



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



Annual Report *Academic Year 2009/2010*



University *of* Limerick

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Annual Report

Academic Year 2009/2010

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This Annual Report covers the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010. It is available on the UL website at www.ul.ie/web/WWW/Services/News under the Publications section.

CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

This is my third Statement for the University of Limerick's Annual Reports since my term of office as Chancellor began in January 2008. During 2009/10, 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 second 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 highlights throughout the year include the launch of the UL/NUIG Strategic Alliance. This is a partnership between both universities which harnesses their respective strengths to address needs that will drive vital research and academic excellence. The Alliance is significant in that it spans all the key areas of activity in both institutions, including teaching, research, technology transfer, lifelong learning and the provision of services. We know that the quality of our higher education system is critical to Ireland's economic recovery. It is essential that we position the system to fully exploit its potential in producing the smart people and the smart ideas that are required for our smart economy ambitions. I therefore applaud this year's announcement by UL and NUI Galway as an important practical contribution to meeting that challenge and as recognition by the two universities of the nature of the response that Ireland needs from its higher education system.

In June 2010, the University reinforced its reputation as Ireland's Sporting Campus when it welcomed over 2,100 athletes and coaches for the staging of the Special Olympics Ireland. In September 2010, the spectacular new home of the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance was officially opened. The €20 million building was specifically designed to best international standards to combine the elements of research, performance and teaching.

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 is 8% above the national average, and this is a strength that the University continues to emphasise and build upon.

The exercise of awarding honorary degrees is reserved to the Governing Authority, with the agreement of the Academic Council. The University of Limerick took great pleasure in conferring honorary doctorates upon Dr Frank M Daly, Dr Jerry Kennelly, Dr Anya Peterson Royce, Dr Oliver Patrick Murphy and Dr Edward M Walsh. All of the recipients were very worthy of their awards and their acceptance of these awards has brought great honour to the University.

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

I am honoured and delighted to present this Annual Report of the University of Limerick for the Academic Year 2009-10. Here at UL we have intensified our commitment to addressing the social, cultural and economic needs of the community we serve by generating the graduate expertise, the research breakthroughs and the innovative programmes and initiatives that will help to advance our society and create a better future for us all. There is no doubt that we live in extraordinary times and now more than ever we are challenged to maintain the confidence which brought us the success of the past and will lay the foundations of our future recovery. I am convinced that it is through partnership and great vision that we will see a bright future ahead

This year we commenced work on the UL Strategic Plan 2011-2015 which involves widespread consultations with many individuals in departments, divisions and faculties across this institution. It is our ambition that the plan will reflect UL's pioneering vision of innovation, excellence and a commitment to collaboration with the broader community. This year we also commenced work on the Tierney Building, which will house UL's Innovation Centre, and the Graduate Entry Medical School and the Irish World Academy building was completed. We welcomed the Special Olympics to campus and, launched the NUI Galway/UL Strategic Alliance which will support the development of the wider region to encourage indigenous enterprises and foreign direct investment, strengthen research and industry partnerships, and further a shared commitment to academic excellence. On the 'green technology agenda' UL we launched the Shannon Energy Valley and welcomed the US Secretary of Energy and Nobel Laureate Dr Steven Chu. The 'McCourt Chair in Creative Writing' was established in memory of our late friend Frank McCourt.

These accomplishments and much more are outlined in this year's Annual Report which I hope will illustrate the depth and breadth of UL's activities, impact and progress over the period under review. As I reflect on its contents I am especially appreciative of the wise counsel and support of the Chancellor and members of our Governing Authority as well as the collective commitment of our faculty, students and alumni.

The University of Limerick is fortunate to enjoy the active engagement of a wide network of individuals, organisations and supporters and partners both at home and abroad. Their help has been critical to our success and I salute their civic-mindedness.

I know I speak for all my colleagues in affirming that we are happy to renew our dedication to collaborate with all the members of the UL "family" in the years to come. Together we can make a significant and lasting contribution to Irish life and to the global community as we work in pursuit of our mission.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Professor Don Barry

President

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

List of Governors

1 October 2009 – 30 September 2010

Chancellor: Peter Malone

Members:

Professor Sean Arkins ^	Mrs Kay Doyle	Mr Fiach Mac Conghail
Professor Don Barry	Professor Jane Edwards	Professor Paul McCutcheon
Dr Marie Bourke	Mr John Fox	Ms Annette McElligott
Mr Michael J Bourke^^	Professor Tom Garavan^	Dr Seán McGrath
Mr Damien Clancy	Ms Anne Gleeson	Cllr David Naughton**
Dr Patricia Conlan	Dr John Hillery	Mr Joe O’Connell
Dr Peadar Cremin	Mr Michael Houlihan	Mr Bobby O’Connor
Mr Derek Daly	Mr Tadhg B Kearney	Mr Fachtna O’Driscoll
Ms Breda Deedigan	Cllr Kevin Kiely*	Ms Jackie O’Shaughnessy
Dr Eoin Devereux	Professor Peadar Kirby^	Mr Pat Rockett
Mr Ruan Dillon-McLoughlin	Dr J J Leahy	Ms Liz Stack

^ Elected November 2009

* Succeeded by Cllr Maria Byrne in July 2010

** Succeeded by Cllr Michael Sheehan in July 2010

^^ Succeeded by Mr Dan Comerford in July 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 & 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 term of office of the current Governing Authority is 1 December 2007 to 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 a number of internal audit reports;
- Approved the UL Governance Statement for year ended 30 September 2009;
- Approved an internal audit charter;
- Approved a revised budget submission AY2009/2010;
- Approved the University budget strategy for AY2010/11;
- Approved the following human resource related policies:
 - Part-time Working Policy
 - Policy and Procedures for Workplace Dignity and Respect
 - Policy and Procedures on Employee Protection – Intoxicant Misuse
 - Equality & Diversity Policy

In addition, Governing Authority:

- Approved the University of Limerick Risk Management Policy
- Approved staff appointments
- Approved the appointment of the Dean Graduate School, Dr Huw Lewis
- Considered undergraduate intake levels for AY2009/10 and CAO applications for AY2010/11
- Approved the publication of three quality peer review reports on the UL website
- Approved the Disposal/Transfer of Assets Policy
- Approved funding plans for Medical School residences and the development of a Pavilion and all-weather pitches on the north campus

HONORARY DEGREES

During the year in review, four honorary degrees were conferred as follows:

Dr Ed Walsh

Dr Walsh is the Founding President of the University of Limerick, the first new university established in the history of the State. His name is synonymous with ground-breaking advances in third-level education in Ireland, and he has been described as an educational visionary and a transformational policy influencer.

Dr Walsh is credited with significantly expanding the University of Limerick with support from private philanthropic sources and pioneering a wide range of education innovations. Under Dr Walsh's leadership, the University introduced unique new programmes, such as Cooperative Education and international student and faculty exchanges, through European Union schemes such as the ERASMUS and Socrates programmes.

Dr Walsh has served as founding chairman of the Irish Council for Science Technology and Innovation, the National Technological Park, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Citywest's Growcorp and the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland. He has also served as chairman of the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities and of Shannon Development.

Dr Walsh currently serves on the boards of a number of organisations, including UL campus spin-out company Stokes Bio Ltd., which was founded by two UL researchers, Professor Mark Davies and Dr Tara Dalton.

Jerry Kennelly

Jerry Kennelly started his first business, Newsfax, a transmission service for news pictures, in 1981. Stockbyte was established in 1997 after Jerry Kennelly noticed a gap in the marketplace. Within five years, Stockbyte had become the third-largest supplier of royalty-free photographs in the world. The sale of Pixel Images Holdings, which included the brands Stockbyte and Stockdisc, to Getty Images was completed in 2006 for over €110 million and represented one of the most significant indigenous Irish success stories of the modern era.

Since becoming recognised as an internationally successful entrepreneur, Mr Kennelly has dedicated himself to fostering entrepreneurship among young people in schools and colleges. He created the Young Entrepreneur Programme, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to illustrating the validity of entrepreneurship as a career choice. Its mission is to help identify, inform, recognise and celebrate Kerry's next generation of business leaders and their educators.

Frank Daly

Frank was appointed Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners in March 2002 for a four-year period, which was subsequently extended. During his term as Chairman he oversaw the most fundamental restructuring of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners since its establishment in 1923. Mr Daly was appointed Chair of the new Commission on Taxation in March 2008 when the then Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen, cited his "wide-ranging senior public service management experience".

During his time as Chairman of Revenue, Frank Daly played a key role in supporting the development of an academic partnership between Revenue and the University of Limerick,

the first such partnership in the Irish Civil Service. Under this partnership, which commenced in 2004, Revenue and UL jointly developed two unique programmes for Revenue staff, the Diploma in Applied Taxation and the BA (Honours) in Applied Taxation.

Oliver Murphy

Oliver Murphy represented Ireland at the very first Paralympics games in 1960 and was determined with other athletes to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Ireland. The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) was founded by Mr Murphy and seven other wheelchair users when each put ten shillings into a hat on 10 November 1960.

Thanks to the work of the IWA, people with disabilities in Ireland can now expect to continue to live in their communities, realise their full potential as individuals and participate fully in every aspect of life. Mr Murphy is the last of the founding group of eight still alive. He is actively involved in advocacy work on the National Access Advisory Group as a mentor for young members and has made a truly exceptional contribution to Irish society.

Professor Anya Peterson Royce

Professor Anya Peterson Royce has 36 years of field experience in Mexico, and with 25 years of teaching experience at university level in the areas of anthropology of dance and performing arts, cultural and ethnic identity, and the ethnography of Mexico. She has written six books, edited two others and is a published poet. She was also a professional ballet dancer. Professor Royce has served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties at Indiana University and Provost and Academic Vice President at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. She consolidated and, in an essential way, defined the entire field of ethnochoreology with the publication in 1977 of her seminal book *The Anthropology of Dance*.

Professor Royce spent time at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL as one of several international consultants for the Stepping Stones initiative, which is concerned with the introduction of theatre-linked interests into the academic mission of the Academy.

ACADEMIC

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

Academic Council

New Programmes

During the course of the year under review, Academic Council approved the following programmes: Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering; Bachelor of Engineering (Engineering Choice); Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic and Computer Engineering; Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science; Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics; Specialist Diploma in Innovation Management; Specialist Diploma in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship; Graduate Diploma in Education (Mathematics Teaching); Master of Arts in English; Master of Arts in Festive Arts; Master of Engineering in Aeronautical Engineering; Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering; Master of Psychological Science; Master of Psychological Science in Social Psychology; Master of Science in Human Performance; Corporate Masters of Business Administration (Aviation Management); Structured PhDs: Education; Criminal Justice; New Media and Film; Theological Studies (MIC).

Following the establishment of the Interim Lifelong Learning Accreditation Board, the following specialist diploma programmes were created:

- Specialist Diploma in International Financial Services
- Specialist Diploma in Project Management
- Specialist Diploma in Technology Commercialisation
- Specialist Diploma in Web Application Development

Grading System for 'A Levels'

With effect from 2010, a new grade of A* is being introduced into the grading structure for A Levels. Arising from this, it has been necessary for the university sector to amend the scoring values assigned for A Levels. Academic Council agreed to approve the amended scoring system and has also recognised the Cambridge Pre U as an equivalent to the existing A Levels.

Other Developments

Labour Market Activation 2010 (DETE & DoES)

The new fund is targeted at two groups within the unemployed: the low skilled and those formerly employed in declining sectors, such as construction, retail and manufacturing, with particular emphasis on those under 35 and the long-term unemployed (i.e. unemployed for at least one year).

Shannon Consortium institutions (led by UL) were awarded seven contracts (with a total value of €1.4 million) out of the 26 contracts granted nationally. This represented an excellent outcome given that three-quarters of available places were aimed at those with qualifications below Leaving Certificate level. The programmes were designed for job-seekers throughout the region and were delivered in a flexible manner to facilitate maximum engagement with the target student cohorts. In all, more than 500 part-time places in Shannon Consortium institutions were funded, with 150 places on UL programmes and a further 80

places available on the Consortium foundation programmes delivered in Limerick city centre and Ennis.

University of Limerick Strategic Plan

The revision of the University of Limerick Strategic Plan involved consultations between the President and VPA&R and all the faculties and divisions, along with the trade union and the partnership committee.

Following the consultations, four key goals were agreed:

Goal 1: We will provide an outstanding and distinctive experience to every one of our students to enable them to become knowledgeable, skilled and confident graduates.

Goal 2: We will further enhance our research profile and strengthen the impact of our research, both nationally and internationally.

Goal 3: We will sharpen our international focus in all areas of activity.

Goal 4: We will be renowned for the excellence of our contribution to the economic, educational, social and cultural life of Ireland in general and the Shannon region in particular.

The document entitled “Pioneering and Connected: Strategic Plan 2011-2015” is being drafted and will be presented to Governing Authority in October 2010.

Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)

All SIF 1 projects were completed in June 2010. The Shannon Consortium Final Report “Statement of Outputs & Outcomes” was presented to the HEA in October 2010.

Mainstreaming/sustainability plans for all projects were presented in the final report with one of the following outcomes:

- Projects fully mainstreamed into core provision (e.g. Graduate School, Regional Writing Centre).
- Shared Service Agreements in place with partners [IDEAS (agreement with IoTI under www.Bluebrick.ie): Regional Teaching and Learning Awards and Assistive Technologies jointly funded under shared service agreements across the Consortium].
- Short-term sustainability planning in place to end 2011 (student ambassador programmes, Downtown Centre, etc.) and subject to further review and resource planning May/June 2011 for AY2011/2012.
- Projects integrated into SIF 2 projects (e.g. Regional Maths Learning Centre and Regional Science Learning Centre activities combined with the National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning).
- Projects discontinued (e.g. Regional Language Learning Centre).

In terms of the SIF Cycle 2 projects (funding period 1/09/2008 – 31/08/2011), all projects due for completion are on time and within budget, with sustainability planning underway.

NUI Galway- UL Strategic Alliance

The NUI Galway-UL Strategic Alliance was launched on 18 February 2010 in the Royal Irish Academy by An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD, Tánaiste Mary Coughlan TD and Minister for Education Batt O’Keefe TD. The VPA&R is co-chair of the Alliance Steering Group. The Steering Group has identified a series of teaching and learning, research, technology transfer and shared services priorities for development in the coming year. Other key milestones in

the Strategic Alliance include the official launch of the Shannon Energy Valley in Silicon Valley, California by An Taoiseach; the launch of Georgia Tech Ireland, a joint translational research initiative attended by An Taoiseach and the commencement of the *Link to Learn* programme.

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

Public Agenda-Setting Lecture

This year's Public Agenda-Setting Lecture was held in March 2010 and was delivered by Professor Kathleen Lynch, Professor of Equality Studies at University College Dublin, on the theme "*Serving the Public Interest? The Role of Higher Education in Promoting a Just and Equal Society*".

Official Opening of Languages Building

The Minister of State for Overseas Development, Peter Power TD, opened the new state-of-the-art Languages Building at the University of Limerick on 1 February 2010. The 1,645sq m building houses world-class language learning facilities, multimedia and language laboratories, seminar rooms, a Languages Support Unit, open learning areas and academic offices. In addition to providing a home for the UL Language Centre and the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication, the building provides offices for Eurocall and for Aonad na Gaeilge, the unit dedicated to promoting the use of the Irish language across the campus.

Research

Publications during the year included eleven single authored or co-authored books as well as seven edited books.

Professor Tom Lodge, Department of Politics and Public Administration, was awarded the Faculty Research Excellence 2010 Award.

Dr Tadgh Ó hÍfearnáin and Professor Geraldine Sheridan of the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication both won IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowships.

During the year the following research conferences and symposia were organised and held at the University of Limerick:

- 11th Conference in Irish-German Studies, "The Irish Palatines in Context, International Conference on Gender, Sexuality and Theories of the Image"

- Researching Young Lives: Power, Representation and the Research Process
- 5th International Conference of Hispanic Linguistics
- France, Great Britain and Ireland, Cultural Transfers and the Circulation of Knowledge in the Age of Enlightenment
- Oral History Symposium
- International Conference on Women's Memory Work: Gendered Dilemmas of Social Transformation

McCourt Chair in Creative Writing

President Don Barry announced the creation of the McCourt Chair in Creative Writing during the year. This chair is an acknowledgement of the close ties between the late Frank McCourt and the University of Limerick, reflected not only in his work at the University as a creative writer but, more latterly, in his involvement with the University of Limerick Foundation.

Professional Accreditation

The new LLB (Law Plus) programme was awarded accreditation as a qualifying degree for the Kings Inns (the professional body for barristers). The BA in Psychology and Sociology degree received accreditation from the Psychological Society of Ireland for a five-year period.

Investigating Current Issues in Irish Journalism

The Investigating Current Issues in Irish Journalism Seminar Series was launched by Irish Times Columnist Fintan O'Toole in February 2010. Other speakers in the series included Ombudsman and Information Commissioner Emily O'Reilly, Irish Examiner Mid-West Correspondent Jimmy Woulfe and Sunday Tribune Editor Nóirín Hegarty, and the series closing lecture was given by George Lee, former RTÉ Economics Correspondent and Fine Gael TD.

Irish World Academy of Music and Dance

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance has experienced a growth in student numbers since 2008/09 of approximately 10%. This has come about through the development of a new doctoral programme in Arts Practice and increased student numbers in several programmes, notably the BA Voice and Dance, which remains the only programme of its kind in Ireland. The Academy's proportion of international students remains one of the highest in the University, attracting students from all five continents.

Key Developments

- The Stepping Stones programme of strategic development continues with the approval of a new MA Festive Arts. The MA Festive Arts full programme documentation was completed and approved by the programme design team.
- Linked to the development of the MA Festive Arts is the parallel development of an international arts festival for Limerick. The festival will function as an important pedagogical resource for the programme. Following a competitive process, Mr David Elford was appointed to carry out the feasibility study for the *Limerick Living Bridge Festival*.
- A new senior administrative post and technical officer post were approved to support the expansion of the Academy in the context of the new building and the Stepping Stones initiative.
- The first cohort of Arts Practice students arrived in September 2009, including renowned sean-nós singer Iarla Ó Lionáird, dancer, choreographer and former Riverdance lead Breandán de Gallaí, Irish harpist Michelle Mulcahy and early music singer Sharon Lyons.
- New scholarship initiatives announced at the Academy this year included the Paul Brady Blas summer-school scholarship, the Sing Out with Strings scholarships (a joint initiative with the Irish Chamber Orchestra) and the Stepping Stones postgraduate scholarships.
- A new outreach project connected with the Sing Out with Strings scholarship initiative includes the development of a singing and string-based classroom project in primary schools in the Limerick regeneration area. In addition, the Academy and the Irish Chamber Orchestra collaborated on the SANCTUARY Global Song programme in Presentation Primary School, one of the most multicultural schools in Limerick city.
- The Irish World Academy has formed a collaborative relationship with CIIMDA, the Centre for Indigenous Instrumental Music and Dance Practices of Africa, located at Pretoria University.
- Artists in Residence in the Academy this year included Dónal Lunny, Liz Roche, Colin Dunne, Jean Butler, Rex Levitates Dance Company and the Chieftains.
- The Academy launched a new e-journal, *Inbhear*, an annual, multi-disciplinary publication concerned with performance practices of music and dance in Ireland.
- Two Irish World Academy ensembles, ACADEMOS and CANTORAL, performed at the Society for Ethical Culture in New York City at the invitation of the Irish Arts Center, NY with support from Culture Ireland in February 2010.

Faculty of Education and Health Sciences

The Faculty of Education and Health Sciences (EHS) is a constellation of six departments and the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS), which is unique among Irish third-level institutions.

Highlights

- GEMS achieved its target intake of 69 EU and 32 non-EU students.
- EHS graduated a total of 475 undergraduate students, 327 taught postgraduate students, 11 Masters by Research and 5 PhD students.
- Problem-based learning and active learning pedagogies remain a key feature of innovative teaching in several departments.
- EHS held a half-day teaching workshop focused on the role of feedback in teaching and learning.

Curriculum Developments

EHS added four new programmes as approved by Academic Council:

- MSc Psychology (Sept 2010 intake)
- MA Psychology (Sept 2011 intake)
- Grad Dip (Ed) Teaching Mathematics (Department of Mathematics & Statistics) (2010 intake)
- Structured PhD (Education) (2010 intake)

Programme Accreditation and Departmental Reviews

Due to the professional orientation of many programmes, EHS staff spent significant time preparing for, hosting and responding to accreditation/reaccreditation reports and site visits during the year:

- Psychological Association of Ireland: BSc Psych/Soc (Psych/Soc)
- Psychological Association of Ireland: PhD in Clinical Psych
- Teaching Council: Grad Dip in Teaching Mathematics
- Medical Council: BSc Medicine/Surgery (GEMS)
- Teaching Council: BEd in Modern Languages

Programmes Reaccredited

- Teaching Council: BSc (Ed) Biological Sciences (EPS/Physics & Chemistry)
- An Bord Altranais: Undergraduate programmes (Nursing/Midwifery)

Quality Reviews

Quality reviews were completed by five departments:

- Nursing/Midwifery
- Education and Professional Studies
- Physiotherapy
- Speech and Language Therapy

- Occupational Therapy

Staff Appointments (AY 2010/11)

- Professor Alan Donnelly, appointed Assistant Dean of Research.
- Dr Ross Anderson, appointed Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs.
- Mr Larry O'Connor, appointed Head of Department of Nursing and Midwifery.
- Dr Eric Igou, appointed Head of Department of Psychology.

Conferences and Events

- The Research Centre for Education and Professional Practice (RCEPP) hosted the following seminars:
 - ‘The Continuum of Initial Teacher Education’ with Dr Paul Conway from UCC
 - ‘Towards an Understanding of the Measurement of Individual Progression in Adult Guidance: A Case-Study Approach’ with Lucy Hearne
 - ‘Levels of Moral Reasoning of Students at Irish Universities’ with Dr Joanne O’Flaherty
 - ‘Balancing Relevance and Rigor in Researching Educational Technology’ with Professor Steven M Ross
- The GEMS Research Series continued with this presentation by Professor Eamonn Quigley, University College Cork: ‘Studies on the pathophysiology of irritable bowel syndrome: opportunism as the basis for a clinical research programme!’
- In association with Limerick Regeneration, GEMS held a symposium (March) on ‘Living well with multi-morbidity: the emerging role of primary care in deprived communities’
- The Biomechanics Research Unit, PESS hosted a seminar entitled ‘The Role of Physiotherapy in Elite Sports Performance’ presented by Dr Johnson McEvoy. The unit also hosted a seminar discussing emerging trends in athlete and team performance monitoring in February, which was presented by Danny Rutar, BSc, Director of Redback Biotek Ltd.

Other Developments

- The Faculty of EHS (under the leadership of Ms Bernie Quillinan) partnered with Milford Care Centre to be part of a successful bid for an All Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care.
- The HSE approved a new cohort of midwifery students for the 18-month midwifery programme to begin in September 2010.
- The Biomechanics Research Lab in the PESS Department opened a new golf research facility that includes a new underfoot pressure system donated by Padraig Harrington as well as a full indoor driving bay, launch monitor and high-speed cameras. The system allows the golfer to look at shot distances, accuracy, ball spin and speeds and compare to the professional golfer statistics on the television screen.
- Dr Jim Gleeson, Department of Education and Professional Studies, was invited to participate in the UK’s Strategic Forum for Research in Education, chaired by Andrew Pollard. This is significant recognition of Jim’s status in the field of educational research internationally.
- Dr Drew Harrison was elected President of the International Society of Biomechanics in

Sports.

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 new faculty is a vibrant community that offers 40 undergraduate degree programmes to 3,500 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 478. 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. More recently, 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 students and 22 masters students in 2010.

Key Developments

The Tierney Building

Construction of a new building to house the new UL Innovation Centre was completed. The building provides an incubation space and support services for potential start-up companies as well as providing a home for Lero. This project was supported through funding from Enterprise Ireland and the Higher Education Authority as well as UL Foundation board-member Dan Tierney and the Tierney family.

Key Events

- Some 5,000 visitors attended the University of Limerick Festival of Science, Engineering & Technology organised by the Faculty of Science & Engineering for National Science Week. The aim of the Festival was to ignite an interest and fascination in science and engineering, especially in young people and the public generally. Local industries also participated, including Analog Devices, Intel Shannon, Scientific Chemical and Merck, Sharp and Dohme.
- A team of volunteers from UL-based MACSI (Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry) and the NCE-MSTL (National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning) held an action-packed week of maths events to mark this year's National Maths Week in October. The events took place at UL, the Limerick Milk Market and schools in Tipperary town, Thurles and Ennis. A one-day Science Fair was run as part of Maths Week in Mallow, Co Cork in association with the Mallow Development Partnership Group. Industries in the Munster and Cork region participated in the fair.
- United States Secretary of Energy and Nobel Laureate Dr Steven Chu visited UL to meet UL researchers and to be briefed on advances the University has made in energy research.

Dr Chu met with a number of UL's researchers as well as industry partners, including the ESB and Wavebob at an Energy Research Networking Event. Dr Chu was briefed on Shannon Energy Valley, an initiative developed by UL, NUI Galway, Shannon Development and the ITLG to establish Ireland's Shannon region as a major renewable energy hub.

- The Department of Life Sciences welcomed over 400 Leaving Certificate Biology students from all over Munster into its state-of-the-art laboratories in January. The Department provided the students with the opportunity to conduct laboratory practicals on the Biology curriculum and to use UL's facilities for revision purposes.

Funding and Awards

- Dr Peter Childs (Associate Director of NCE-MSTL and Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Sciences) and Ms Sarah Hayes (Research Officer) were successful in securing funding (€721,789) to develop a programme for Student Active Learning in Science (SALIS) under the EU Tempus programme. The goal of the project is to create structures in the beneficiary countries with the primary aim of enhancing the active learning of science in second-level schools.
- In August the visiting board of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) recommended to the RIAI Council the full accreditation of the School of Architecture at UL (SAUL).
- Final-year architecture students at UL were awarded joint first prize at an international design workshop in Hamburg where they competed against entrants from Barcelona, Hamburg, Istanbul, Okinawa, Oxford, Sheffield and Stockholm.
- Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) accreditation was gained for the BSc Construction Management & Engineering. Under the leadership of Course Director Dr Colm Cryan, this achievement will make the programme highly competitive in the CAO process.
- The Institute of Physics in Ireland awarded the 2010 Earnshaw Medal to Eileen Armstrong from the Department of Physics, University of Limerick. The Earnshaw Medal is awarded each year to the undergraduate physics student who presents the best final year project. Eileen conducted her final year project entitled 'Electron Microscopy Study of Hydrothermally Synthesized Single Crystal Cadmium Sulfide' under the supervision of Dr Colm O'Dwyer of the Department of Physics and was co-supervised by Dr Calum Dickinson of the Materials & Surface Science Institute.
- The International Society for Optics and Photonics, SPIE, honoured Dr Martin J. Leahy in Bellingham, Washington. Dr Leahy was recognised for his achievements in entrepreneurship, research and education in the fields of biophotonics and microcirculation imaging.

Appointments

Dr Jeff Punch was appointed Director of Stokes Research Institute. He has been involved in Stokes Research Institute since its inception, in recent years directing its portfolio of activities on micro-mechanical engineering.

Dr Michael Hinchey, Director, Lero, was appointed as a member of the Computer Science Evaluation Group of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for a three-year term ending June 2013.

SFI Research Funding Awards

UL was awarded three Principal Investigator grants by Science Foundation Ireland through funding totalling €2,350,000. The awardees were as follows:

- Professor Ake Rasmuson, Crystal Nucleation of Pharmaceutical Compounds, €858,131
- Professor Noel O'Dowd and Professor Sean Leen, Materials for Energy: Multiscale, Thermomechanical Characterisation of Advanced, High Temperature Materials for Power Generation (METCAMP), €541,912
- Dr Conor Ryan, Multi-core Attribute Grammatical Evolution, €944,214

UL and NUI Galway collaborated under the Strategic Alliance to purchase a share of the Stokes computing cluster operated by the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC). This guarantees UL and NUI Galway researchers access to the Stokes supercomputer and the software libraries, compilers and other tools contained therein. This will allow researchers from both institutions to access computing resources to run large-scale processing and compiling jobs.

Iowa Governor Chet Culver and oil giant Petrobras were in Rio de Janeiro in December to consult with leading experts from Europe and Latin America at an international conference on biomass and second generation biofuels based on a research project, DIBANET, led by the University of Limerick. The meeting brought together key players in scientific communities and industry to discuss how Europe and Latin America can work together to produce diesel-compatible fuels sustainably and cheaply.

Professor Bashar Nuseibeh, Lero's Chief Scientist, delivered his inaugural lecture, entitled 'Requirements for Software Everywhere'. With the aim of addressing real industrial problems, Bashar's research projects have involved industrial collaborations with organisations like Philips, Texas Instruments, the UK National Air Traffic Services (NATS), and NASA, where he spent a sabbatical in 1998.

Kemmy Business School

The Kemmy Business School (KBS) comprises four academic departments: Accounting and Finance, Economics, Management and Marketing, and Personnel and Employment Relations. Over 2,800 students, including approximately 2,348 undergraduate students, were registered on KBS programmes during 2009/10.

Key Developments

- The Global Accreditation Center of the Project Management Institute (based in Pennsylvania) accredited the Masters in Project Management for a period of seven years from 1 February 2010. This is further international recognition of the high-quality programmes offered by the KBS.
- A new Masters in Business Administration (Aviation Management) was launched in autumn 2010. The programme was designed jointly with aviation industry experts and UL faculty.
- The Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE), Gütersloh, Germany announced that the Department of Economics, UL has been ranked as one of two Irish universities to achieve Excellence Group status in Economics because of its achievements in citations and staff mobility. CHE is a well-respected international rankings centre for higher education.
- Fionnuala O'Reilly and Sorcha Breen, both students on the Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) with French programme, represented the Kemmy Business School at the 15th International Student Congress in Riga, Latvia. The congress brought together students from all European countries. The lectures and workshops were aimed at helping students to gain a better understanding of the process of integration within Europe.
- Patrick Beggan, a 2009 BBS graduate, was one of two candidates selected to represent Ireland at the 2009 ITU Youth Forum in Geneva. The ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the United Nations' specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). Patrick was selected by the ITU from a panel of four Irish representatives chosen from an open competition run by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Research

- As part of the further implementation of the KBS research strategy, the four KBS research themes – Work, Knowledge and Employment; Services Economy and Tourism; Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Marketing; and Public Policy, Enterprise, Governance and Sustainability – have now been placed under the broad research theme of *Organisation Science and Public Policy*. This theme best supports the School's vision 'to inform and shape thinking to meet challenges in work, business and society'.
- In January 2010, the KBS developed a research metric that provides details of KBS research activity (since 2006) under 18 research headings. The overriding objective of the metric is to benchmark KBS research over time so as to take stock of our achievements as well as driving and improving our research activities and outputs in moving forward. The information in the metric will be updated and collected bi-annually.
- The Kemmy Business School and *The Irish Times* announced the 'Paul Tansey Economics Postgraduate Research Scholarship, which will be awarded to a PhD research student enrolling in 2010 at the Graduate Centre of Business, home to more than 80

postgraduate research students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees. The value of the scholarship is €14,000 per annum plus fees for a maximum of three years.

Events and Seminars

- The National Centre for Tourism Policy Studies hosted the first Annual National Tourism Policy Workshop at Dromoland Castle with Professor Jim Deegan as Conference Director.
- Dr Alan Ahearne, J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, NUI Galway, delivered the 18th Annual John Lovett Memorial Lecture entitled ‘Ireland’s Economic Crisis: Implications for the Labour Market’.
- The National Centre for Taxation Studies (NCTS), in partnership with the Revenue Commissioners, hosted the 10th European Conference on eGovernment. Government representatives, academics and policy makers from all five continents attended the conference. The conference was co-chaired by Tom Collins, NCTS Director.
- The KBS hosted an international workshop in February for a cohort of MBA students from Wroclaw University of Economics, Poland. The four-day programme consisted of a mix of academic workshops and site visits. The choice of the KBS as the host location for this international workshop is based on an established, 15-year working relationship between UL staff and Wroclaw University of Economics, which now includes undergraduate student exchanges under the ERASMUS programme and visiting teaching appointments by UL staff on the Wroclaw University of Economics MBA programme.
- Peter de Jager gave an induction address, entitled ‘The Many Faces of Leadership’, to all KBS postgraduate students. Mr de Jager is a keynote speaker/writer/consultant on issues relating to the challenge of managing change of all types within organisations. He is a prolific writer and has delivered several keynote addresses on topics ranging from problem solving, creativity and change to the impact of technology. His audiences have included the World Economic Forum, the World Bank and the Bank for International Settlements.
- Mr Willie Walsh, CEO of British Airways, who recently launched the BA luxury jet service from London to the United States (through Shannon), delivered a lecture at UL in October 2009 entitled ‘A Sustainable Future for Aviation’ as part of the KBS Distinguished Lecture series.

Awards

- Formal EU Commission grant approval was given for a European Commission ‘Framework 7 Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)’ project led by KBS staff. The INTREPID network comprises of a group of international scholars involved in closely linked studies on management practice in multinational companies (MNCs) across different national contexts. The Principal Investigator (PI) is Professor Patrick Gunnigle, and the UL team includes Dr Anthony McDonnell, Dr Ryan Lamare, Dr Jonathan Lavelle and Professor Michael Morley.
- Professor Tom Garavan of the Department of Personnel and Employment Relations has been acclaimed as a Leading Editor in the Literati Network 2010 Awards for Excellence. The awards acknowledge the high commitment editors give to their journals and their efforts to raise and maintain the standing of the journals.
- Dr Naomi Birdthistle, Department of Management and Marketing, was the winner of the Emerald Literati Outstanding Reviewer’s award for 2010 for her contribution to the Journal of European Industrial Training.

- Dr Helena Lenihan was awarded the National Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, on behalf of the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL).
- Dr Conor Carroll, Department of Management and Marketing, was awarded the UL Excellence in Teaching Award.
- Forty high-achieving UL business and management students were honoured with Outstanding Scholar Awards at the annual Kemmy Business School Awards ceremony.
- Dr Rebecca Purcell, PhD graduate from the Kemmy Business School, received the Frederick A. Krehbiel II medal for her PhD thesis research, entitled ‘An Investigation of Multi-Level External Knowledge Search Activity in Organisations’.

The internationalisation of the School is a key objective and was given further expression during the year through staff exchanges, overseas teaching assignments and participation in international research networks and projects.

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

- The First Seven Weeks programme was launched in September 2010. This new initiative is designed to provide strong, enhanced and targeted support to students during the very early weeks of their time as UL students. Each of the first seven weeks has its own theme and is designed to focus students' attention on various issues that we know are important for settling in and thriving as a higher education student.
- Dr Conor Carroll won a NAIRTL National Teaching Excellence Award and Dr Elaine Doyle won the University award for large group teaching. The Regional Excellence in Teaching Award process was won by Dr Deirdre Ní Chroínín, Lecturer in Physical Education in Mary Immaculate College.
- Peer observation has continued to provide a forum for partners to learn both from being observed and acting as the observer. With 30 new participants engaging with the process during the year, the project has been hugely valuable.
- Some 553 UL staff attended a series of workshops and lunchtime seminars.
- The Specialist Diploma in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship was launched in February 2010.
- A Teaching and Learning service level agreement was reached between CTL and IT Tralee (ITT), whereby CTL will provide teaching and learning support to ITT faculty.
- There was strong uptake of the formative teaching evaluation process during the year with over 10,876 student evaluations contributing to 474 separate module assessments.
- The enhancing learner awareness online service gives students a customised analysis of their learning preferences and helps them to develop a learning strategy for their years at university. September 2010 saw 1,363 new students benefit from the service and demand is growing rapidly.

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.

Teaching Technology

- Continued support of the Learning Management System (Sulis) and anti-plagiarism software (Turnitin) with 136 academic staff members attending training and TEL consultations and 531 training technical and advice calls being responded to during this period.
- Management of the Technology Enhanced Learning Community of Practice at UL.
- Online tutorials that investigate, implement and evaluate the use of virtual classrooms integrated with LMS for distance learning students.
- Design of support documentation, videos, FAQs for the CTL website (www.ul.ie/ctl), including Sulis and Turnitin (600 pages of documentation and 50 videos).

UL Writing Centre

During this period, the Writing Centre played an extremely effective role in the development of innovative learner support, enhancing fundamental transferable skills that are relevant to students from all disciplines. During the lifetime of its SIF contract, over 75 key writing-enhancement programmes, attended by over 11,000 participants from across the region, were offered, including the following:

- Design, delivery and development of modules in writing
- Integration of writing into course support and curriculum development: Writing in Disciplines
- Expansion of the one-to-one Peer-tutoring in Academic Writing initiative

The Writing Centre has delivered on its promise to bolster recruitment and retention efforts by:

- Facilitating early intervention and providing ongoing support
- Providing support for targeted groups such as mature students, students in Access and foundation programmes, non-native speakers of English and postgraduate researchers
- Employing innovative and cost-effective techniques such as the peer-tutoring model, an interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of writing in the disciplines
- Equipping academic staff with an approach and a framework for the teaching and enhancement of student writing
- Enhancing scholarship that will attract postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers.

In May 2010, the University of Limerick Executive Committee accepted the proposal to mainstream the Regional Writing Centre at UL following the completion of the SIF-funded contract.

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. As a result of its involvement in the LLP programme, UL received the Erasmus Success Story award for the second year in succession.

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 HEA Survey of 2010 graduates shows that over 64% of UL graduates go directly into employment, representing an increase of 7% on the previous year.

International Education

The International Education Division (IED) continues to implement UL's Strategic Plan in relation to the internationalisation of the campus. 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 65 countries to these programmes in 2009/10. International students are defined as full-time and visiting non-Irish students.

IED continued to promote UL in 2009/10 in a wide range of countries, including Canada, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA, with a view to the recruitment of fee-paying international students. Personnel in IED have also engaged with emerging markets such as Bangladesh, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. In many cases, IED worked closely with colleagues in other Irish University Association institutions and various Irish state agencies. UL was chair of the Irish University Association, International Officers group for 2009.

The University signed new memoranda of understanding with non-EU partner universities, including the University of Science and Technology, Beijing and Xidian University, China. These agreements include provision for academic and staff exchange and the development of joint programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level between UL and partner institutions.

IED opened an office in Beijing in September 2010. This is the first representative office overseas, and the office manager, Lynn Yang, will coordinate IED's China Strategy for the Beijing base.

In 2009/10, a further 20 new student exchange agreements were signed with European institutions, bringing the total number of EU partner universities to 229, in addition to 50 international partnership agreements. A total of 253 UL students studied abroad under the Erasmus programme, while a further 61 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.

2009/2010 Figures

Category	Numbers
Full degree international students	352
Study Abroad programmes	343
Incoming exchange students (EU and non-EU)	458
Outgoing UL exchange students	314
Non-EU fee-paying research students	83

Department of Lifelong Learning and Outreach

In the period under review, activity and developments within the area of Lifelong Learning & Outreach have continued to grow. Non-traditional or blended modes of delivery continue to be the focus of ongoing growth, both in terms of specific initiatives to meet the needs of individual organisations and more generally in the context of continued growth in the number of individual modules and entire programmes that are being developed on an ongoing basis.

The economic downturn has impacted heavily on the Limerick and Mid-west region generally. The need to up-skill and re-skill is therefore essential for organisations and individuals. The University of Limerick has participated fully with previous Labour Activation initiatives launched by the Department of Education and Skills and was pleased to work with the Department again this year in making over 100 new places available for those participating in the SpringBoard initiative.

The Department of Lifelong Learning & Outreach, through its involvement in the Shannon Consortium, continued to offer pre-entry support services to adult learners through the SIF-funded Downtown Centre in Denmark Street, Limerick. The number of clients availing of free educational guidance at the Centre grew to over 360 in 2009/10, while the Centre continued its outreach guidance service in the Ennis and Killarney Regional Learning Centres. The provision of preparatory foundation studies for third-level applicants continued with the delivery of the Certificate in General Studies through the Downtown Centre. Thirty successful participants from the programme progressed to third-level studies in September 2010. A new delivery partnership for the Certificate was established in 2009/10 between the Shannon Consortium and the Limerick City Adult Education Service.

The Downtown Centre was appointed as the central coordinating and support unit for UL students who were eligible to benefit from the European Globalisation Fund (EGF), while the Downtown Centre Guidance Service was formally approved for the provision of pre-entry guidance as a provider under EGF.

In February 2010, the Downtown Centre was awarded the local Munster Award at the STAR Awards Ceremony for Adult Learning Projects in Dublin. The award recognises and celebrates the invaluable collaborative work undertaken by adult learning providers in the community. This award is considered by the Downtown Centre and its partners to be recognition of the collaborative nature of the project and the commitment it gives to adult learners in the community.

The Strategic Innovation in Education (SIE) initiative was established in 2008 by the UL-led Shannon Consortium, a pioneering education partnership between the four main third-level institutions in the mid-west: UL, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick IT and IT Tralee. SIE was constituted in response to the Limerick Regeneration Programme to target social disadvantage with a particular focus on enhancing the educational landscape of disadvantaged communities in Limerick's Regeneration areas.

Throughout the reporting period, SIE has acted as steward to a collaborative programme of investment in support of social regeneration objectives, involving the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Limerick Regeneration Programme and UL. The investment is enabling collaborative planning and development activities in support of key aspects of the Limerick Regeneration Master Plan, particularly in the areas of i) enhanced social and educational service quality for children and youth, families and older people and ii) greater community participation in the programme of regeneration. This investment will continue to the end of 2010, and

negotiations for a continuation of investment have already commenced with the investing parties.

The Department of Lifelong Learning & Outreach continues to engage with many community and regional groupings throughout the region and attends many fairs and other such events to market the University's lifelong learning programmes and opportunities. In addition, the department plays an active role at a national level in terms of advocacy for and development of a national policy for the development of lifelong learning. It also engages in and supports research and is currently involved in three EU-funded projects associated with varying strands of lifelong learning.

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 has transferred to the newly established Governing Authority Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Committee (GASPQA).

The work of the QSU includes preparing departments for review, managing the review process and guiding follow-up after the review. During AY2009/10, the following departments were engaged in those processes as follows:

Department	Stage of review process
Physiotherapy	In follow-up process after review visit 2008/9
Occupational Therapy	In follow-up process after review visit 2008/9
Speech & Language Therapy	In follow-up process after review visit 2008/9
Nursing & Midwifery	In follow-up process after review visit 2008/9
Chemical & Environmental Sciences	Undertook review in 2009/10
Education & Professional Studies	Undertook review in 2009/10
Life Sciences	Undertook review in 2009/10
Computer Science & Information Systems	Preparing to undertake review in 2010/11
Physics	Preparing to undertake review in 2010/11
School of Law	Preparing to undertake review in 2010/11

During 2010 and 2011, the emphasis will be on implementation of the European Standards and Guidelines and the forthcoming institutional review, due to take place in late 2011.

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 new Exit Survey was deployed to all graduating students and the results published.

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

FINANCE

Income

Income increased to €117.63 million from €108.61 million, representing a satisfactory growth of 8.3% over the previous year.

State grants increased from €52.57 million to €55.59 million, representing a growth of 5.8%, while student fee income increased 10.6% from €50.47 million to €55.84 million, facilitated by the continued increase in student numbers attending the University.

Income from other sources increased from €5.57 million to €6.20 million, a growth of 11.3%, due to an increase in contributions from research and other self-funded projects and non-EU student fee income.

Academic and Related Services Expenditure

Expenditure on academic and related services grew from €109.77 million to €118.70 million, an increase of 8.1%, reflecting 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. Pay represents 69% of this expenditure (2008: 69%). Faculties and departments account for 76% of the pay, excluding pensions, compared to 74% in the previous year. The total increase in pay costs of the University, excluding pensions, was €3.2m. There was an increase in faculties' and departments' pay of €3.6 million during the year, while there was a reduction in the pay costs of other areas of €0.4 million.

Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects

Contract research income increased by 1% from €30.73 million to €31.022 million during the year under review. It is important to note that the level of research income has an impact on the recurrent income and expenditure, particularly due to the fact that the overheads associated with research are not fully covered by research funding providers.

Expenditure on self-funded projects increased by 6.9% from €16.55 million to €17.69 million, which reflects the continued focus within the University on increasing non-State income.

Capital Programme

University capital expenditure amounted to €44.7 million during the year, of which €5.9 million related to equipment with the balance relating to land and buildings. This investment is a subset of the 2005–2010 physical development programme being implemented on campus.

€9.4 million was spent during the year on a new building, which will be completed in early 2010, for the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance on the Clare side of the campus. This new building will provide a riverside space where musicians, dancers, composers, singers, conductors and choreographers will collaborate together. Other projects on which work has progressed significantly during the year include the Graduate Entry Medical School Building and the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre (Lero).

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. The Network is a UL-based shared services operation that provides procurement services across the four higher education institutes. The network provides individual procurement services to each institution as well as aggregating spend across the four 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.

The Procurement and Supply Chain Office reviews the University's non-pay expenditure, both capital equipment and recurrent budget. Areas with potential for improved value for money are identified and tenders conducted. The Procurement Office processes suppliers with spends of less than €50,000 by means of a quality audit. The Procurement website (www.ul.ie/procurement) has been regenerated, with enhancements added to provide more information to UL employees, students, suppliers and other interested parties.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

CURRENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER

INCOME	NOTES	2009	2008
		€'000	€'000
State Grants	1	55,591	52,567
Student Fees	2	55,838	50,468
Other Income	3	6,200	5,570
		<u>117,629</u>	<u>108,605</u>
Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects	4	48,710	47,278
		<u>166,339</u>	<u>155,883</u>
Mary Immaculate College			
State Grants		21,397	14,452
Student Fees		9,408	8,952
		<u>(30,805)</u>	<u>(23,404)</u>
Total		<u>166,339</u>	<u>155,883</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Colleges and Departments	5	67,741	60,630
Academic and Other Services	6	11,144	10,780
Premises	7	12,684	12,972
Amount allocated for Capital Purposes	8	1,487	1,634
Central Administration and Services	9	10,449	12,207
General Educational Expenditure	10	1,946	1,784
Student	11	3,955	3,886
Miscellaneous Expenditure	12	9,293	5,876
		<u>118,699</u>	<u>109,769</u>
Contract Research and Other Self-Funded Projects	4	48,710	47,278
		<u>167,409</u>	<u>157,047</u>
Total	13	<u>167,409</u>	<u>157,047</u>
Deficit on Activities before Amortisation of Capital Reserves and Grants, Ancillary Services and Depreciation of Fixed Assets		(1,070)	(1,164)
Surplus/(Deficit) on Ancillary Services	14	97	(332)
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	15	(10,327)	(9,175)
General Reserve Movement	16	10,230	9,507
		<u>(1,070)</u>	<u>(1,164)</u>
NET DEFICIT for year	24	<u>(1,070)</u>	<u>(1,164)</u>

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

BALANCE SHEET**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER**

	NOTES	2009 €'000	2008 €'000
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	17	<u>339,157</u>	<u>304,813</u>
INVESTMENTS	18	<u>18,800</u>	<u>18,508</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank Balances and Cash		55,108	43,102
Debtors and Prepayments	19	<u>14,097</u>	<u>29,457</u>
		69,205	72,559
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	21	(81,421)	(65,411)
		<u>(81,421)</u>	<u>(65,411)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>(12,216)</u>	<u>7,148</u>
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Creditors due after one year	27	<u>(14,425)</u>	<u>(15,533)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u><u>331,316</u></u>	<u><u>314,936</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY		€'000	€'000
General Reserve	22	312,864	295,841
Restricted Reserves	23	24,113	23,686
Revenue Deficit	24	<u>(5,661)</u>	<u>(4,591)</u>
		<u><u>331,316</u></u>	<u><u>314,936</u></u>

RESEARCH

The research focus at the University of Limerick 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

- UL was awarded €14.7 million in research funding under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) Cycle 5 to support the expansion of the Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) and the establishment of three new structured PhD programmes in Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and Earth and Natural Sciences. This funding will significantly enhance the MSSI's research programme to develop new materials and methods in the strategically important areas of pharmaceuticals, composite materials, biomaterials, materials for energy conversion and biocatalysis.
- UL is part of a 12-partner consortium that was awarded €3.8 million from the EU FP7 Programme for the AEROMUCO project, which is developing and evaluating a number of alternative and highly innovative, active and passive multi-functional surface protection systems for future generation aircraft. UL will receive €375,000 from the EU for its contribution to this project.
- The Stokes Institute at UL achieved first place for its research project in an EU-wide programme on concentrated solar power (CSP) technologies. The project, which has downstream potential to create hundreds of Irish-based jobs in the manufacturing will test a new 'MACCsol' system for cooling solar power plants. The system was developed by UL in association with a Tullamore-based company, R&R. A grant of €4.1 million was awarded under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) to support this project.
- Researchers in Lero are part of a 12-partner consortium that was awarded €5.3 million under the FP7 Programme for a project on autonomic service component ensembles. Lero will receive over €500,000 for its research contribution to this project. The project is coordinated by Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München in Germany and includes industrial partners Volkswagen AG and Zimory GmbH. Lero also secured €627,672 in

EU funding for the Fastfix project, which aims to provide software developers with a maintenance environment that combines time efficiency with low cost and high precision.

- UL researchers were awarded two of the highly prestigious SFI Principal Investigator awards, one investigating the use of semiconductor optical amplifiers in high-speed optical communication systems and the second examining the mathematical modelling of bacterial growth and water quality in natural and commercial environments. A further three awards were received by UL researchers under the SFI Research Frontiers Programme.
- Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology (IRCSET) awarded UL funding for 18 postgraduate scholarships and 4 Enterprise Partnership Scheme postgraduate scholarships, valued at over €1.2 million. In addition, 3 UL researchers were awarded the prestigious IRCSET-Marie Curie co-funded International Mobility Fellowships in Science, Engineering and Technology.
- The Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) awarded UL funding for six postgraduate scholarships valued at over €360,000. In addition, two UL researchers received funding under the Research Development Initiative 2010.
- The application of commercially valuable research results continues to be a priority for the University. Twenty-one new invention disclosures were received from UL researchers, seven new patent applications were filed and four new patents were granted by the European Patent office and the US Patent Office. Furthermore, two new campus companies were formed, LearnOpt and Bearn Medical, and 10 technology transfer agreements were signed for 19 pieces of technology developments.
- In one of the biggest university spin-out acquisitions in the history of the State, UL spin-out Stokes Bio Ltd was bought by California-based Life Technologies for \$44 million. UL was a significant shareholder in Stokes Bio, which attracted investment from the Bank of Ireland Kernel Venture Capital Fund as well as being supported by Enterprise Ireland and UL. Stokes Bio develops microfluidics technologies for genetic analysis.
- UL researchers were granted a US patent on a revolutionary dialysis graft. This invention aims to improve the performance of grafts or artificial blood vessels used during dialysis and could radically reduce the number of surgeries among dialysis patients.
- A unique partnership has been forged between UL and NUI Galway with the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA to develop a joint Translational Research Institute. The Translational Research Institute will focus on the development and synergy of core technologies and expertise within the partner institutions to provide Irish industries with relevant and world-class research solutions.
- UL, NUI Galway, Shannon Development and Silicon Valley's Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG) launched the Shannon Energy Valley, a major renewable energy hub in Ireland's Shannon region. The Shannon Energy Valley initiative aims to create a national hub for energy research and development, industry and commerce with a view to attracting international investment and generating high-end employment in the region.

Postgraduate Numbers

Numbers of registered postgraduate students 2009/10

Faculty	Masters F/T	Masters P/T	Masters Total	PhD F/T	PhD P/T	PhD Total	Total
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	16	0	16	117	17	134	150
Business	0	5	5	35	30	65	70
Education & Health Sciences	24	8	32	47	13	60	92
Interfaculty	0	0	0	5	1	6	6
Irish World Academy Music & Dance	0	0	0	22	2	24	24
Science & Engineering	82	24	106	319	56	375	481
Totals	122	37	159	545	119	664	823

Numbers of registered taught postgraduate students 2009/10

Faculty	Masters F/T	Masters P/T	Masters Total	Grad Dip F/T	Grad Dip P/T	Grad Dip Total	Total
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	185	28	213	29	5	34	247
Business	246	86	332	0	0	0	332
Education & Health Sciences	175	34	209	125	162	287	496
Irish World Academy Music & Dance	76	0	76	0	0	0	76
Science & Engineering	131	24	155	49	13	62	217
Totals	813	172	985	203	180	383	1,368

ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Support Services

The Student Affairs Division provides a central, comprehensive range of academic administration 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 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 and Disability Support Services – provide specialist and dedicated services for students from these three under-represented groups.
4. A new area of development in Student Affairs (since 2009) is the Community Liaison Office. This office supports the access goals of the University by collaborating with academic and other departments and by working with local, regional and national educational partners. The office also manages the President’s Volunteer Award (PVA) Programme, in which students work on behalf of disadvantaged communities by volunteering for between 20 and 60 hours during the year in an external volunteer organisation, a ULSU Club/Society or an internal UL department.

All supports and services provided by Student Affairs focus on meeting students’ requirements and enhancing the student experience at UL. A number of committees chaired by or involving the Director of Student Affairs, including the President’s Volunteer Award Committee, Alcohol Policy, Governing Authority Access and Student Affairs Committee, focus on enhancing the UL student experience. 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).

The Access Office, Disability Support Services and Admissions Office continue to lead nationally on behalf of all Irish universities and a number of institutes of technology in the continuing development and migration to the CAO of the HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) schemes.

A number of SIF-funded projects involving the Access pillar are complete. Some activities have been mainstreamed, including the Student Ambassador Programme and the Mature Student Peer Mentoring Programme. Other projects (originally SIF-funded) continue to be implemented, such as Class of 2013, Traveller initiatives and the 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.

Information Technology

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
- 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 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 the University of Limerick by providing high-quality scholarly resources, information services and dedicated learning facilities.

Key Developments

The work of the IUA Librarians' Group, the HEA and the IUA Council to provide for the extension of IReL in 2010 and 2011 was the most critical achievement of the year. Access to over 65,000 electronic journal subscriptions across all subject areas was retained.

The Glucksman Library and the Buildings & Estates Division worked with the NDFA (National Development Finance Agency) and competing consortia on the much-needed phase 2 extension of the library building. Final tenders were submitted in June 2010. With regard to the current building, a working group with representation from the Library and Buildings & Estates produced a scoping document on refurbishment to include access control, improved security and acoustic control measures.

The University received funding from the Arts Council to establish Ireland's first national dance archive. The archive, a joint project with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, will be based in the Library. The funding came about through initiatives and a feasibility report carried out by Dance Research Forum Ireland, a body set up in 2003 by Dr Catherine Foley, Director of the MA Ethnochoreology and MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL.

The Library extended wired and wireless internet access throughout the building, a decision that was warmly welcomed by library users. Both methods of access provide more reliable, faster and convenient connectivity for all.

The Library worked with the Graduate School over the course of 2009/10 to amend academic regulations to allow for electronic thesis deposit. The first UL e-theses were made available on the University's institutional repository during the year. Open access to UL theses will advance the internationalisation of UL by raising our research profile with the global scholarly community and providing greater visibility and impact for UL researchers.

UL joined forces with the other Irish universities to launch RIAN, a national portal to the research output of the seven universities, via their individual institutional repositories. Under the leadership of the seven IUA Library directors, RIAN is the outcome of the HEA Strategic Innovations Fund project. The initiative began in April 2007 and was completed, on schedule, by March 2010.

The Library's suite of e-learning tutorials, which seeks to develop research skills for postgraduate students, was expanded in 2009/10 with the addition of four more modules: Research Methods in Arts & Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences and Doing a Literature Review.

To mark the hosting of LILAC (Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference) in Ireland during the year, the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) and the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL) jointly offered an award for achievement in the field of information literacy in Ireland. The Glucksman Library submitted two proposals, 'Cite it Right' – the Library's referencing guide – and the '23 Things @ UL' programme. Cite it Right, which was developed and delivered by the Information Services Department, came second in the national competition and received a commendation from the judging panel.

Notable acquisitions in Special Collections included one of the most eagerly awaited Limerick publications in many years, the Limerick Atlas by Eamon O’Flaherty. Other significant acquisitions included a very rare Ten Shilling token produced during the Limerick general strike of 1919 and two scrap albums belonging to Winifred Frances Barrington of Glenstal Castle.

This year the earliest copies of the Limerick Chronicle (the oldest surviving newspaper in the State), dating back to 1768, were digitised and made available to read online in full text on the University’s institutional repository. Online accessibility to this unique digital resource has been welcomed by scholars, researchers, academics and those with a keen interest in the history and heritage of 18th Century Limerick.

LISD Statistics 2009/10

Services		Collections	
Total loans	193,425	Catalogued monographs	314,611
Loans from short loan collection	34,219	Additions to stock in period	14,589
Loans from self-service points	70,020	Electronic books	197,531
Library visits	938,637	Print and electronic journals	65,447
Queries handled at Information Desk	17,278	Bibliographic and full-text databases	191
Information skills training sessions delivered in person hours	3,990	Interlibrary loans	2,637

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

- Eighty-three recruitment competitions were advertised.
- HR continued to roll out a range of continuous professional development programmes: 84 programmes were delivered to 1,084 employees.
- Financial support was provided to 45 employees 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 25 employees being matched from within the academic and administrative areas of the University. Workshops supporting the Mentoring Scheme continued during the year.
- In addition to leadership training offered by HR, a number of e-learning training initiatives were offered to managers and staff. These interactive online programmes were developed by 15 universities in the UK and Ireland. Used by 50 leading universities, these courses offer staff an opportunity to undertake programmes at a time and place that works best for them.
- The UL Pension Team presented Core Pensions to the IUA, which is reviewing the potential for shared services for pensions within the Irish university sector.
- Thirty-five participants attended the biannual two-day Retirement Planning training course that was run in conjunction with the Retirement Planning Council of Ireland.
- Thirty-one research recruitment competitions were held.
- The role profiles for researchers was agreed.
- The work authorisation process for researchers was extended to academic staff, resulting in significant reduction of recruitment times, cost savings and the ability to preserve family unification, as well as an expected reduction in time for eligibility for long-term residency.
- Significant work was undertaken on the research careers and development structure for the University of Limerick.
- A research leadership programme was finalised for rollout in 2010/11.
- An expression of interest in pursuing a HR Excellence in Research award will be submitted by UL by the end of September 2010.
- Online reports on key performance indicators (KPIs) were successfully rolled out to faculty managers.
- Enhancements made to the HR self-service portal provide additional functionality and information to UL employees.
- 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 Mike Byrne, Gary Coyle RHA, Gerard Dillon RHA RUA, Gerard Mannix Flynn, Catherine E Greene, Alice Maher ARHA, Maeve McCarthy RHA, Rosie McGurran ARUA, Brian MacMahon and Neil Shawcross. The Water Colour Society of Ireland expanded their membership during 2010, and the University of Limerick received an additional five new works, which were added to the 173 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:

Maighread Tobin	November 2009 – January 2010
34 th Annual Ev+a	February 2010 – April 2010
Views – Group Exhibition	May 2010 – June 2010
New Work by The Water Colour Society of Ireland	July 2010 – August 2010
Additions to National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland	September 2010 – October 2010
Journey through Line and Colour	November 2010
Pond Life	December 2010 – January 2011

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 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 2010, 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 in 2009 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. In 2010, the University hosted the Special Olympics Summer Ireland Games. Over 2,000 athletes and coaches were accommodated on campus, while an additional 9,000 visitors stayed locally in the city and county. An impact study of the games commissioned by Special Olympics and Shannon Development estimated the contribution of the games at €9 million to the regional 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 Irish World Academy Building
- 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, badminton, basketball and trampolining, pre-grand-slam-winning Ireland camps; high performance swimming that included three junior European gold medals; and national championship wins in men's and women's rugby and American football.

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, the recently opened Boathouse – home to the first indoor rowing tank in Ireland – and well over half a million annual visits, UL is now established as the leading sports facility in Ireland. Development is underway on the 'Field of Dreams' all-weather sports facility on the north campus, which will include four third-generation synthetic floodlit playing pitches and a modern pavilion.

GRADUATE STATISTICS 2009

	Total Primary Degrees	
	Employed in Ireland	41%
	Employed abroad	12%
	Further study	32%
	Not available for employment	4%
	Seeking employment	11%
	No. of graduates	1,657
	Response rate	84%

	Teacher Education	
	Employed in Ireland	62%
	Employed abroad	17%
	Further study	13%
	Not available for employment	1%
	Seeking employment	7%
	No. of graduates	252
	Response rate	82%

	Postgraduate Diplomas	
	Employed in Ireland	71%
	Employed abroad	8%
	Further study or training	6%
	Not available for employment	3%
	Seeking employment	12%
	No. of Graduates	180
	Response Rate	75%

	Taught Masters	
	Employed in Ireland	51%
	Employed abroad	13%
	Further study of training	14%
	Not available for employment	6%
	Seeking employment	16%
	No. of Graduates	501
	Response Rate	70%

	Research Masters	
	Employed in Ireland	57%
	Employed abroad	13%
	Further study of training	9%
	Not available for employment	4%
	Seeking employment	17%
	No. of Graduates	33
	Response Rate	70%

	PhDs	
	Employed in Ireland	61%
	Employed abroad	22%
	Further study of training	1%
	Not available for employment	5%
	Seeking employment	11%
	No. of Graduates	102
	Response Rate	81%

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 €130 million to assist the development of UL. Some notable highlights and developments for ULF are given below.

Naming of the Tierney Building

The new Centre for Enterprise & Innovation on campus was named the Tierney Building in honour of Foundation board member Dr Dan Tierney and his family in recognition of their generous support. Dr Tierney, who is originally from Limerick, is a Director of the UL Foundation since 1993 and has been a long-standing supporter of the University. He is Chairman of Bimeda Holdings Plc.

Venture Fund to Support University Spin-out Companies

The Foundation forged a strategic partnership with one of Ireland's largest venture capital funds, Kernel Capital, and Bank of Ireland and Enterprise Ireland to create a new venture fund to help Irish universities leverage commercial success from their transformational research ideas and intellectual property.

In April 2010, ResourceKraft, a UL spin-out company specialising in energy cost control technology, secured €600,000 in investment. The venture fund committed €500,000, and the balance was raised through Enterprise Ireland.

Reconnecting with UL Graduates

The Foundation invited UL graduates to reconnect with the University by updating their email addresses and other contact details. The objective of this initiative is to keep in touch with UL alumni in a cost-effective manner through e-newsletters and other e-communications.

Chancellor's Concert

The second annual Chancellor's Concert held on 24 March was a complete sell-out well in advance of the event date. The concert featured music from singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Paul Brady, one of Ireland's most enduringly popular artists, and pianist Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Founder/Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and the Inaugural Chair of Music at UL. Mícheál was accompanied by students from the Academy. Profits from this fundraising event funded scholarships for the Blás summer school at the Academy.

President's Gala Dinner

Over 200 guests supported the seventh annual UL President's Gala Dinner, which was held in Dromoland Castle on 14 May. Proceeds from the event supported a community outreach initiative entitled 'Music as an Instrument of Social Change', which brings music into the culture of schools, particularly those in the regeneration areas. Initiated at the President's Dinner with initial seed capital of €25,000, the Fund supports community music fellowships and classical string performance fellowships at the Academy, which in turn will help strengthen and grow the Irish Chamber Orchestra's Community Outreach Programme.

Dance Archive of Ireland

In response to initiatives carried out by Dance Research Forum Ireland, the Arts Council donated €140,000 in seed funding to establish Ireland's first national dance archive, the

Swim Ireland Scholarships

The Foundation awarded €20,000 to UL students participating in Swim Ireland's High Performance Centre at UL. The bursaries will be awarded to UL swimmers based on their performance at the European Championships in 2010, the World Championships in 2011 and the Olympics in 2012. The money was raised by the UL Foundation through the University's graduate community as part of direct mail fundraising appeals. It will be paid over a three-year period starting in 2010.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Capital Projects

- The Irish World Academy Building and the President's residence were completed on the north campus.
- Work on the Graduate Entry Medical School Building and student residences continued during the year.
- Work commenced on the north campus on the construction of four state-of-the-art all-weather pitches for GAA, rugby and soccer; a pavilion building that will include extensive dressing rooms, coaching rooms and bar; and extensive parking facilities.
- The Tierney Building project, which will accommodate Lero and the Industrial Enterprise Centre in one building, commenced in 2010 with completion expected by summer 2011.

Projects at Planning Stage

- Design and procurement of Phase 2 of the Glucksman Library is being progressed through a public/private partnership.
- 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.



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



Tuarascáil Bhliantúil *Bliain Acadúil 2009/2010*

