



ANNUAL REPORT



ACADEMIC YEAR 2005-2006



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Chancellor	S. Donlon		
Deputy Chairperson	G. Cunningham		
President (to April 2006)	R.G.H. Downer		
President (from April 2006)	J. O'Connor		
Members	D. Barry C. Birkinshaw F. Breen* S. Bugler C. Burkley M. Chapman J. Collins P. Conlan M. Corboy P. Cremin M. Davies	S. Dolan K. Doyle B. Dukes M. Finucane-Ryan F. Fogarty** A. Hegarty M. Houlihan T.B. Kearney B. Lane M. McHale***	P. O'Connor F. O'Driscoll D. O'Malley G. Ryan M. Ryan D. Scully+ D. Shinnors-Kennedy B. Teefy++ D. Tocher T. Turner

* Succeeded by St. J. Ó Donnabháin in July 2006
 ** Succeeded by S. Hickey in July 2006
 *** Succeeded by M. Niebrzegowska in July 2006

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The activities of the University in strategic, academic and cultural achievements during AY2005/06 are addressed by the President's statement and other contributions to this annual report. This statement presents an opportunity to write briefly about the University's Governing Authority.

The role and function of the Governing Authority are set out in the Universities Act, 1997. The current Governing Authority is the second Authority of the University under this Act and commenced its five-year term of office on 1 December 2002. The Governing Authority appointed me as its chairperson in February 2003 and subsequently appointed me as Chancellor of the University. The Governing Authority elected Mr George Cunningham as its deputy chairperson in April 2003.

The work undertaken by the Governing Authority during AY2005/06 is set out below.

- The following eight Governing Authority committees met and reported to the Authority on a regular basis during the period under review:
 - Audit Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Human Resources Committee
 - Campus Development Committee

- Access and Equality Committee
- Library Development Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Honorary Doctorate Committee, jointly with the Academic Council

The committees undertake the preliminary analytical work on many issues, resulting in the development of new proposals or appropriate revisions to existing ones. These proposals, which relate to strategic and policy matters affecting the University, are subsequently submitted to the Authority for consideration. During the period under review the Authority approved, *inter alia*, the University's procedures for the recruitment/appointment of staff. The Authority also approved amendments to several other policies and revised terms of reference for the Access and Equality Committee and the Human Resources Committee.

- The appointment of staff and faculty is an important function of the Authority, and appointments were made at every meeting throughout the year.
- The exercise of certain functions is reserved to the Governing Authority, including the awarding of honorary degrees with the agreement of the Academic Council. The awarding of such degrees to individuals who have excelled in one area or another brings honour to them and, by association, to the University itself. In the period under review,

honorary doctorates were awarded to Dr John Hume and Dr Mary Robinson.

Meetings of the Governing Authority take place on average once per month, with each meeting lasting approximately three hours. In addition and as previously indicated, the Governing Authority committees meet as required. All such meetings require much preparatory work on the part of the governors. I would like to acknowledge all the work undertaken by the governors and take this opportunity to thank them for their continued efforts during the past year.

I wish also to acknowledge the dedication and leadership of the President, Professor Roger G.H. Downer, whose resignation took effect in April 2006. During his term of office, Professor Downer gained appropriate recognition for the achievements of the University, both nationally and internationally. I would also like to thank Acting President Mr John O'Connor, who agreed to take on this role while the process to find a new president is in hand. I would like to express appreciation, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Governing Authority, to the officers and staff of the University of Limerick for their continued efforts in developing the University.

Seán Donlon
Chancellor

It is a great pleasure for me to present this Annual Report of the University of Limerick (UL) for the academic year 2005/06. The report demonstrates the significant contribution of the institution towards the advancement of the educational, economic, social and cultural welfare of Ireland.

During the year the Strategic Plan to chart the course for UL over the period 2006–2011 was launched. The Plan commits UL to the following educational initiatives:

- In response to national policy and international developments, student enrolment is to increase to 14,350 by AY2010/11 from 10,345 in AY2004/05.
- Special focus is to be given to increasing the enrolment levels of students from under-represented sectors of society and to expanding enrolment levels in postgraduate programmes.
- A four-year graduate-entry medical programme is planned to commence in AY2007/08.
- The existing portfolio of academic programmes is to be comprehensively reviewed to ensure that programmes reflect UL strategic priorities and national needs.
- Substantial increases, both in quality and level of research output, is targeted.
- To support the educational and related objectives detailed in the Plan, further physical campus development is targeted.
- The implementation of the Plan is projected to give rise to a €250 million investment.

Significant academic developments were recorded during the year under review, including the enrolment of the first cohorts of students in Construction Management, Architecture and Psychology. A significant academic milestone was marked by the first graduation of students in Physiotherapy. To ensure that the graduate-entry medical programme commencement schedule is achieved, a comprehensive study of international best practice of graduate-entry medical education programmes was completed. Guided by this study, the curriculum for the programme was developed, a resource plan was put in place and a detailed implementation plan was constructed and progressed.

The physical development programme in support of UL's educational and strategic plan has been further advanced during the year with a range of projects being progressed. This included the completion of the Health Science Building to support Nursing, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy programmes. The construction of the first phase of Cappavilla Village – the fifth student village on campus – was finalised, while construction commenced on the Kemmy Business School Building, the Language Learning Building and the Rowing Club facility. The latter incorporates Ireland's first indoor rowing tank. Construction also commenced during the year on the Living Bridge, which integrates the academic heart of the South Campus with the emerging academic core of the Clare campus across the majestic River Shannon. The design stage of the Library Phase 2 building, the Irish Chamber Orchestra building, the Irish World Academy of Music

& Dance building and the Sports Development building Phase 2 were also progressed during the year.

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Professor Roger GH Downer, who retired during the year. Under Roger's leadership over some eight years, significant developments advanced in the University of Limerick. I am happy to join with many others in wishing Roger a long and happy retirement.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of all members of the campus community, whose collective endeavour, creativity, commitment and dedication have yielded such significant progress during the year, both in innovative strategic planning and the delivery of a demanding portfolio of objectives. I am particularly appreciative of the wise counsel and support of the Chancellor and Chair of Governing Authority as well as the members of the Authority.

We are delighted to have common cause with the community we serve and are indeed fortunate to count a wide range of individuals and organisations as supporters and partners. We are confident that UL, its developments, plans and hopes for the future will continue to make a major contribution to Irish life and assure the further advancement of the University.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

John O'Connor
President



The Vice President Academic and Registrar (VPAR) has overall responsibility for the academic activities of the University and for the support services that underpin those activities. The VPAR is

ACADEMIC

supported by the Associate Vice President Academic, the Assistant Registrar and seven deans, one for each of the six colleges and the Dean of Teaching and Learning.

During the year:

- Academic Council approved full programme submissions for:
 - Certificate in Exercise and Health Fitness
 - Adult and Continuing Education Diploma in Quality Management – Lean Systems
 - Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management (Part-time)
 - Diploma/Graduate Diploma in Mathematics and Statistics
 - Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/Masters in Educational Mentoring
 - Graduate Diploma/Master of Arts in Applied Behaviour Analysis
 - Graduate Diploma/Master of Education in Development Education
 - Graduate Diploma/Master of Science in Nursing/Midwifery
 - Graduate Diploma in Education (Physical Education)
 - Graduate Diploma/Master of Science in Nursing (Palliative Care)
 - Graduate Diploma/Master of Science in Nursing (Peri-Operative Care)
 - Graduate Diploma/Masters in Technology Education

- Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality
- Master of Arts in Civil and Canon Law
- Master of Arts in Irish Media Studies
- Master of Arts in Language, Culture and Globalisation
- Master of Arts in Politics
- Master of Science in Clinical Therapies (Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy/Speech and Language Therapy)
- Master of Science in Work and Organisational Psychology

- Seven new degree programmes had their first intake of students in September 2006: Biomedical Electronics, Digital Media Design, Midwifery, Music Media and Performance Technology, Psychology and Sociology, Software Development and Social Change, and Robotics Engineering.
- A policy for the accreditation of prior learning was adopted together with a set of formal procedures for the implementation of the policy.
- Seven new posts at Junior Lecturer level were created and allocated in line with the Faculty Allocation Model (FAM).
- In association with regional and national partners, UL submitted detailed proposals in September 2006 for funding under the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF).

The University's Code of Conduct was reviewed during the year, resulting in some alterations in procedural and regulatory content being made.

The process of appointing and administering the now very significantly increased numbers of external examiners continued during the year with a critical review of the systems and procedures employed.

In association with regional and national partners, UL submitted detailed proposals in September 2006 for funding under the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF).



In 2006, €6.6million was allocated by the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) to the Shannon Consortium, a pioneering education partnership that is set to strengthen regional capacity for higher education to assist students and researchers. The Shannon Consortium, which involves the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College and Institute of Technology Tralee, aims to implement specific educational innovations in the region, leading to a wider impact than would have been possible for any individual institution acting alone. Pictured (l-r) are Mr Michael Carmody, Director IIT; Dr Maria Hinfelaar, Director LIT; Dr Peadar Cremin, MIC President; and Professor Don Barry, UL Vice President Academic & Registrar.

QUALITY

The Quality Support Unit (QSU) is responsible for the development and implementation of quality policies, procedures and activities.

The following units were reviewed during the year: Economics, Sociology, Politics & Public Administration, Library & Information Services, Electronic & Computer Engineering, Languages & Cultural Studies, Management & Marketing, and Student Academic Administration.

The QSU developed a new template for quality management systems (QMS) for support departments and revised procedures for the quality review of support departments. The revised review process focuses on the progress made by departments towards establishing a QMS.

The Department of Lifelong Learning and Outreach develops and provides accredited, modular, flexibly delivered courses to people who wish

The department continued to be active at a European level through partnership in a number of important EU-funded lifelong learning projects. Particular focus was placed on the impact of the Bologna process on lifelong learning and the issues of quality in the design and delivery of lifelong learning programmes.

to increase their knowledge, upgrade their skills or update their professional qualifications. The initiatives of the department are delivered by the individual colleges or through collaboration between colleges and external partners.

A regional learning consortium was established during the year and a major proposal was submitted to the HEA for funding under the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). The consortium included the Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College, the Institute of Technology Tralee and UL.

The role of UL in the delivery of programmes on a national and international level is dependent upon its involvement in the development of e-learning material. Further steps taken by UL in this area through collaboration within the Atlantic University Alliance (AUA) should have a significant impact in the coming years.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND OUTREACH

The Department of Lifelong Learning and Outreach continued to be active at European level through partnership in a number of important EU-funded lifelong learning projects.



The International Education Division (IED) recruits full fee-paying international undergraduate and postgraduate students to UL and is responsible for the administration of UL's participation in the EU's non-commercial exchange programme

The Study Abroad Programme attracted 140 students in autumn and 180 in spring, representing a marginal decline from AY2004/05. Most students on the Study Abroad Programme came from the US but, for the first time, UL hosted nine full-year students from Japan.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

under SOCRATES/Erasmus. In addition, IED took responsibility during the year for the management of the growing number of student exchanges with institutions in the USA, Canada, Australia and Singapore.

The Summer Schools in Irish Studies attracted 49 students in June 2006 on four separate course options compared with 56 in June 2005, reflecting the challenge associated with attracting students from the US in the current international climate.

Total fee-paying international student numbers during the year was 523, a slight increase over the previous year. The largest number of students came from China (54), followed by the US (37); lesser numbers came from a further 34 countries, but mainly from India, Romania, Russia, Iran and Canada. IED aims to double full fee-paying international student numbers and tuition revenue within five years.

There was a growing number of student exchanges with institutions in the USA, Canada, Australia and Singapore.

Pictured is Jia Xu, who graduated from UL with a BSc in Information Technology & Telecommunications, with her parents, who travelled from Shanghai to attend the Graduation, and Professor Roger Downer, President Emeritus, University of Limerick.



Lena Hally, Cashel, Co. Tipperary; Vanessa Butler, Malahide, Dublin; and Fiona Collins, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, who graduated from the College of Education on the first day of the 2006 Conferring Ceremony at the University of Limerick.

The College of Education provides programmes of learning that meet the needs of Irish education. Initial teacher education programmes in business, languages, music, physical

The Career Development Institute is responsible for managing the College's outreach programmes. The Institute now offers formal postgraduate professional development programmes in 16 centres throughout the country as well as in-service programmes nationally.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

education, science and technology enable graduates to teach in Irish schools, while professional development programmes delivered to teachers and other key education personnel on an outreach basis ensure that teaching in Irish schools is delivered to the very highest standards.

Teaching Practice placement is a key element of all teacher education programmes offered by UL. The College has embarked on a research initiative aimed at implementing a mentoring plan that draws on the experience and learning of current teachers in support of student teachers.

The UL policy of accrediting prior learning – Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) – enables the University to award credits to students for knowledge gained through experiential learning and to recognise this learning through academic credits and/or exemptions at the start of a graduate diploma programme. This process is of particular benefit to students wishing to enter a graduate diploma programme from an ordinary level degree award.

APL is of particular benefit to students wishing to enter a graduate diploma programme from an ordinary level degree award.



John Mark Griffin, third year student of Product Design and Technology at the University of Limerick, with his design product, a sandwich toaster in a style inspired by Sony. The students were challenged to conceive, design and create modern household appliances to individual style specifications.

Professor John Burland visited UL as a guest speaker of the College of Engineering in 2006. Professor Burland described in detail to a packed and enthralled audience at UL the challenging task of "rescuing the Tower of Pisa".



The School of Architecture enrolled its first students onto the BArch Architecture.

The College of Engineering has four departments: Manufacturing and Operations Engineering, Materials Science and Technology, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering and the School of Architecture. The College offers five Bachelor of Engineering programmes and five taught postgraduate qualifications up to master's degree level.

As well as supporting individual research, the College actively supports eight research institutes and centres. The College has been successful in gaining national and international funding during the year to the value of €4.2m.

In cooperation with Women's Studies in the College of Humanities and the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering in the College of Informatics and Electronics, the College continued to operate the Women in Engineering Bursary Scheme for the female student in each engineering and technology department with the highest Year 1 entry points.

UL welcomed one of the most accomplished structural engineers in the world when Leslie Robertson (right), structural engineer on the former World Trade Centre, New York, visited the campus in 2006 as part of UL's Week of Wonder activities. Mr. Robertson is pictured with UL President John O'Connor.



The College of Humanities comprises five core departments: History, Languages & Cultural Studies,

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

Politics & Public Administration, Sociology and the School of Law. Almost one in three undergraduate students now entering UL attends the College. It has close academic links with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and collaborative relationships with all other UL colleges.

During the year, the BA (Joint Honours) was included in the CAO – an iconic development for the University. The past year also saw the launch of the BA in Psychology and Sociology; the winning of three European Awards for Language teaching; success in the National Strategic Fund allocations; and the development of the Pauline and John

Ryan History of the Family Virtual Archive. A new Research Institute for the Study of Knowledge and Society (ISKS) was established, implementing College research strategy. The College's research excellence was also reflected in a first-class publications output of 1.9 per faculty post – this figure having doubled in the past five years.

Cross-institutional relationships were reflected in the development of the MA in Civil and Canon Law, and the MA in Media Studies with MIC. In addition, the Atlantic Universities Social Science Graduate Programme was successful in the first round of cross-institutional national funding.

Pat Cox (right), Chairman of the European Movement and a former President of the European Parliament, pictured at the opening of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies conference (UACES) at the University of Limerick with UL Professor Alex Warleigh-Lack, current chairman of UACES.



The BA (Joint Honours) was included in the CAO – an iconic development for the University.

The College of Informatics and Electronics comprises the departments of Computer Science & Information Systems, Electronic & Computer Engineering, and Mathematics & Statistics.

Change, and Music, Media and Performance Technology, and BEng programmes in Biomedical Electronics and Robotic Engineering, all of which will be introduced in AY2006/07.

Lero, the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre, was established at UL with SFI funds. Lero will provide the focal point for a community of software engineering researchers based in Ireland to look at better ways to build, maintain and evaluate software. This grant brings to nearly €30m the funding that has been received for software-engineering-related research at UL in the past four years.

The College of Science comprises the departments of Chemical & Environmental Sciences, Life Sciences, Nursing & Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Physical Education & Sport Sciences, Physiotherapy and Speech & Language Therapy. In all, over 2,000 students are enrolled in science programmes.

COLLEGE OF INFORMATICS AND ELECTRONICS

A new BSc programme in Multimedia and Computer Games Development was introduced during the year. In the ongoing review of programmes in the College the development of five other new programmes continued: BSc programmes in Digital Media Design, Software Development and Social

The College expanded its range of student support centres during the year. The Mathematics Learning Centre, the Student Peer Support Learning Centre and the ICT Learning Centre all played their part in improving the retention rate of students and enhancing the learning environment.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

A new BSc programme in Health and Safety was successfully introduced. Six new programmes were introduced at taught postgraduate level in September 2005, and four more started in September 2006.

The College advanced its record of refereed publications, IRCSET awards, graduated PhDs and research grants awarded to faculty (€4.5m in the year under review).



Pictured being welcomed to the UL Science Fair by Professor David O'Beirne, Dean College of Science, is Nasa Astronaut Dr Steve Robinson. Dr Robinson visited UL after his space mission with the Discovery Space Shuttle and showed audiences his personal home video taken during the mission.

To increase the enrolment in Science courses there was continued promotion of the College's activities to students, parents and teachers. These include the College's first Science Summer Camp for second-level school pupils and the Academy of Applied Physics.

Additional attention was focused during the year on the quality of the first-year learning experience to ensure a smooth transition to third-level and high rates of retention. The Science Learning Centre has developed into a key support resource for students.

Thirty-two percent of the University's mature students are registered on College of Science programmes. The College plans to develop additional supportive infrastructure for these groups through the SFI.



A new BSc programme in Multimedia and Computer Games Development was introduced during the year.

Pictured are Dr Marc Ó Griofa and Dr Derek O'Keeffe, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, UL, whose sleep pattern project, CASPER, was flown into space in 2006 with the Discovery Shuttle. Dr Ó Griofa and Dr O'Keeffe designed a non-invasive method of monitoring the sleep patterns of astronauts, which was accepted by NASA and put into use during the Discovery Mission in June 2006.



The College of Science advanced its record of refereed publications, IRCSET awards, graduated PhDs and research grants awarded to faculty.

Dr Jack Murphy and his horse Mac at the 2006 UL Graduation Ceremony. Dr Murphy became the first Irish person to graduate with a PhD in Equine Science in Ireland.



The first cohort of Diploma in Applied Taxation students, all employees of the Revenue Commissioners, were conferred in December 2005.

The Kemmy Business School comprises four academic departments: Accounting & Finance, Economics, Management & Marketing and Personnel & Employment Relations. These departments are augmented by the Centre for Project Management, the Management Development Unit, the MBA Programmes Unit and the Centre for Taxation Studies.

New programmes approved during the year included the BA (Hons) in Human Resource Management, the MSc in Work and Organisational Psychology, the Diploma in Management (Motor Retail) and the Diploma in Small Business Development.

The focus on research continued with a record nine PhD completions, the recruitment of a Research Scholar and Research Fellow, successful Government of Ireland Scholarship applications and a number of external research awards.

Pictured are (l-r) UL Chancellor Mr Seán Donlon; Professor Roger Downer, President Emeritus UL; EU Commissioner Mr Charlie McCreevy and Professor Donal Dineen, Dean Kemmy Business School (KBS) at UL. Commissioner McCreevy addressed a large audience at UL as part of the KBS Distinguished Lecture Series.

KEMMY BUSINESS SCHOOL

A new BBS suite of programmes was approved by Academic Council to commence in September 2006, which affected a total of 30 programmes throughout the University.

The first cohort of Diploma in Applied Taxation students, all employees of the Revenue Commissioners, were conferred in December 2005. A further contract was signed with Revenue to deliver the final year of the new BA (Hons) in Applied Taxation beginning in September 2006.

The third cohort of MBA students at the Clonmel facility of Boston Scientific commenced in February 2006. This 'flagship' programme of the School continued to attract students from a wide catchment area.



Arts Departments

There are 12 Arts departments in Mary Immaculate College: English, French, Gaeilge, Geography, German Studies, History, Media & Communication Studies, Mathematics & Computer Studies, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology & Religious Studies. The number of postgraduate students doing MA and PhD theses by research has increased significantly in recent years. The departments are also involved in the implementation and development of taught postgraduate programmes. There are 32 doctoral students, 41 research masters and 55 taught masters students.

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE

One hundred and forty-seven students participated in the 2005/06 Off-Campus Placement Programme, and a total of 182 placements were completed. Fifty-nine percent of students divided their programme between two placements, and the remaining 41% remained in one placement for both semesters.

147 students participated in the 2005/06 Off-Campus Placement Programme.



The Department of Education delivered the BEd in Education, BEd in Education & Psychology and BA in Early Childhood Care & Education to a total of 1,834 undergraduate students.

Department of Education

The Department of Education is responsible for providing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that lead to qualifying awards in primary teaching at MIC.

The department delivered the BEd in Education, BEd in Education & Psychology and BA in Early Childhood Care & Education to a total of 1,834 undergraduate students. Almost 200 students were enrolled in the full-time taught Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching). Graduate diploma programmes in Learning Support, Special Education Needs, Early Childhood Education and Adult & Continuing Education were offered on a part-time basis. Master's programmes were delivered in Education, Education in Learning Support, Education ICT, Education ACE, Education SEN, Education ECE and Arts Music Education.



The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has the cross-functional role of enhancing teaching and learning for students and faculty at UL, with a focus on heightening the profile and value of teaching activities. The CTL collaboratively engages in evidence-based research to explore learning and teaching experiences and to enable key teaching innovations.

The Centre for Teaching and Learning engages in evidence-based research to explore learning and teaching experiences and to enable key teaching innovations.

CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



Pictured are Dr Deirdre O'Loughlin (centre), who received an award for Excellence in Teaching at the UL 2005 Graduation Ceremony, Dr Sarah Moore, Dean of Teaching and Learning, and Professor Donal Dineen, Dean, Kemmy Business School.

Key developments during the year included:

- *The Handbook of Academic Writing: A Fresh Approach* was published in collaboration with the University of Strathclyde.
- An Open University textbook on university teaching was completed in partnership with the College of Science.
- €2.6m was secured under SFI to enable regional teaching and learner support developments across all disciplines.
- A peer observation system and a performance observation service for enhancing teaching and learning were introduced.
- A postgraduate writing support intervention was delivered.
- Pedagogical support was provided for the implementation of learning management systems.
- The second implementation of the peer e-mentoring programme was coordinated and evaluated.

Research contracts awarded during the period under review totalled €33 million.



Pictured at the launch of Ireland's first Physiotherapy Research Hub at UL are Professor Vincent Cunnane (left), Vice President Research, and Mr Tim O'Malley TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health.

RESEARCH



The Research Office monitors and provides strategic direction to the University's research activities. The office develops and implements research policy and strategy, provides leadership in the preparation of institutional submissions for research funding, promotes postgraduate research activities, liaises externally with relevant agencies, and manages technology transfer and the commercialisation of UL research.

The number of refereed journal articles rose by 34% over the last two years, while the postgraduate research population rose by 24% over the last three years. Research contracts awarded totalled €33 million.

Areas identified by the Research Office for priority development include:

- Materials and Surface Science
- Work, Quality and Productivity

- Information and Communications Technology
- Biosciences, Environment and Bioengineering
- Humanities and Social Sciences

The first edition of *Research Works* was published during the year to provide a biannual review highlighting some of the key research projects and innovations emanating from research by faculty, researchers and students.

The Award for Excellence in Research 2006 was made to Dr Mike Morley, Department of Personnel and Employment Relations, Kemmy Business School. The Award for Special Achievement in Research 2006 was made to Dr Gary Walsh, Department of Chemical and Environmental Science, College of Science.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

College	Masters F/T	Masters P/T	Masters Total	PhD F/T	PhD P/T	PhD Total	Total
Kemmy Business School	19	6	25	35	17	52	77
Education	9	3	12	7	11	18	30
Engineering	64	16	80	63	8	71	151
Humanities	15	2	17	85	17	102	119
Interdisciplinary	4	2	6	16	2	18	24
Informatics & Electronics	105	28	133	108	34	142	275
Science	76	15	91	51	4	55	146
Totals	292	72	364	365	93	458	822

Number of Registered Postgraduate Research Students, 2005/06

College	Masters F/T	Masters P/T	Masters Total	PhD F/T	PhD P/T	PhD Total	Total
Kemmy Business School	82	39	121	173	-	173	294
Education	8	82	90	90	84	174	264
Engineering	14	12	26	7	5	12	38
Humanities	219	15	234	22	23	45	279
Informatics & Electronics	75	40	115	65	-	65	180
Science	106	75	181	-	14	14	195
Totals	504	263	767	357	126	483	1250

Number of Registered Taught Postgraduate Students, 2005/06

Pictured with Professor Nick Rees, Dean Graduate School, and Professor Vincent Cunnane, Vice President Research, are the 2006 Advanced Scholars, high-achieving UL students being supported by the University to continue their studies at postgraduate level. The Advanced Scholars Programme identifies and supports outstanding first class honours students in the final year of their undergraduate degrees and encourages these high achievers to pursue a further postgraduate degree by research.



The Administrative Division comprises the Administrative Secretary's Department, the Buildings and Estates Department, Campus Life Services, the Sports and Recreation Department and the Visual Arts Collection Administration.

'Together and Apart,' cast iron sculpture by Antony Gormley

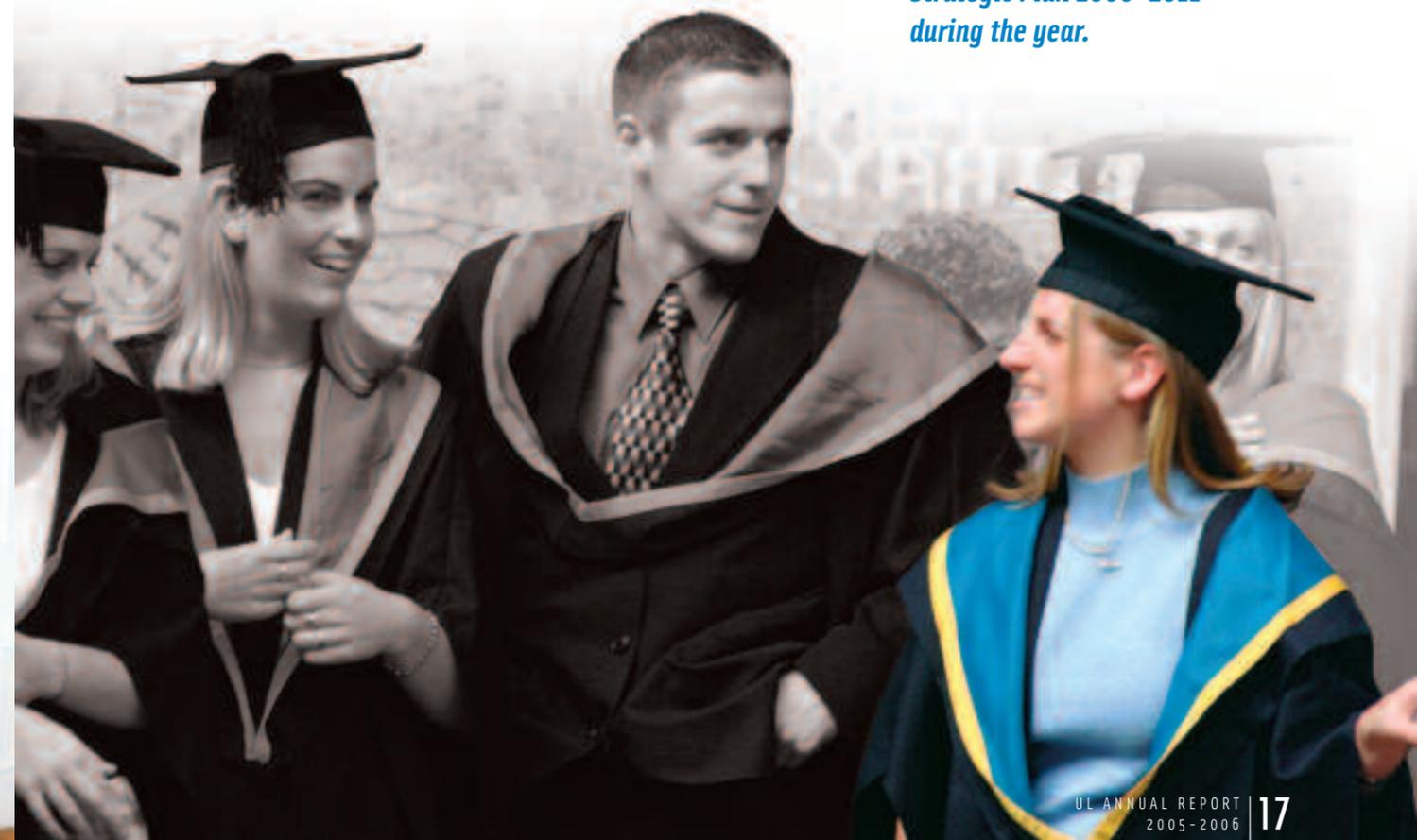


ADMINISTRATION

During the period under review the Governing Authority approved:

- The University's Strategic Plan 2006-2011
- The process for the recruitment and appointment of a new President of UL
- The publication of a number of quality peer review reports on the UL website (<http://www.ul.ie>)
- Procedures for the recruitment/appointment of staff
- Amendments to the policy and procedures for the promotion of faculty
- Amendments to the policy and procedures for workplace dignity and respect at UL
- Amendments to the policy for the award of UL honorary doctorates

The Governing Authority approved the University's Strategic Plan 2006-2011 during the year.



Computer simulation of "The Living Bridge", Ireland's longest pedestrian bridge, linking the heart of the UL Limerick campus with the Clare campus.



Projects under construction include the Living Bridge, the new Kemmy Business School building, the new Boathouse and Cappavilla Village Phase 2.



Artist's impression of the new UL Boathouse on the banks of the River Shannon.

Capital projects completed during the year include the Health Sciences Building and Cappavilla Village Phase 1, which provides 324 en suite study bedrooms for students.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Projects under construction include the Living Bridge, a 350m pedestrian bridge, linking the heart of the campus between the North and South banks; the new Kemmy Business School building; the new Boathouse; and Cappavilla Village Phase 2.

Projects at planning stage include new buildings for the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, Languages, Physical Education and Sport Sciences, and the Irish Chamber Orchestra as well as an extension to the University Arena. Other planned projects include a West Campus car park, North Bank playing fields and the construction of the President's House.

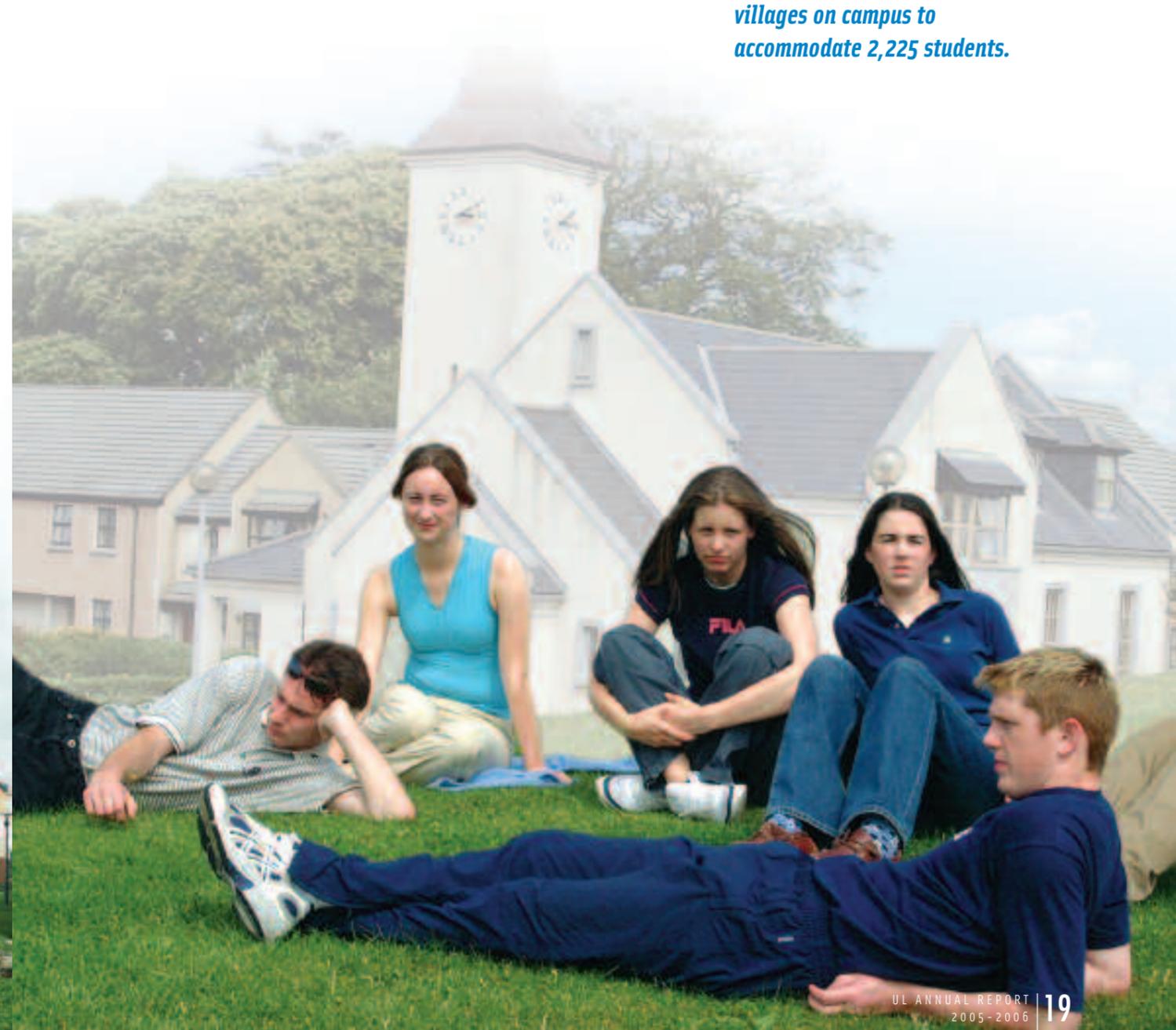
CAMPUS LIFE SERVICES / PLASSEY CAMPUS CENTRE

Plassey Campus Centre (PCC) is responsible for managing Campus Life Services, a core entity of the University of Limerick. The role of CLS is to provide residential, communal, restaurant and retail services for the campus community.

PCC has developed five residential villages on campus to accommodate 2,225 students. The first phase of Cappavilla Village, which opened in 2006, includes 324 purpose-built individual study bedrooms.

A number of events, such as 'Welcome to Residence' evenings, sports tournaments, dance evenings, yoga and cookery, were held during the year in each village as part of the community Campus Life programme.

Plassey Campus Centre has developed five residential villages on campus to accommodate 2,225 students.





The third World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships was hosted by UL in September 2006.

More than 300 athletes from places as far flung as Taiwan, India and Turkmenistan came to the University of Limerick in September 2006 to take part in the International Down Syndrome Swimming Championships. Down Syndrome Ireland and UL hosted the event, which catered for more than 20 international delegations of competitors, trainers and families.

UL has been given a unique national role in shaping the sporting environment in Ireland through the provision of physical education

SPORTS AND RECREATION

teachers and, in latter years, sport scientists. The addition of the University Arena as the centrepiece of "Ireland's sporting campus" at UL has strengthened this role over the last five years.

Olympic medallists and world and European champions are regularly seen training alongside members of the campus community and general public at the facility. This unique sporting mix encapsulates the mission of the Sports and Recreation Department and proves that, with the right facilities in place and supported by a progressive vision, everybody's sport and recreation needs can be met.

Elite sports achievements during the year included the UL Bohemians Rugby Club reaching fifth position in the Division 1 League, and the UL Bohemians senior women's rugby team winning the AIL Division 1 for the fifth successive year. The Women's Basketball Super League squad won the National Cup. UL maintained its high profile at intervarsity and national levels.

The third World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships was hosted by UL in September 2006.



The Visual Arts Collection at the University of Limerick was significantly enhanced during the year. A number of important artworks underwent conservation and restoration work. Furthermore, the collections were promoted to national and international audiences through various exhibitions and loans.

VISUAL ARTS

The annual National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland exhibition was held in June 2006 and included 11 new additions. The collection also benefited from donations of four self-portraits by artists already represented. There are

now 410 works in the collection, which represent the work of 385 artists.

UL is due to receive the remaining works of the Irish American Cultural Institute O'Malley Collection on long-term loan from Mayo County Council. These 27 works include work by Helen Hooker O'Malley and will bring the total number of items in the O'Malley Collection to over 600.

The University of Limerick Art Collection purchased works from both Eithne Carr's and Gavin Hogg's exhibitions. Another important addition to the ULAC was The Dying Joseph, purchased from the auction of contents of the Scared Heart Church and Jesuit Residence in Limerick.

The annual National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland exhibition included 11 new additions to the collection.

Pictured is internationally renowned Italian photographer Ursula Swoboda on the first day of her 'I am Woman' photography exhibition in UL in 2006.





HUMAN RESOURCES

UL has over 1,100 members of faculty and staff. The Human Resources Division provides a range of services that support the University's vision of recruiting and retaining excellent faculty and staff and its commitment to supporting excellent performance through progressive development policies.

The following key initiatives occurred during the year:

- One hundred and thirty-three recruitment and selection competitions were managed.
- The faculty promotion process was continued.
- A dedicated Training and Development function was established to support UL's training and development strategy.

The HR Division provides a range of services that support the University's vision of recruiting and retaining excellent faculty and staff.

- The Performance and Development Review system was further developed with 500 employees undertaking comprehensive training.

- General training undertaken included customer care workshops, interview skills training, advisor training, time management, strategy workshops, orientation workshops for new heads of department and the Employee Wellbeing Programme.
- The support of continual professional/personal development of employees included 59 employees receiving financial support for participation in undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies.
- Support for Language Studies was given to 23 members of staff.
- In excess of 100 workshops were provided with assistance from the NDP Training of Trainers Programme.
- Employees availed of the opportunity to participate in a number of Irish Universities' Training Network (IUTN) programmes.



The Student Affairs Division provides a central, comprehensive range of administrative services and supports to the entire student population of UL.

The Student Affairs Division provides a central, comprehensive range of administrative services and supports to the entire student population of UL and has responsibility for large operations (such as examinations), policy

Monica McLoughney, Ulster Bank Branch Manager, and Declan Aherne, Chair of the Health Promotion Working Group, pictured at the launch of the Healthy Eating Week at the University of Limerick. The UL Student Affairs Office and UL Health Promotion Working Group teamed up to detox students after a successful and fun-filled UL Rag Week with the launch of the first ever 'Healthy Eating' booklet sponsored by Ulster Bank.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

development (such as the alcohol policy), systems (such as SI, the student record system) and the holistic wellbeing of students. The Division includes: Access, Admissions, Arts, Chaplaincy, Disability, Mature Students, Student Academic Administration, Student Affairs, Student Counselling and Student Health Centre.

The inaugural meeting of the UL/Access Campus Liaison Group was held to discuss the strategic development of the Access Campus with the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership.



Mary Robinson was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at the University of Limerick for her outstanding work as a human rights advocate.

Mary Robinson and John Hume were conferred with honorary degrees at UL on 18 May 2006.

HONORARY DEGREES

Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland (1990–1997) and more recently United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002), has spent most of her life as a human rights advocate. As an academic, legislator (Senator 1969–1989) and barrister (1967–1990, Senior Counsel 1980, English Bar 1973), she has always sought to use law as an instrument for social change, arguing landmark cases before the European Court of Human Rights as well as in the Irish courts and the European Court in Luxembourg.

Now based in New York, Dr Robinson is currently leading a new project, the Ethical Globalisation Initiative (EGI). Its goal is to bring the norms and standards of human rights into the globalisation process and to support capacity building in good governance in developing countries, with an initial focus on Africa.

John Hume was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at the University of Limerick for his outstanding contribution to politics in Northern Ireland.

A former leader and co-founder of the SDLP, John Hume has dedicated his political career to building a climate in which parties on both sides of the political divide would work together. In 1998, he was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his reconciliation work with Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble.

John Hume, a former teacher, first came to prominence through the civil rights movement in the late 1960s, when Catholics demanded substantial changes in the way Northern Ireland was run. He co-founded the SDLP in 1970 and led the party from 1979 to 2001. A key advocate of partnership, Dr Hume played a major role in negotiating the Sunningdale Agreement and served as Minister of Commerce in the resulting Power-Sharing Executive of 1974. He also led the party in the New Ireland Forum Talks in 1983, the Brooke Talks in 1992, the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation in 1994, and the All Party Talks, which led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, and John Hume, former leader and co-founder of the SDLP, were both conferred with Honorary Doctorate of Laws at the University of Limerick. Dr Robinson and Dr Hume are pictured above with Professor Roger Downer, President Emeritus, UL.



The increase in recurrent expenditure reflects the continuing increase in pay awards, general non-pay inflation and strategic development of a number of new academic programmes to enable the University to meet market demand and national priorities.



The office of the Vice President Finance comprises the Accounts Department and the Procurement and Contracts Office. Figures given in this report relate to the University's 2004/05 financial year (1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005).

Income increased from €76.53m to €82.49m during the financial year to September 2005, representing a growth of 7.7% over the previous year.

State grant increased from €37.78m to €40.72m, representing a growth of 7.7%, while student fee income increased by 7.1% from €35.7m to €38.26m. Both student fees and State grant represent 70% of the income for the year, a drop of 1.5% over 2004, which reflects the continuing reduction of State funding in university activities.

Income from other sources increased from €3.01m to €3.51m, a growth of 16.5%, due mainly to an increase in the number of international students and an increase in research overhead contribution arising from the increase in research income.

Recurrent expenditure grew from €76.54m to €83.58m, an increase of 9.2%. The increase reflects the continuing increase in pay awards, general non-pay inflation and strategic development of a number of new academic programmes to enable the University to meet market demand and national priorities.

University capital expenditure amounted to €20.3m during the year, of which €4.04m related to equipment and the balance to land and buildings. This investment is a subset of the 2005–2010 physical development programme being implemented on campus.

The Procurement and Contracts Office reviewed over €40m worth of expenditure within the University's capital and recurrent budget. The potential saving from professional procurement involvement in the process was approximately €5m.



	NOTES	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
INCOME			
State Grants	1	40,715	37,784
Student Fees	2	38,264	35,736
Other Income	3	3,508	3,012
		82,487	76,532
Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects	4	29,884	26,290
		112,371	102,822
Mary Immaculate College			
State Grants		10,622	9,109
Student Fees		6,000	5,646
Less amount transferred to College		(16,622)	(14,755)
Total		113,371	102,822
EXPENDITURE			
Colleges and Departments	5	47,133	43,267
Academic and Other Services	6	9,134	8,787
Premises	7	10,742	9,243
Amount allocated for Capital Purposes	8	1,549	2,133
Central Administration and Services	9	7,796	6,697
General Educational Expenditure	10	1,678	1,561
Student Services	11	2,336	2,287
Miscellaneous Expenditure	12	3,211	2,562
		83,579	76,537
Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects	4	29,884	26,290
Total	13	113,463	102,827
Deficit on Activities before Amortisation of Capital Reserves and Grants, Ancillary Services and Depreciation on Fixed Assets		(1,092)	(5)
(Deficit) / Surplus on Ancillary Services	14	(415)	251
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	15	(8,132)	(7,756)
General Reserve Movement	16	8,547	7,505
Net Deficit for Year	24	(1,092)	(5)

	NOTES	2005 €'000	2004 €'000
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	17	269,901	259,9118
INVESTMENTS	18	22,193	21,563
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank Balances and Cash		39,149	16,279
Debtors and Prepayments	19	9,607	6,982
Stocks		22	39
		48,778	23,297
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	21	(60,695)	(35,319)
Net Current Liabilities		(11,917)	(12,022)
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Creditors Due After One Year	27	0	(267)
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		280,177	269,192
REPRESENTED BY			
		€'000	€'000
General Reserve	22	258,376	245,824
Restricted Reserves	23	22,301	22,776
Revenue Reserve	24	(500)	592
		280,177	269,192

The financial statements above are for the year ending 30 September 2005.



The Cooperative Education & Careers Division (CECD) is responsible for the management and development of the Cooperative Education, Teaching Practice (TP) and Careers programmes.

Twenty-five percent of placements are undertaken internationally. New placements were secured in Germany, Spain, Luxembourg, the UK, Mexico, Australia, China and the US. Academic assignments were secured for all students

The Careers Service supports students and recent graduates in making effective career choices and facilitates their transition from education into employment or further study. This year the Service achieved the O₂ Ability Award for the careers support of students with disabilities and opened a dedicated Careers Resource Area to support students in researching information on careers, employers or further study opportunities.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION & CAREERS

Some 2,000 students are placed annually with a network of over 1,700 employers. Central to the Division's strategy is the development of placement opportunities with high-skill, higher-value, innovation-driven companies, both indigenous and international. The TP programme covers five undergraduate degrees and five graduate diplomas in Education.

taking a foreign language. Under the EU Leonardo programme, the Division was awarded in excess of €620,000 for the EMERGE project, which will be used to support the development of the international programme.

New placements were secured in Germany, Spain, Luxembourg, the UK, Mexico, Australia, China and the US.



The Information Technology Division (ITD) provides computing, audiovisual, printing, postage and telephone services to UL staff and

ITD had its annual quality audit from the National Standards Authority of Ireland and was certified again for ISO9001:2000.

The following computing services were delivered:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

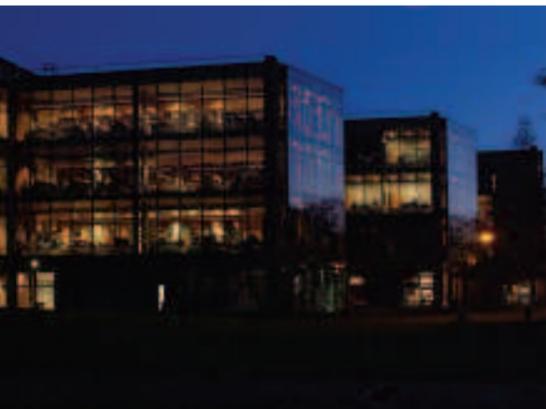
students. Achievements during the year included the updating of software to manage SPAM, the addition of the new Health Sciences Building to the campus network and full migration to Active Directory and the Exchange 2003 email system.

ITD had its annual quality audit from the National Standards Authority of Ireland and was certified again for ISO9001:2000.

- Two hundred PCs in student clusters were replaced.
- The central ITD distribution lists were replaced by new lists to which staff may subscribe/de-subscribe.
- XP was adopted as the default staff computer build for all new PCs.
- The Active Directory migration enabled faculty to email their class and advisees.
- A new learning management system was piloted with a number of faculty.
- An academic awards system was deployed for the online issuing and authentication of graduation-related documents.
- A portal was provided to enable simpler access to some of the functions of the student administration system.
- The top-level pages of the University website were redesigned.



The Glucksman Library



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Library and Information Services Division (LISD) provides facilities and services to support teaching, learning and research within UL. LISD also administers the University Archive and the Health Services Executive Library in the HSE West Hospital in Limerick.

The following developments took place during the year:

- Circulation desk services were consolidated.
- The Information Services Department was given a one-year SFI-funded research librarian post.
- The online reading list service was launched throughout the University.
- The booklet *Cite It Right: A Guide to Referencing in UL Using the Harvard Referencing Style* was produced.
- Preparatory work for the conversion to new global standards for importing electronic bibliographic data was ongoing.
- Archives received include the Liam Manahan Papers, Tiede Herrema Papers, Seán de Courcy Papers, Armstrong Papers and Daly Papers.

LISD SERVICES AND COLLECTIONS 2005/06

SERVICES	
Total loans	255,438
Loans from Short Loan Collection	40,561
Interlibrary loans	5,317
Number of visitors to Library building	1,034,536
Number of visitors to Library website	168,270
Number of queries at Information Desk (including EDC queries)	19,906
Person hours of information skills training delivered	3,309
COLLECTIONS	
Total catalogued monographs	324,803
Additions to stock in period	12,484
Print and e-journals (including those held in full text databases)	27,109
Bibliographic and full text databases	111



Dr Tiede Herrema (left), the Dutch industrialist who was kidnapped by the IRA in 1975, is pictured with Mr Seán Donlon, Chancellor of the University of Limerick. Dr Herrema donated his private archive of documentation relating to his kidnapping to the UL Library.

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. Since its founding, ULF has raised in excess of €115m to assist the development of UL.

ULF is guided by a board of international leaders from business, industry and the arts. Board members in 2005/06 included:

- James Collins**
Company Director, Ahearn Collins & Associates
- Seán Donlon**
Chancellor, University of Limerick
- Roger Downer**
President, University of Limerick
- Frank Doyle**
Former Executive Vice President, General Electric
- Charles F. Feeney**
Chairman, General Atlantic Group, Ltd.
- Michael Feerick**
Managing Director, Advance Learning
- Donal Forde**
Managing Director, AIB Bank
- Declan Ganley**
Chairman and CEO, The Ganley Group
- Kenneth Gorman**
Principal, Apollo Partners
- Dermot Hanrahan**
Entrepreneur
- John Hartnett**
Senior VP – Worldwide Sales, Palm Inc.
- Gordon A. Holmes**
Senior Partner, Holmes O'Malley Sexton
- Michael P. Houlihan**
County Solicitor, Michael Houlihan & Partners
- Paul Kimball**
Consultant, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter
- James McCarron**
Diplomate, American Board of Urology
- Frank McCourt**
Author and Pulitzer Prize Winner
- Harry McKillop**
President, Alliance International/The Perot Group
- Phoebe Milligan (R.I.P. April 2006)**
Financial Consultant
- John F. Mitchell**
Vice Chairman (retired), Motorola Inc.
- John O'Connor***
President, University of Limerick

In 2006, the University of Limerick Foundation announced a gift to establish an endowed undergraduate scholarship in rowing at UL. The Paddy Dooley Rowing Scholarship has been established through the generosity of the Dooley family in honour of their father, who captained the Irish Olympic eight in the 1948 Olympic Games in London. The first ever recipient of the scholarship was mature student Caroline MacManus (pictured below) from Rhebogue, Limerick, who was awarded the scholarship based on her Leaving Certificate results and her achievements in rowing.



Since its founding, ULF has raised in excess of €115m to assist the development of UL.

- Michael O'Keeffe**
Owner, The Water Club Restaurant
- John Ryan**
Chairman and CEO, Macrovision Corporation
- Elizabeth Shannon**
Boston University
- Michael Tiernan**
Managing Director, Tiernan Properties Ltd.
- Daniel P.N. Tierney**
Chairman and Chief Executive, The Cross Group
- Bill Whelan**
Musical Composer
- Terry Wogan**
Broadcaster

*Succeeded Roger Downer in May 2006

ULF is currently undertaking fundraising campaigns for the Kemmy Business School, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and the Pedestrian Living Bridge.



The National Technology Park (NTP) is a Science and Technology Park that has, since its inception in 1984, been a partnership development between Shannon Development, UL and other interests.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PARK

ICT, healthcare and e-business are the dominant sectors at NTP. The Park has become home to a growing and influential nucleus of high-technology and knowledge-based companies (in excess of 80 enterprises) in its 650-acre parkland site on the banks of the river Shannon at Plassey.

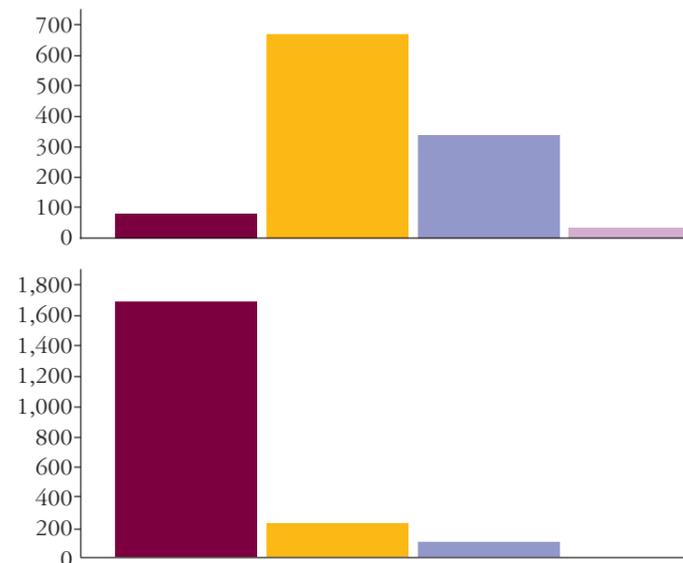
NTP has attracted major multinational players such as Cook, Vistakon (Johnson & Johnson) and Ophitecs Euro to the area. These multinational subsidiaries work alongside highly sophisticated indigenous companies, such as Zetes Blackbird and SAI. There are almost 3,000 skilled professionals employed on the Park.

The following new companies based their activities at NTP during 2006: Northern Trust, Roving Ireland Ltd, Lero, Cratlon Ltd, Advanced Innovations Ltd, Kneat Solutions Ltd and Technopath.



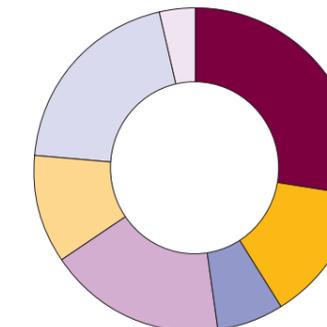
There are almost 3,000 skilled professionals employed on the National Technology Park.

GRADUATES BY LEVEL OF AWARD 2006



GRADUATES BY DISCIPLINE 2006

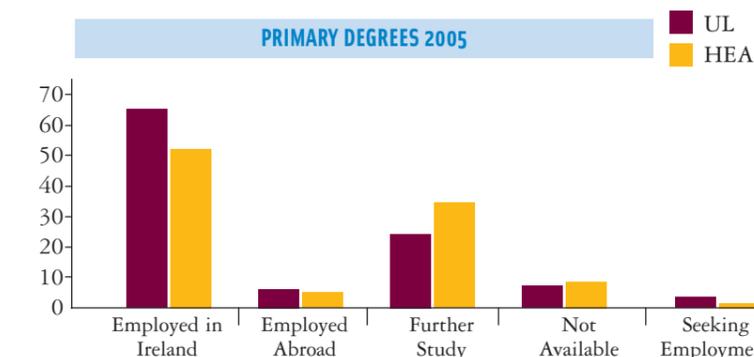
Business	884	27.7%
Education	430	13.5%
Engineering	212	6.7%
Humanities	563	17.7%
Informatics & Electronics	351	11.0%
Science	639	20.0%
Interdisciplinary	110	3.4%
TOTAL	3,189	100%



FIRST DESTINATION OF GRADUATES 2005

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK	
Employed in Ireland	62%
Employed abroad	6%
Further study	24%
Not available	5%
Seeking employment	3%
Response rate	90%

ALL IRISH UNIVERSITIES	
Employed in Ireland	62%
Employed abroad	6%
Further study	24%
Not available	5%
Seeking employment	3%
Response rate	90%



CAMPUS MAP

CAMPUS MAP

- 1 Main University Entrance
- 2 East Gate Entrance
- 3 Castleboy Park Hotel & Conference Centre
- 4 Plassey Student Village
- 5 International Science Centre
- 6 Robert Schuman Building
- 7 International Business Centre
- 8 Computer Science Building
- 9 Silver Apples Canteen
- 10 Glucksman Library and Information Services Building
- 11 Foundation Building and University Concert Hall
- 12 Engineering Research Building and Millstream Courtyard
- 13 Main University Building
- 14 Plassey House and University Close
- 15 Visitors Information Centre
- 16 Student Centre, Shops, Banks, Bars
- 17 Kathleen Lonsdale Building
- 18 Materials and Surface Science Institute
- 19 Sports Building and National Coaching and Training Centre
- 20 Schrodinger Building
- 21 Grounds/Maintenance Compound
- 22 University Arena including 50 metre Pool
- 23 The Sports Club
- 24 Kilmurry Student Village
- 25 Horticultural Unit
- 26 Ormeau Student Village
- 27 Thomond Student Village
- 28 Health Sciences Building
- 29 Cappawilla Student Village
- 30 Pedestrian Footbridge

