	0	65	0	0	0	65
Interfaculty	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Science & Engineering	140	22	162	53	6	59	221
Totals	**765**	**234**	**999**	**278**	**147**	**410**	**1424**

ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Support Services

The Student Affairs Division provides a central, comprehensive range of academic administration services and student support services to the entire student population of UL. The Division comprises a 'three-pillar' structure, as follows:

1. The **Admissions** and **Student Academic Administration** offices manage the processing of the academic life cycle of students from pre-entry to graduation and also manage several large-scale UL operations such as orientation, class and examination scheduling and graduation.
2. The **Student Health Centre**, the **Counselling Service**, the **Chaplaincy** and the **Arts Office** provide a wide range of health and support services to ensure that the mental, physical and spiritual welfare of students and their social, cultural and emotional development are provided for and managed in a holistic manner.
3. **Access-Disadvantaged**, **Mature Student, Disability Support Services and Community Liaison Office** provide specialist and dedicated supports and services for students from these under-represented student cohorts.

All supports and services provided by Student Affairs are focused on meeting students' requirements and enhancing the student experience at UL. Currently Student Affairs is finalising its own strategic plan closely aligned to the University's Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and focussing mainly on the UL Student Experience and Community Engagement. Services and supports are continually being improved to meet the growing requirements of an increasingly diverse student population.

The Division is also involved in policy development (e.g. Access policy, Admissions policy) and systems development and maintenance (e.g. online enrolment, student record system, timetabling).

A number of committees chaired by or involving the Director of Student Affairs, focus on enhancing the UL experience for students, including the President's Volunteer Award Committee, Alcohol Policy, Governing Authority Access and Student Affairs Committee etc.

The Access-(Socio-Economically)Disadvantaged Office, Disability Support Services and Admissions Office in Student Affairs continue to lead nationally on behalf of all Irish universities and a number of Institutes of Technology in the continuing (for 2011/12) development and migration to the CAO of the HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and DARE (Disability Access Route to Education).

The Community Liaison Office supports the access goals of the University, through collaboration via academic and other departments with local, regional and national educational partners. The office also now manages the President's Volunteer Award (PVA) Programme where students are actively engaging in the community by volunteering for between 20-60 hours during the year either in an external volunteer organisation, ULSU Club/Society or via internal UL departments working on behalf of disadvantaged communities.

A number of SIF-funded projects involving the Access pillar are complete; some activities have been mainstreamed including Student Ambassador Programme and the Mature Student Peer Mentoring Programme. Other projects (originally SIF-funded) continue to be implemented, Class of 2013, Traveller Initiatives and Assistive Technology Assessment and Documentation Centre (ATAC). A newly emerging and developing project (involving UCC and NUIG) – South West Regional Access Alliance - is examining ways of sharing essential access-related services and activities including assistive technology, pre- and post-entry programmes and teaching and learning resources.

2010/11 continued to experience increasing demands on budgets but in parallel an increased emphasis in Student Affairs on the use of technology including SMS messaging to students and availability of information on the web and use of videos. Student Affairs continues to focuses on technology to support many of its processes.

There has been a noticeable increase in demands on the Student Assistance Fund and Student Hardship Fund.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Information Technology Division (ITD) provides computing, audio-visual, printing, postage and telephone services to UL staff and students.

Key Developments

- Online payment of (taught) postgraduate application fees
- Online grade submission for faculties
- HEAR and DARE http://www.ul.ie/news-centre/news/ul-leads-the-way-in-facilitating-inclusivity-in-education
- Facilitated and extended HEAnet capabilities in the Munster region.
- Re-engineering of student and staff ID cards to incorporate RFID and chip technologies
- Virtualisation of the University's main enterprise servers
- Creation of hot standby capability on north campus for identified services
- Replacement of core and student village network, firewall and Print Room infrastructure
- Integration of Irish World Music Academy, Tierney and the President's House to the University's IT structure
- Rollout of online Customer Services Centre with Help portal including FAQs, How-to videos and other advice
- Collaboration with Shannon Consortium on the PC/Laptop Procurement framework
- Replacement of our production print equipment with a Xerox Nuvera 144EA and Xerox Docucolor 7002

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Library and Information Services Division (LISD) enables teaching, learning and research at UL by providing high-quality scholarly resources, information services and dedicated learning facilities.

The following developments took place during the year:

- One of the most significant developments of 2010/11 was the establishment of the National Dance Archive (*Cartlann Náisiúnta Damhsa na hÉireann*) by the Library and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. This represented an important contribution to the culture and history of dance in Ireland. The archive collects and makes available dance material of Ireland in all genres, including ballet and traditional, social, contemporary, urban and world dance. The Archive seeks to forge links with dancers, scholars, choreographers, companies and organisations of dance in the wider community. The development of the National Dance Archive was supported by the Arts Council and Dance Research Forum Ireland.

- The Library continued to work with faculty in all departments to continue building significant library collections in support of research and teaching at the University. This year a particular focus was placed on developing and expanding collections in the areas of architecture, aviation management, psychology, digital media design and new media, as well as the teaching resource collection. It also saw a continuing trend in the publishing of books in electronic format, a trend to which the Library Information Resources Development Committee responded with a significant allocation towards the development of the Library's e-book collection. A particular focus was placed on the purchase of individual e-books across all disciplines where multiple copies of a text were needed, and where large cohorts of students were studying at a distance. Notable additions to e-collections included Blackwell Reference Online and the Dictionary of Irish Biography, as well as the IEEE/Wiley collection, the Ovid collection, the Economic Thought, Theory & History collection, the Stanford Executive Briefings Collection and the Palgrave Macmillan Back Catalogue of Business and Management.

- The Library undertook a major renovation project during Summer 2011 which led to significant improvements in the learning environment for our readers. Both of the open atria were glazed which resulted in a considerable reduction in noise levels throughout the building. It allowed us to establish silent and quiet study areas as well as trial a small collaborative study area. The Popular Reading Room, in particular, remerged as a well used study space that inspires study, learning and reflection. Wi-Fi and wired network connections were enhanced to provide the IT network to allow our students to use their own IT devices to access our extensive range of online resources. These developments allowed us to provide a range of study environments in response to our students' needs and expectations.

- Since 2008 the Library has been working towards a single service point for users, by gradually merging service desks and relocating those services to more central locations in the building. This work culminated in 2011 providing a one-stop shop for all types of library and information queries at a central location on the ground floor. The innovative pod-type Information Desks provide a more student-focused consultative type of service. UL Library is one of a small but growing number of university libraries in the world which are transforming their services using this pioneering model of information provision. This project also included a complete overhaul of all of its stock management

system, implementing RFID to speed up book circulation, enhance self-service and improve the security of materials. The refurbishment was part of the Library's commitment to enhancing the student experience and was planned and delivered through collaboration with the Buildings & Estates Division.

- The Library's Special Collections Department provides an important contribution to research and research-led teaching at the University and also contributes to the educational, social and cultural life of Ireland and, in particular, the Shannon region. Its historical collections on or about Limerick and its digitization programme continued to grow this year. The department was successful in bidding for funding from the NDLR to digitize a rare Irish eighteenth century architecture volume by a Limerick author, "A General Treatise of Architecture: In Five Books" by John Aheron. The work was printed for the author in Dublin by John Butler, on Cork-Hill in 1754. Also in the area of special collections, funding for an exhibition of the photographic collection of the Armstrong family of Moyaliffe Castle, Tipperary was secured from the National Heritage Council as part of National Heritage Week.

- The research skills programme delivered by the faculty librarians each year enables students to become knowledgeable, skilled and confident in how they navigate the vast information landscape available to them. As part of the Library's contribution to strengthening the impact of UL research, this year the Information Service expanded its training programmes to pilot a range of workshops on maximising research impact. Course content included an overview of bibliometrics, metrics in ISI Web of Science such as impact factors, citation counts and h-indexes. The workshops, which were well attended and reviewed very positively, also included discussion on alternatives to ISI for journal rankings and the issues around making work available on open access in institutional repositories. These workshops will be developed further in the next academic year.

- The University of Limerick Institutional Repository (ULIR) was established in 2008 to provide access to the University's research output, thereby enhancing UL's research profile. This year the ULIR grew to include over 700 UL research publications including peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers and posters, theses and reports and more than 550 digital archival items, making historically valuable items such as 18th Century Limerick publications available internationally. In addition this year UL research theses, traditionally a difficult material to source, were made available via DART Europe's E-Thesis Portal (DEEP).

- In tandem with the First Seven Weeks programme, the Library ran a very successful Student Peer Advisor programme in semester 1 of 2010. The role of the peer advisors was to assist new students with library usage, and to refer students to appropriate services such as the Information Desk, the Faculty Librarians, the Library's referencing support, the appropriate part of the UL website and so on. Because they were also asked questions relating to other services, we liaised with ITD, Disability Services, Careers, Student Services, and Teaching & Learning, to provide the peer advisors with some basic knowledge of these services. The peer advisors had a good knowledge of the university as they are all either UL students or very recent graduates. Use of the service by first year students who were transitioning to third level education was extremely high.

– As part of its commitment to develop services for readers and improve access to our collections, the Library launched a new search engine that allowed students and faculty to search the Library with the same ease and simplicity as searching the internet. The Summon™ service, found on the library homepage, lets users search all the Library's formats – books, articles, newspapers, databases and more – from a single search box.

LISD Statistics 2010/11

Services		**Collections**	
Total loans	187,779	Catalogued monographs	326,149
Loans from short loan collection	28,771	Additions to stock in period	13,797
Loans from self-service points	115,804	Electronic books	224,416
Library visits	927,793	Print and electronic journals	65,383
Queries handled at Information Desk	19,468	Bibliographic & fulltext databases	193
Information skills training sessions delivered in person hours	7,638	Interlibrary loans	1,460

HUMAN RESOURCES

The University of Limerick has over 1,300 members of staff. To support the goal of developing and maintaining UL as an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching, learning and scholarship, the Human Resources (HR) Division aims to attract, motivate and retain excellent staff and ensure they are supported in achieving their full potential.

Key Developments

- 75 recruitment competitions were advertised.
- An employee survey was conducted in January 2011 attracting a 60% response rate. The results of the survey were made available to all employees and an action plan addressing the key concerns highlighted was put in place.
- HR continued to roll out a range of continuous professional development programmes: 1448 employees attended 134 programmes in the period under review.
- Financial support was provided to 78 staff members for participation in undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies as part of the University's commitment to supporting the continual professional development of its employees.
- The Mentoring Scheme continued, with a further 23 employees being matched from within the academic and administrative areas of the University. Workshops supporting the Mentoring Scheme continued during the year. There are now 40 trained Mentors trained in the scheme.
- The 'Women in Leadership' Conference held in the ICO building in March marked the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Over 120 participants attended the conference including UL employees, external network members and representatives from local community projects. Visiting speakers included Professor Susan Vinnicombe, Professor of Organisation Behaviour and Diversity Management in the Cranfield School of Management UK, Emily O'Reilly, Ombudsman and Mamo McDonald former President of the ICA and Honorary President of Age & Opportunity.
- The IUA Equality Network received funding from the Equality Authority's Mainstreaming Unit under a sectoral project initiative to promote workplace equality. The Living Equality & Diversity (LEAD) eLearning project, involved six Irish Universities DCU, NUIG, UCC, UCD, UL and TCD with UL as the lead partner. The Programme was developed in collaboration with Aurion Learning Belfast an award winning learning and Development Company. The aim of the project was to collaboratively pilot an introductory tailored eLearning programme covering all nine grounds of discrimination under Irish Equality Legislation as part of a blended approach to generating mainstream staff engagement with diversity issues. Following a successful piloting of the programme, it will shortly be made available to all employees.
- Leadership Development Programmes continued during the period under review with a second Academic Leadership Development Programme and the piloting of a Leadership Development Programme for support managers.
- Public Sector Pension Reduction: successful communication and implementation of public sector pension reduction for 242 retired staff members in January 2011 following the Budget.
- Budget and Finance Act 2011: Implementation of changes to pension documentation to ensure that following the reduction in the maximum allowable pension fund on

retirement date for tax purposes, a declaration is completed by every employee at retirement date in order to access if a potential liability to the tax arises.

- Deferred Pensioners Core Pension Project: Core Pension project to allow for set up of deferred pension benefits (employees who left UL prior to implementation of Core and are currently calling in benefits) implemented on CoreLive.
- Pensionable Allowances: Core pension project to allow for pensionable allowances set up in CoreTest. Awaiting approval of pension schemes from HEA before going live.
- February 2012 Retirement Deadline: Support of employee queries and request for information following the extension of the 'Grace Period' (i.e. the period during which the calculation of public service pensions is unaffected by the pay reductions applied under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (No. 2) Act 2009) until the 29th February 2012.
- 35 research recruitment competitions were completed during this time period.
- The IUA held a research work authorisation event on campus, which was very well attended.
- Work on the Research Careers and Development Framework advanced, with a researcher consultation meeting held in July.
- The University of Limerick was accepted as part of the third cohort of the EU HR Strategy for Research. Work has now commenced on this.
- The University of Limerick successfully achieved EU funding under the FESTA project. This project is concerned with implementing changes in the working environment of academic researchers, to encourage female researchers to stay and make a career in the academy and to create organizational environments where their competence is valued and fostered.
- Post Management implemented to improve reporting capabilities and ability to manage University headcount and budgets
- Enhancements made to the HR self-service portal provide additional functionality and information to UL employees
- Flexitime rolled out on a pilot basis to the campus via HR self-service Portal
- The HR Division successfully retained its ISO 9001 accreditation.

LIFE ON CAMPUS

Visual Arts Collection

With a number of additions made to its collections, the Visual Arts Collection on campus was significantly enhanced during the period under review. Additions to the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland included new works by Robert Ballagh, John Byrne, Charles Cullen, Joe Duggan, Brian King, Sean Lynch, Des MacMahon, Dermot Seymour and Maighread Tobin. The Water Colour Society of Ireland expanded their membership during 2011, and the University of Limerick received an additional four new works, which were added to the 177 artists in the current collection.

The Bourn Vincent Gallery continued to promote an awareness of visual art and contemporary practices with its exhibitions throughout the year. They included:

- Additions to National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland
- Journeys through Line and Colour - examines the lives and works of forty Irish Women Artists of the 20th Century
- Pond Life - New work by Maurice Quillinan
- Life Room - Work from the Drawing Thursday sessions at the Royal Hibernian School selected by Mick O'Dea RHA and Donald Teskey RHA
- Shots - Images from the lenses of the UL Photo Society
- Artistry of the Kuna Indians – from the Dr Patrick J Murphy Kuna Indian Molas Collection
- The Celtic Zoo – work by Tom Fitzgerald
- Pulse - To mark Limerick's Culture Night 2011 UL's Visual Arts Officer, Yvonne Davis curated an exhibition of drawings from the University's art collection. The exhibition provided a backdrop to an afternoon and evening of free life drawing sessions by members of the Royal Hibernian Academy Maeve McCarthy, Mick O'Dea and Una Sealy.

Campus Life Services

Plassey Campus Centre (Campus Life Services) is a campus company established by the University of Limerick in 1985 when the institution was still known as the National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE). It was recognised at the time that in order to achieve university status, it was necessary to invest in student facilities to create a living campus environment.

Plassey Campus Centre has been the mechanism whereby the University has been able to develop social infrastructure based on a self-sustaining ethos that fosters a spirit of enterprise and sound financial management. Plassey Campus Centre is committed to supporting the strategic development of the University by fostering the development of a campus environment that contributes to the student experience and to the economic, social and cultural life of the region.

The activities of the company are branded under the umbrella name of Campus Life Services as these activities support campus life and the student experience.

Supporting the Student Experience

Campus Life Services has built over 2,400 rooms in five residential villages, each with its own distinctive layout and living environment. The residential villages offer UL students the opportunity to experience a vibrant residential community that contributes significantly to the overall student experience at UL.

Campus Life Services invests in scholarships annually to provide accommodation bursaries for students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In 2011, it invested in 12 scholars, including two sports scholarships that commemorate the lives of deceased staff members who contributed hugely to the development of sport at UL – Jacinta O'Brien, former Sports Development Officer, and Professor Michael Hillary, former Dean of Engineering and Science, who worked voluntarily to develop athletics.

Working in partnership with the University and the Students' Union, Campus Life Services has led the development of retail and commercial facilities in what is now a vibrant Student Centre and the social hub of the campus. Home to the Students' Union, Clubs and Societies, the Contemplative Space, banks, shops and club restaurant bars, the Student Centre has become the social hub and meeting place on campus for students. The establishment of a Farmers Market created a new dimension to the Centre, enlivening it with the buzz of regional traders who set up their stalls weekly to sell local produce to the campus community.

Contributing to the Region

Campus Life Services actively promotes the use of the campus during the summer months for conferences, sports events and summer schools, thereby generating additional income from accommodation and catering and increasing the contribution of the University to the regional and national economy.

Building a Campus for a Modern University

Plassey Campus Centre plays a key role in the physical development of the University as it supports capital projects with the necessary financial planning and legal compliance. This has greatly assisted the development of the campus infrastructure at a pace required to support the expansion of the University.

Key Developments

- The Tierney Building
- The north campus playing fields and pavilion
- The Graduate Entry Medical School
- The Medical School residences (100 rooms)
- Refurbishment of residences

Sports and Recreation

An exciting year on Ireland's Sporting Campus saw a range of top-class events from intervarsity championships in athletics, archery, basketball, ultimate frisbee, men's soccer and fencing. Swim Ireland's first ever High Performance Centre (HPC) is based at the state-of-the-art University Arena complex and is run by full-time coach Ronald Claes. The impact the HPC in Limerick has made on Irish swimming over the last 4 years has been tremendous. HPC-UL swimmers have represented 35% of Irish International Squads since Beijing 2008. Grainne Murphy qualified for the 2012 London Olympics in 2011 after winning European medals in 2010 and 2009. Chris Bryan set down the best Irish result at a World Championships since 1994 by finishing 8th in the 5km in Shanghai 2011. The average World Ranking of Limerick swimmers went from 58 in 2008 to 35 in 2011 and the Irish record books have been re-written 86 times in the last 4 years by 8 different swimmers training in the Limerick HPC. In athletics graduate Colin Griffin qualified for the 50km walk for London 2012 and at time of going to print we are hopeful to see 3-4 UL students qualify in a number of track & field events.

The University's recreation programme aims to encourage as many members of the campus community as possible to adopt a healthier lifestyle by offering a range of classes to suit all levels of ability and taste.

A highlight for the Sports Department was the hosting of the National Special Olympic Games in June 2010. During the games, 2,100 athletes and officials, 10,000 volunteers and 4,000 family members, friends and visitors came to Limerick city and region for this wonderful festival of competitions in 11 different sports, 7 of which took place here on the UL campus, which was also home to all the athletes and officials for the duration of the games.

The Sports Department is constantly working and changing to meet the sporting needs of everybody who chooses the University of Limerick as their one-stop recreation facility. With its state-of-the-art sports facilities, including the multi-purpose University Arena, a 50m swimming pool, Boathouse – home to the first indoor rowing tank in Ireland, the All-Weather pitches – and well over half a million annual visits, UL is now established as the leading sports facility in Ireland.

GRADUATE STATISTICS 2010

UL Total Primary Degrees	
Employed in Ireland	45%
Employed abroad	13%
Further study	27%
Not available for employment	5%
Seeking employment	10%
No. of graduates	1,628
Response rate	82%

Teacher Education Programmes	
Employed in Ireland	69%
Employed abroad	13%
Further study	9%
Not available for employment	3%
Seeking employment	7%
No. of graduates	241
Response rate	80%

All Postgraduate Diplomas	
Employed in Ireland	67%
Employed abroad	9%
Further study or training	11%
Not available for employment	2%
Seeking employment	11%
No. of Graduates	169
Response Rate	79%

All Taught Masters	
Employed in Ireland	58%
Employed abroad	13%
Further study of training	9%
Not available for employment	5%
Seeking employment	15%
No. of Graduates	628
Response Rate	79%

All Research Masters	
Employed in Ireland	73%
Employed abroad	18%
Further study of training	5%
Not available for employment	0%
Seeking employment	4%
No. of Graduates	29
Response Rate	76%

All PhDs	
Employed in Ireland	75%
Employed abroad	19%
Further study of training	0%
Not available for employment	0%
Seeking employment	6%
No. of Graduates	95
Response Rate	73%

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK FOUNDATION

The University of Limerick Foundation (ULF) was established in 1989 to provide international leadership and funding for the advancement of UL. ULF has raised in excess of €150 million to assist the development of UL. Some notable developments for the Foundation over the past year included:

President Bill Clinton Launched the McCourt Chair in Creative Writing in New York

On 9th March, a dinner was held at the Water Club Restaurant, New York, with President Bill Clinton to celebrate the generosity of donors to the McCourt Chair.

The Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing with a specialist focus on Memoir is being established by the UL Foundation in partnership with the Ireland Funds organisation.

President Bill Clinton led tributes to Limerick man and best-selling author, Frank McCourt, who was posthumously honoured in New York this week by leading Irish and American philanthropists.

Leading literary figures, including Billy Collins, Tom Cahill, Colum McCann, Rose Styron, and Pete Hamill joined Franks' widow, Ellen, and his brothers, Malachy and Alfie for an intimate evening in New York to celebrate the memory of this much-loved and renowned Irish writer.

UL Foundation Mourned the Passing of Dr Gordon Holmes

Directors and staff at the UL Foundation were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of a dear friend, supporter and colleague, Dr Gordon Holmes.

Dr Holmes co-founded Holmes O'Malley Sexton in 1970 and was Managing Partner (until 2000) and Chairman. He was former State Solicitor for Limerick City (1969 - 1980) and also held many additional government posts including Solicitor to the Attorney General. He had many professional affiliations over the years, which included Chairman, Commission on Intoxicating Liquor Licensing, Chairman, Garda Siochána Complaints Board and Chairman, Parole Board in the Republic of Ireland.

Dr Holmes was a Board Member of the UL Foundation from 1990 and was a former Chairman of the UL Foundation. He was extremely involved in recruiting local business figures to support the University over the years and was instrumental in raising funds for the Kemmy Business School and the Glucksman Library. Holmes O'Malley Sexton also generously supported the Foundation and University through the Holmes O'Malley Sexton Endowed Scholarships, the Plassey Society, as well as other initiatives. Over the years, he continued to be an avid supporter of UL.The outstanding contribution of Dr Gordon Holmes to Irish society was acknowledged in 2005 when the University conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

UL Foundation Welcomed Two New Directors

The Foundation was delighted to welcome two new directors to its board - Ralph Parkes and Paul O'Connell.

Limerick businessman, Ralph Parkes, is Founding Limited Partner & Former Non-Executive Director at Kernel Capital and Owner & Managing Director at Parkes Properties. In 2008, Ralph was honoured as Local Philanthropist of the Year.

Renowned rugby international and Munster player, Paul O'Connell, is a native of Limerick. In his younger years, Paul represented Young Munster R.F.C. before moving on to represent Munster, Ireland and the Lions. He made his debut for Ireland against Wales in the Six Nations

2002, scoring a try. Paul was named as the British and Irish Lions Captain for the 2009 tour to South Africa.

President's Gala Dinner

On 13th May, the eighth annual UL President's Gala Dinner was held in Dromoland Castle. Organised by the University of Limerick Foundation, the theme of the dinner supported Limerick as "European City of Sport 2011" and was centred around the inclusive nature of sport. Proceeds from the evening were in excess of €70,000 with funds benefitting three UL projects: the first was aimed at bringing sport into the Limerick regeneration areas and encouraging both children and adults in these areas to get involved in sports, the second aimed to bring a wider community of people onto campus to participate in sport and to encourage them to feel connected to UL and the third project benefited elite athletes - specifically, the elite swimmers on campus taking part in the High Performance Centre at UL.

A number of high-profile sports people and athletes attended the event, including Dr Ronnie Delany (first Irish Olympic gold medal winner); Grainne Murphy (swimmer HPC, European Silver Medalist); Keith Wood (ex-rugby international); Tony Ward (ex-rugby international) and Emily Hurley (Special Olympian). Neil Campbell, Stephen King and Scott Kinevane from the UL Eagles basketball team were in attendance as well as Eamonn Cregan (Hurling manager/former player); Eddie Keher (Irish hurling manager/former player); Ogie Moran (GAA manager and former Kerry player); Kieran Donaghy (GAA – all Ireland winner with Kerry); Darren O'Sullivan (GAA – All Ireland winner and captain for Kerry); Liam Sheedy (former Tipperary hurler and manager) and Eoin Kelly (Tipperary hurler).

Analog Devices Scholarship and Hank Krabbe Medal

Two UL students were honoured for their outstanding academic achievement in the area of Electronic & Computer Engineering. Chinese student, Fei He who is completing his B.Eng. in Computer Engineering was awarded the Analog Scholarship for attaining the best exam results in first year. He received a scholarship award of €7,000.

Also recognised for his academic achievement was Waterford native, John Guiry, who received the Hank Krabbe Medal with a cheque for €5,000 based on his final year exam results.

The Hank Krabbe Medal was established by Analog Devices through a donation to the UL Foundation in memory of the late Hank Krabbe, the founding Managing Director of Analog Devices in Limerick.

The Ireland Funds Conference 2011

Over 120 Ireland Funds delegates from all over the world visited the University of Limerick at the end of June as part of their Annual Conference 2011. The visitors had an opportunity to learn about some of the projects and activities on campus. They were introduced to the Class of 2014 project, which is run by the UL Access Office. This pilot project works with a class of students from St Enda's school in Limerick throughout their secondary education with a series of sustained, intensive interventions, such as in-school support, after school activities and summer programmes. The project aims to increase the retention and attainment levels of the pupils thereby increasing transfer to Higher and Further Education.

The delegates also learned about the work of The Irish Ancestry Research Centre (I-ARC), which is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, established by American Ireland Fund delegate, Pauline Ryan. I-ARC, which is housed in the new Tierney Building on campus, aims to be Ireland's leading centre of excellence for genealogical research information and services.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Capital Projects

- Work on the Graduate Entry Medical School Building and student residences continued during the year. However, the appointed contractor went into receivership in April 2011. A new contractor has been appointed and work recommenced with anticipated completion for commencement of AY 2012-2013.
- Work continued on the North Campus on the construction of four state-of-the-art all-weather pitches for GAA, rugby and soccer; all of which were completed. A pavilion building that will include extensive dressing rooms, coaching rooms and bar; and extensive parking facilities will be completed by December 2011.
- The Tierney Building, which accommodates Lero and the Industrial Enterprise Centre (Nexus) in one building, was completed in August 2011.
- The Central Core of PESS Building is being demolished and redeveloped providing a sports hall, lecture theatre, seminar room, computer lab, 2 no. dressing rooms, faculty, administration and research offices. A canteen will also be provided. Expected completion for commencement of AY 2012-2013

Projects at Planning Stage

- Design for circa 2,600m^2 extension to the Materials and Surface Science Institute has commenced.
- A joint venture with the Health Service Executive (HSE) to accommodate a Clinical Education and Research Centre at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital is being planned. The Centre will facilitate the in-hospital clinical education needs of UL medical students and will provide library, research and conference facilities for the medical students and practitioners at the hospital.

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