

Dear all,

I should start by acknowledging that it is a year to last Friday when our campus officially closed for the first lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. To remind us of what we are missing but also what we can look forward to returning to in due course, here is UL Global's recently shared [Introduction to UL video](#).

### **COVID-19 & PPE**

If you test positive for COVID-19, you are asked to notify the University at [COVID19Report@ul.ie](mailto:COVID19Report@ul.ie) as soon as possible with the date you were last on campus and when you were diagnosed. The information you provide will be received by the UL Health & Safety Unit who will use it to monitor the number of COVID-19 incidences within our community. It may be communicated to the HSE if required for reporting purposes and also to the Student Health Centre. Records will be deleted by UL after 30 days.

The latest advice from Public Health Mid-West to UL is that the most effective face covering for sustained and comfortable use is surgical masks. These are identified as *Disposable 3-ply Polypropylene face-mask* on the PPE Request Form in the Return to Campus Working section of the [COVID-19 SharePoint Hub](#), and can be ordered by staff along with other items via your Department Head/ Faculty Manager/ Chief Technical Officer. FFP2 respirators are also available but there are specific requirements to wearing them and they are not comfortable for long-term use.

### **Communications**

There was a very positive reaction in the local and national media to the launch of the Immersive Software Engineering (ISE) programme at UL a few weeks ago. An interesting podcast that includes an interview with John Collison and Professor Stephen Kinsella about the programme and more generally, about teaching computer science, is [episode 117 of The David McWilliams Podcast](#). I really liked the phrase from John Collison, 'the essential alchemy of innovation, trial and error'. Do not be confused by the title of this episode, *Learning from the master innovator Johannes Gutenberg*, the interview with John and Stephen starts about thirteen minutes in to the podcast.

Previous HR notices are now available on the HR website by following the [Internal Communications link](#) on the front page.

Last Tuesday, the Office of the President shared a presentation by Professor Kerstin Mey giving an insight into some of the feedback received from staff so far through the UL@50 Consultation Process. This video can also be viewed by following this [link to the Consultation SharePoint site](#) where other resources and information about the consultations is available.

### **A Virtual St. Patrick's Day**

UL's Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is joining the virtual global and green celebrations this year by hosting a St Patrick's Day Fling. The online experience of music, song and dance will feature performers from all over the world, including very special guest, Grammy-award winner Rhiannon Giddens.

The spectacular Fidget Feed Aerial Dance Theatre will premiere an innovative triple aerial hoop system with their new show A Handful of Dreams. Internationally renowned aerialists Aisling Ní Cheallaigh, Jenny Tufts, and Dr Jennifer de Brún will perform, together with talented students from the Academy's BA in Irish Music, BA in World Music, BA in Irish Dance, BA in Contemporary Dance, MA in Classical String Performance and MA in Irish Traditional Dance Performance.

[Watch \*St Patrick's Day Fling\* free from 3pm on 17 March here](#) or via the websites/social media platforms of all partners: UL Global, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University Concert Hall and Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council.

Have a good week,

Eoin