

UL LINKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK MAGAZINE

Winter 2014 / Vol 7 / Issue 2

UL is
*University
of the Year
2015*



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Features | Interviews | Events | Updates | News

THE SUNDAY TIMES
UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2015

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UL Links is a magazine published by the University of Limerick. Contributions in the form of feature articles, news items, letters and photographs are welcome. We would also be delighted to receive your comments and ideas for future editions – please email ullinks@ul.ie

The opinions and views in the publication are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the University of Limerick. While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this magazine, UL cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions or effects arising thereof. However, any such errors or omissions may be brought to the attention of the Editors. All material is copyright.

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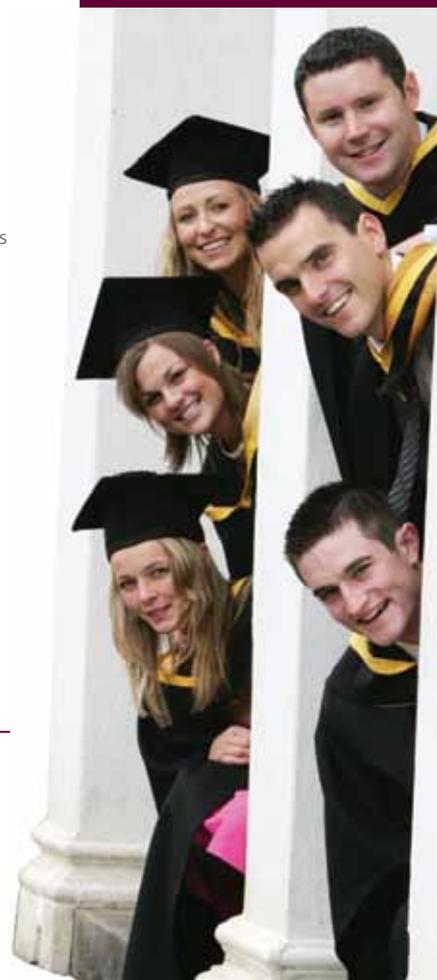
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Front Cover Picture: Ailbhe O'Connell and Beth Newe with Dr Sarah Hayes, SSPC Education & Outreach Officer, University of Limerick at the launch of The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) National Crystal Growing Competition. The competition was open to primary and post-primary school pupils from across Ireland and coincided with the 2014 International year of Crystallography.

Back Cover Picture: Darren Lehane, a recent graduate of BSc Product Design and Technology at UL with his Final Year Project NUTRIA, a new feeding system for patients who cannot ingest food normally. The design has won the Irish leg of the 2014 James Dyson award.



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The Sunday Times Good University Guide said UL “is one of the country’s youngest universities, and also one of the most nimble. The vision presented by the Bernal Project is a bold one; when it comes to fruition it will put Limerick on the map globally in research terms. Our award acknowledges that vision but also recognises the outstanding deal it offers students, many of whom go on to play a critical role in the region around the university and the wider country beyond. Limerick’s work placement programme makes a compelling case to prospective students in an uncertain global economy.”

As one benchmark of UL’s distinctiveness, our 70% graduate employment rate for 2013 primary degree-holders is now 18% higher than the HEA’s most recently-available national average and a recent survey of our graduates showed 95% are either employed or pursuing further study.

Another validation of UL’s excellence can be taken from the continuing success in securing extensive research funding from industry partners and national and international scientific bodies. Our €52 million Bernal Project is a landmark initiative for Irish science and engineering, particularly pharmaceutical science and engineering, energy and sustainable environment,

Welcome to the New Year edition of UL Links where we mark UL’s designation as ‘University of the Year 2015’ in the Sunday Times Good University Guide. This award reflects our commitment to our dedication to an unparalleled student experience, sector-leading graduate employability, our industry-relevant, award-winning research and our deep and genuine community engagement. Our staff and students and external partners are responsible for this accolade and work every day to make UL special.

and modern and biomedical materials and engineering. The investment is bringing ten of the world’s leading scientists to Limerick and we are delighted to have 6 of these pioneers already with us as the Bernal Building construction progresses to provide the new research teams with an outstanding home that will be a veritable crucible of creativity.

In recent months we launched two major initiatives - Research Impact and Engaged Learning - to build on the commitments outlined in our strategic plan ‘Pioneering & Connected’. Research Impact aims to enhance still further our research profile and strengthen the impact of our translational research, both nationally and internationally. It will shine a spotlight on the best of our research and illustrate the true impact our researchers are having on the world we live in through their commitment to collaboration, excellence and being truly relevant.

Engaged Learning represents a more detailed articulation of UL’s drive to provide an outstanding and distinctive learning experience for

each and every one of our students, through deliberate and measurable activities that will enhance student learning outcomes and advance their educational and personal evolution. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues for their work in these initiatives and so much else featured in this publication. We have commenced preparations for our next strategic plan which I hope will challenge us all to build on the remarkable foundations of the University of Limerick, while accentuating our uniqueness, so that we can dream bigger and better dreams and turn them into reality. We can and will be even more ambitious as we seek an increased international profile that reflects our global reach and impact. And I am confident our students, staff, alumni, partners and friends will collaborate to make UL “university of the year” for many years in the future.



Professor Don Barry
President, University of Limerick



Minister for Education Jan O’ Sullivan kindly launched UL’s Engaged Learning Initiative



UL NEWS

New UL Teaching Strategy Commits to Engaging Students in a Broader Education

Employment-oriented, broader degrees and reviews based on student and employer feedback at the heart of UL's new teaching and learning strategy.

The University of Limerick has launched a new teaching, learning and assessment strategy underpinned by a deep commitment to the principle that students should be actively and deeply involved in their own education. Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD, officially launched 'Engaged Learning: Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy' at the University last semester. The new 'Engaged Learning' strategy, which contains three broad approaches, engagement through broadening, engagement for excellence and engagement towards employability, will mean changes at the University including:

- the development of broader programme entry structures
- broadening module options for students - allowing cross-faculty elective modules
- developing programme delivery methods including part-time, blended and e-learning modalities
- greater emphasis on learning outcomes that stimulate innovation in student learning
- the provision of greater learning opportunities overseas for UL students
- biennial surveying of employers on the work readiness of graduates and their ability to continue to learn
- the promotion of innovations in assessment
- development of UL's part-time, blended, distance and e-learning offerings tailored to industry needs and delivered flexibly for work-based learning, retraining and up-skilling
- to align undergraduate programme content more closely with employer needs.



Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan TD said: “I am delighted to launch this new teaching and learning strategy. UL’s approach shows that they have engaged with what learners and employers want, and adapted their services to meet these demands. I am confident that both students and employers will benefit greatly from this strategy.”

Speaking from the Launch, Professor Don Barry, UL President said “Research shows that students achieve higher levels of success when they are actively and deeply involved or engaged in their education. This does not just relate to academic success – active engagement also contributes to social and personal development. Engaged Learning advocates the ideas of broadening, of excellence and quality, of employability, relevance, creativity, innovation and collaboration. This strategy reflects the breadth of activities across our campus, which, further our educational mission”.

Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar who led the development of the strategy said “one of the key elements of this strategy is to maintain UL’s leading position as the top Irish University for graduate employment. Despite the challenging environment, UL’s 70% graduate employment rate for 2013 primary degree-holders is now 18% higher than the HEA’s most recently-available national average figure which is 52% for 2012. This strategy reflects the ambitions we have for our students and it capitalises on our established reputation for excellence in teaching and

learning. Engaged Learning sets out how we will continue to develop our approach to teaching and learning and it reinforces the great importance we place on providing an excellent educational experience to each of our students.”

‘Engaged Learning’ is closely aligned with the National Strategy for Higher Education for 2030, and is based on the University of Limerick’s strategic priorities.



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 1. Pictured at the Engaged Learning launch were UL Student Union Officers Mike Forde, Academic Officer, Tommy Bolger, President and Shane McCormack, Welfare Officer with Sharon Maher, Sociology Department Representative. 2. Eamonn Moran, Programme Manager, Office of the Vice President Academic & Registrar, UL, Sarah Gibbons, Centre for Teaching & Learning, UL and Dr Fiona Farr, Dean, Teaching and Learning, UL. 3. Liz Dore, Glucksman Library, UL, Professor Sarah Moore, Associate Vice President Academic and Gbnait O’Riordain, Director, Glucksman Library. 4. Vice President Academic and Registrar Professor Paul McCutcheon spoke about the Engaged Learning Concept. 5. Attending the launch were, David Jeffrey’s, Managing Director, Action Point, Professor Don Barry, President, University of Limerick, Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan TD and Professor Paul McCutcheon, UL Vice President Academic & Registrar.





Impact on Economy & Society Driving the Research Agenda at UL

The University of Limerick is leading the way in research that delivers real impact and innovation for industry, society and the wider community. A new initiative, Research Impact highlights best practice among the UL research community with the guiding principle of pursuing excellent research that is measurable, achieved through collaboration and focused on the ultimate goal of delivering impact.

Dr Mary Shire, UL Vice President Research explains: “A significant aspect of our University research strategy is a commitment to deliver research which moves the world forward. When it comes to making real practice impact, it is not enough just to say that our research makes a difference – we must be able to validate

the impact. Through our ecosystem of multidisciplinary research teams, our contributions are evident across a range of areas from award-winning inventions, to national policy, improved patient care and the generation of high value jobs.”

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland said, “With the launch of this Research Impact initiative the University of Limerick is once again moving forward at some pace towards a position of leadership in the area of translational research and research impact. This initiative is creating a culture of impact and relevance among the UL research community fostering collaborative thinking, real world problem solving and above all deliverable results.”



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The University hosted a ‘Research Impact’ panel discussion in partnership with The Irish Times which included speakers from industry, government, policy and the research community to discuss the topic. The panel included Minister for Skills Research and Innovation, Damien English T.D.; Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland; Dr Mary Shire, Vice President Research UL; Professor David Bailey, Professor of Industrial Strategy, Aston University; Declan Hughes, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Paul Malone, Team Leader Process Engineering, Eli Lilly and Professor Helena Lenihan, Kemmy Business School, UL.

As part of the launch of Research Impact, four best practice case studies have been developed focussing on research that has been evidenced to deliver real impact.

Find out more www.ul.ie/researchimpact

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1. Dr Mary Shire, UL Vice President Research, Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation Damien English T.D at the launch of UL Research Impact.
 2. Dr Chris McInerney and Dr Maura Adshead, Department of Politics and Public Administration with Professor Patrick Gunningle, Kemmy Business School.
 3. John Gleeson, Operations Manager, Information Technology, General Motors, Brendan O'Malley, General Manager, Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Chief Scientist, both from Lero – Irish Software Engineering Research Centre.
 4. Hope Davidson, School of Law, UL and Dr Amanda Haynes, Department of Sociology, UL.
 5. Dr Philip O'Regan, Dean, Kemmy Business School and former Dean of the faculty, Professor Donal Dineen.
 6. Dr Mark Southern, Enterprise Research Centre UL, Bernal Professor Gavin Walker, UL and Aisling Arthur, SSPC, UL.
 7. Research Impact panel in association with The Irish Times which took place at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, UL.

Lero Among Five World-Class SFI Research Centres to Benefit From €245 Million Investment

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, and Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation Damien English TD recently announced Government and industry funding of €245 million for the establishment of five new world-class SFI Research Centres in Ireland. Lero – The Irish Software Engineering Research Centre which is head-quartered at the University of Limerick is among the 5 world-class research centres to benefit from this announcement.

Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation Damien English TD, Professor Mike Hinchey, Director, Lero, with Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland.



Bestselling Authors Colum McCann and Joseph O'Connor Hold Public Conversation

*I*MPAC award winning novelist Colum McCann author of *Let the Great World Spin* recently took part in a public interview with bestselling author and Chair of Creative Writing at UL Professor Joseph O'Connor. The event was organised to introduce NARRATIVE 4 Ireland, a global organisation that fosters empathy by breaking down barriers and shattering stereotypes through the exchange of stories. Headed by the world's most influential artists, educators, students and community advocates, N4 is committed to developing the next generation of empathetic leaders and citizens.





Grow Your Own Crystal!

The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) recently launched a National Crystal Growing Competition. The competition is open to primary and post-primary school pupils from across Ireland and coincides with the 2014 International year of Crystallography. Professor Kieran Hodnett, SSPC Scientific Director said; “Crystals are all around us, and in every aspect of our lives, from chocolate to medicine to paints and plastics. Most of the medicines we take are made up of compacted powders and the individual particles of the powders are in fact tiny crystals. There is even a significant crystalline part to chocolate and the exact type of crystals determines the taste of the chocolate. The SSPC National Crystal Growing Competition will not only enable

students to grow their own crystals, but it will increase students’ awareness and understanding of the importance of crystals in our lives today.”

The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC), a Global Hub of Pharmaceutical Process Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing, funded by Science Foundation Ireland and industry, is a unique collaboration between 22 industry partners, 9 research performing organisations and 12 international academic collaborators. The SSPC is a world-leading research centre focused upon next generation medicines by developing more environmentally sustainable methods for drug manufacture; increasing the range of medicines available to the public; and reducing drug manufacturing costs.

To find out more information go to www.sspc.ie/crystal_growing or contact SSPC Education and Outreach Officer Dr Sarah Hayes.

Dr Sarah Hayes with Ailbhe O’Connell and Beth Newe.

Partnership Alliance of the Year Award for SSPC

Pictured are Jon O'Halloran, General Manager, SSPC and Professor Kieran Hodnett, Scientific Director and Lead Principal Investigator, SSPC with the Partnership Alliance of the Year Award which they were presented with at the Pharma Industry Awards 2014. The award recognises the SSPC for its outstanding national and international industry-academia, inter-industry, and inter-academia collaborations between its 22 industry partners, 9 research performing organisations and 12 international academic collaborators, within the pharmaceutical sector. The SSPC was also shortlisted in the top six nominees for the Overall Pharmaceutical Excellence Award.



New Accreditation for KBS Programmes

AMBA

The Kemmy Business School's Corporate MBA programme was awarded 5 year accreditation by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) this term. Initial accreditation for 5 years is rarely awarded with most schools receiving 3 years or 1 year. Speaking at the announcement, Dr Philip O'Regan, KBS Dean, said "We feel that this reflects the very high quality of our MBA programme. For MBA programmes worldwide, AMBA represents the highest standard of achievement in postgraduate business education. Its accreditation is earned only by the best programmes so it is fitting that our Corporate MBA is among these."

The AMBA panel of experienced assessors of MBA programmes worldwide visited the KBS

in May 2014. In their report, the panel particularly commended the school on a number of aspects of the MBA programme including: its close alignment and responsiveness to the needs of international companies in the region, the accessibility of academic and management staff to students and the collegiate nature of the School and environment in which the MBA is taught.

The KBS has delivered the UL Corporate MBA since 1984 and has graduated in excess of 700 MBA students. The programme www.ul.ie/mba is a part-time, two year offering which focuses on five themes: Internationalisation, Managerial Vision and Competencies, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Strategic Thinking and Leadership. The programme is the only MBA in Europe with a specialist Aviation

Management stream and is the only MBA in Ireland with a specialist Engineering Management stream.

GAC

Also winning accreditation this term was the The Centre for Project Management (CPM) whose online MSc in Project and Programme Management has been accredited by the prestigious Project Management Institute's Global Accreditation Center (GAC).

"This is an important milestone for our degree programme and for our students" said CPM Director John Kelly. "It confirms that our programme meets the highest quality standards and that it prepares students for success in project and programme management careers." The CPM's innovative MSc programme has been gaining



Award-winning €15 million Graduate Entry Medical School Building at UL Officially Launched

Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, officially launched the award-winning Graduate Entry Medical School at the University of Limerick last term. The building was designed by Grafton Architects, and was the winner of RIBA 2013 EU Award and a finalist in the highly prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize. Located beside the existing Health Sciences and Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, the Medical School is easily distinguishable by its limestone exterior and is a stand-out addition to UL's Clare Campus.

A 4,000 sq.m. facility, the building houses 12 Problem-Based Learning teaching rooms, a 150-seat lecture theatre, two 60-seater seminar rooms, 75 IT work stations, eight clinical skills laboratories, two anatomical skills laboratories, an area dedicated to research and a cafeteria. The labs are equipped with a state-of-the-art AV system, which allows students to record themselves performing procedural or physical exam skills. The €15million project was funded by the Department of Education & Skills, the Higher Education Authority and supported by the University of Limerick Foundation.

Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD with students Chelsea Wee, Singapore and Shane Murphy, Fermoy.



increasing popularity and credibility globally since its launch in 2011. The first cohort of students graduated in January 2014, and there are currently over 60 learners on the programme. These are based in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas. This is the third programme offered at the KBS to achieve GAC accreditation. In January 2010 the School's Master's Degree in Project Management (MPM) was accredited, and this was followed by its full-time one year MSc in Project Management in May 2013. UL is the only university in Ireland that offers GAC accredited education programmes, and one of only seven universities in Europe to do so. In all there are 93 GAC accredited programmes worldwide.



UL's newest Honorary Doctorate Recipients; Dr Niall FitzGerald, Dr Michael J. Tiernan and Dr Gerard Boland.

Three Leading Sons of Limerick Honoured at UL

Three leading sons of Limerick were awarded UL Honorary Doctorates recently, they included Limerick businessman and former Head of Unilever, Niall FitzGerald, Limerick property developer and engineer Michael J. Tiernan, and Limerick businessman and tax expert Gerard Boland.

Speaking from the event UL President, Professor Don Barry said; "Today, we honour three exceptional people who have made unique contributions particularly to their native city and its social and economic development. It is with great pride that we bestow upon these worthy recipients our highest honour and a place in the history of the University of Limerick.....they are the perfect inspiration for what we are trying to achieve here at UL."

Niall FitzGerald KBE,
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Economic Science

A Limerickman who attended St Munchin's College, Niall FitzGerald has built a reputation as one of the world's most powerful marketers and while he served as Head of global brand Unilever his influence changed how consumer goods are marketed from Budapest to Bangalore. During his Unilever career, FitzGerald worked and lived in Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands, the USA and South Africa. He joined the boards of Unilever PLC and Unilever NV in 1987 and his appointment as financial director in the same year marked his entry into Unilever leadership. He went on to serve as Foods Director and then Detergents Director before being



appointed Chairman and CEO in 1996. FitzGerald also held the position of Chair of Reuters, he became Chairman of the Board of the British Museum in 2006 and also served as Chairman of the Nelson Mandela Legacy Trust. In 2012, he was appointed Chairman of the Munster Rugby Commercial Board, which was set up to maximise revenue for the club. True to form, a number of significant developments for Munster Rugby have followed since Niall's appointment.

Michael J. Tiernan,
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of
Economic Science*

Michael Tiernan began his engineering career with P.J. Walls Limited, which was then building the first phase of the National Institute of Higher Education (now UL) in Limerick. In a pragmatic and visionary response to the recession of the 80s, Michael conceived of and began working on the innovative Authur's Quay development in Limerick City, the first shopping centre of its kind in the mid-west region and an important project in the redevelopment of Limerick's inner City. In the 1990's Michael's social and community interests led to his becoming a founding member of the Limerick Enterprise Network to consider the issue of redundancy, encourage enterprise and generate employment in Limerick.

Michael was a key player in the development of the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) on the old Krups site in Roxboro after Krups closed with the loss of over 1000 jobs locally. He devised a redevelopment plan creating new opportunities for education, training, enterprise and employment for the local communities using an integrated model of physical, economic and social regeneration. Michael has also served on the Boards of the Hunt Museum, and the Regeneration Agencies, as Director of Limerick Chamber of Commerce and is currently working with Limerick City and County Council on initiatives that form part of 'Limerick 2030', the City's economic development strategy.

Gerard Boland,
*Honorary Degree of Doctor of
Economic Science*

Educated at Coláiste Mhichíl, Limerick CBS, Gerard Boland trained as a chartered accountant with Metcalfe, Lilburn & Enright and became a partner in the firm in 1971. He subsequently served as a tax partner with Craig Gardner/Price Waterhouse before serving as a partner-in-charge of PricewaterhouseCoopers' Limerick office during the 12 years preceding his retirement in 2002. The introduction of a tax designation scheme for the City Centre in 1986 created opportunities for urban renewal, and Gerard was an early advocate of innovative structures to maximise the benefits to Limerick.

He first became involved as an advisor to the then National Institute for Higher Education (NIHE) in 1982. Employing his in-depth knowledge of taxation in an ingenious fashion, Gerard devised a solution to the restrictions on the provision of student accommodation and on-campus services when he proposed the setting up of Plassey Trust Limited, the first entity in the country to develop Section 23 student residences.

Persistent unemployment in Limerick during the early 1990s motivated Gerard Boland and others to establish Limerick Enterprise Network (LEN). To date, this charitable company has helped to create between 500 and 600 jobs through initiatives such as a low interest rate revolving loan fund and a business community time bank, through which established business people offer mentoring advice to fledgling businesses.

Gerard devotes much of his time to supporting the philanthropic activities of JP McManus. As a member of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation board and the Pro-Am and Benevolent Fund committees, Gerard has participated in the distribution of multi-million-euro funds to deserving organisations in the mid-west region, elsewhere in Ireland and in the developing world.

Former Chancellor Peter Malone's Image the Newest Sculpture on Campus

Former Chancellor Peter Malone revisited the UL campus last semester to celebrate the unveiling of his bust at Chancellor's Walk. It is the 5th Chancellors' Bust to be erected in the space and was created by sculptor Rory Breslin. The creation, crafted in bronze, is a lasting tribute to Peter's contribution to UL as Chancellor. Speaking at the event President Don Barry said, "I can say with some certainty that Peter gave so much energy and enthusiasm to every project he engaged with. He led the Governing Authority with great pride and gusto. There is no greater evidence of Peter's dedication, which I've no doubt he brings to everything with which he engages, than the fact that he never missed a meeting of Governing Authority or a graduation ceremony (of which there were many) during his five-year term as Chancellor".

Peter was Chancellor for the creation and adoption of the UL Strategic Plan 'Pioneering and Connected', which has guided so much of UL's activities to date, the further physical development of the UL Campus, which included the opening of the Pavilion, the Irish Wold Academy of Music and Dance and many other projects involving UL's expansion into Clare. He lent his weight to fundraising on behalf of UL, particularly through his establishment of the Chancellor's Concert, a fundraising event that has continued year after year.

Peter Malone at the unveiling of his bust on campus.





59 Academic Scholarships Awarded to UL Students

The University of Limerick has awarded 59 first year students with entrance scholarships for the third year running. The scholarships, which are offered to students who began their undergraduate studies in the Autumn Semester for the Academic Year 2014/15, were established in 2012 as the University celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

Speaking at a special Scholarship Award Ceremony Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic & Registrar of the University of Limerick said “These scholarships were inaugurated to celebrate over 40 years of academic endeavour in UL. The University has grown expansively into an internationally renowned University and continues to produce talented and high calibre graduates. The entrance scholarships are an ideal way to support a number of entrant students in beginning their academic lives.”

The Scholarships are awarded to incoming students based on their

performance in the Leaving Certificate determined by their CAO points. The scholarships are on offer across all disciplines including 9 scholarships for each faculty of Science and Engineering, Kemmy Business School, Education and Health Sciences, and Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. There were also 2 scholarships for the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and 2 scholarships for Inter-faculty programmes such as BA Law and Accounting and BA International Insurance and European Studies. In addition 10 scholarships were awarded to incoming mature students. The following annual Scholarships were also presented on the day: The Paddy Dooley Scholarship, in honour of Olympic Rower Paddy Dooley, The Edith and Leslie Downer Scholarship, established in the memory of the parents of UL President Emeritus, Professor Roger Downer, the Stryker Scholarship, sponsored by Stryker Medical, the Microsemi Scholarship and the Elaine Fagan Scholarship.



1. Laura Griffin, former student of Castletroy College and recipient of the Edith and Leslie Downer Scholarship pictured with President Emeritus, Professor Roger Downer and Mrs Jean Downer. 2 Pictured is scholarship recipient, Sinead Gaffney, Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway.

NEWS *in Brief*

Public History Internship Module: A Step in the Right Direction

The History Department at the University of Limerick will launch its new postgraduate Public History Internship module in the spring semester of 2015. The module is designed to introduce postgraduate students to the realm of public history through on location experience in a range of public history institutions such as archives, museums, galleries and public libraries. This pioneering module is aimed to equip students with the skills and knowledge-base required in a wide variety of applications, from cataloguing and digitization to preparing material for public exhibition.

The module will be taught in collaboration with highly reputable institutions of public history in Limerick and Clare, including Special Collections at the Glucksman Library, Limerick City Museum, Limerick City and County Archives and the Clare Museum. It is hoped to increase the number of host institutions into the future, and to connect with similar institutions in Dublin, Cork and Galway.

Pictured at the Jim Kemmy Municipal Museum are Niamh Hartnett from Whitegate in Cork and Sarah Guilfoyle from Clare who are currently participating in the Public History Internship programme.



New Courses in Aviation launched at UL

University of Limerick Launches Ireland's First Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma in Aviation Leasing and Finance and Unique Undergraduate Programme.

Last semester UL launched two new aviation programmes aimed at postgraduate and undergraduate level. UL's new Postgraduate Level 9 Specialist Diploma in Aviation Leasing and Finance was launched by Minister of State for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English on September 2nd. The programme has been developed as part of a unique collaboration between the University of Limerick and the Aviation Finance Finuas Network (Part of the Skillnets Networks www.skillnets.ie) and was funded through the Aviation Finuas Network and the National Training Fund (NTF) through the Department of Education and Skills (DES).

The innovative Bachelor of Technology in Aircraft Maintenance and Operations was developed in partnership with Lufthansa Technik AG subsidiary, Shannon Aerospace, a major player in the international Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) industry and a certified EASA Part 145 Aircraft Maintenance Organisation and Part 147 Maintenance Training Organisation. The Bachelor of Technology, which is the only University degree in aircraft maintenance and operations in Ireland, is a four-year honours programme offering a unique blend of academic and on-aircraft, industry-focused content, designed to equip students for senior positions in the aircraft industry. Student intake commenced last September 2014. Graduates will gain an unrivalled exposure to the aircraft industry, satisfy the basic knowledge requirements for the EASA Part 66 Aircraft Maintenance License (AML) in category C, and gain an honours degree from one of the most respected Aeronautical Engineering departments in Europe.

Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic & Registrar, UL; Minister of State for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English; Alan Nuzum, CEO, Skillnets and Tom Caffrey, Head of Operational Excellence, Shannon Aerospace.





RTÉ’s Bryan Dobson Joins University of Limerick as Adjunct Professor of Journalism

RTÉ News anchor Bryan Dobson has been appointed as Adjunct Professor of Public Service Broadcast Journalism at UL. Mr Dobson, who is main anchor of the flagship Six One News programme on RTÉ One television, is one of the most respected broadcasters in Ireland. This is an honorary position and Mr Dobson will continue to work for the State broadcaster RTÉ.

Bryan Dobson with Master Journalism students Monika Gaciarz, Cahir, Tipperary and Tomas Heneghan, Castlegar, Galway.

COMMENTARY

Dr Eoin Devereux Writes About the Visit to University of Limerick by Rory Kennedy

In June of this year I had the privilege of hosting a public interview at University of Limerick with Rory Kennedy. The daughter of Ethel and Robert Kennedy, Rory has produced and directed over 35 celebrated documentaries, covering topics from the global AIDS crisis; human rights; domestic abuse; poverty; drug addiction and political corruption. The hallmark of Rory’s work is that she is unafraid of asking critical and sometimes awkward questions of the powerful. Rory’s critically acclaimed films have appeared on numerous TV channels including HBO, PBS, Lifetime Television, and the Learning Channel.

A capacity audience was in attendance at UL to hear Rory’s illustrated talk about her work as a documentary maker and to see a screening of her 2012 film ‘Ethel’. ‘Ethel’ is a feature-length documentary and is arguably, Rory’s most personal project to date. It provides an inside look into the remarkable life of her mother Ethel Kennedy. A moving tribute to Ethel Kennedy, the film stresses the value of living a contributory life.

Rory’s illustrated talk was far ranging and it demonstrated that even in an age of infotainment and overall ‘dumbing down’ in the media, documentary film can still be used to raise awareness of important, though often ignored, social

issues. Her 1999 film for HBO ‘American Hollow’, for example, traced the story of a tight-knit Appalachian family and, more recently, her film ‘La Barda’ (‘The Fence’) casts a critical eye on the failed attempts by the US authorities at enforcing tighter border controls.

In the public interview Rory Kennedy spoke about her early days as a Women’s Studies Major at Brown University. She discussed her student activism and her decision to devote her energies to film making as a means of raising social awareness. Rory also talked about her decision to support the Obama campaign and the importance of her Irish heritage. It was clear from the interview that Rory Kennedy remains optimistic about the possibility of using the media to focus on issues that are often invisible but which remain worthy of our attention.

Don Barry, Rory Kennedy, Dr Eoin Devereux and Mark Bailey.



Education with a big E in STEM Education

Professor Sibel Erduran, Chair of STEM Education



Our school experiences have shaped our perceptions of what education is. We may even have some opinions about how teaching should be and how learning could be. All of these perceptions and opinions are of course justified on the basis of our experiences. However, often what gets lost in the public discourse about education is the fact that there is also a formal field of study called “Education”. Education as an academic field is institutionalised: it resides in university faculties, journals and professional associations. It produces knowledge about various aspects of education. I will refer to the academic study of education with a big “E” to distinguish it from the everyday meaning of ‘education’, which may mean teaching or training.

Education with a big E is a research field where social scientists investigate the various facets of the education system. For instance, they theorize about the nature of learning; they test different approaches to teachers’ professional development; they investigate the impact of curriculum reform on the quality of schools. Whatever the questions they are investigating, Educational researchers strive to base their claims on empirical evidence collected through various methods such as questionnaires and interviews. They analyze data using a range of analytical techniques including discourse

analysis or statistical tests.

The commitment to evidence is central to Education and to many other fields of academic study, including science. The difference between evidence-based reasoning and mere opinion certainly reflects in science as well. In science disciplines such as genetics and physics for instance, there can be perceptions and opinions based on our everyday experiences. We can all have opinions about why we look like our parents or why an object falls, but it will be centuries’ worth of accumulated knowledge of genes or gravity offered by scientists to provide a justified explanation for these phenomena.

While we might have alternative opinions about why we resemble our parents (e.g. “because we share the same blood”) or why an object falls (e.g. “the object has energy that pulls it down towards the earth”), none of these opinions will matter because they don’t stand the test of evidence and they don’t possess explanatory coherence with respect to wider theoretical frameworks. When it comes to explanations about the natural and physical world, we may place our faith in scientists in helping us explain phenomena. When it comes to education, we often find it difficult to understand that not everything that seems intuitive in education actually is backed up by evidence, or that what we offer are mere opinions that are not justified. The confusion comes from the mentioned familiarity with schooling and the fact that many people do not realize that educators do not just teach but they also carry out research to produce evidence about education. Education with a big E is still a fairly obscure concept in the public domain.

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STEM stands for
science, technology,
engineering and
mathematics.
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STEM Education is a sub-field of Education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. STEM Education is not the same thing as STEM or STEM education. First, the research

questions, methodological approaches and analytical tools that STEM Education research and STEM research employ are not the same. The questions being addressed in this kind of research (e.g. “how can the teaching of STEM be supported through formative feedback in classroom discussions?”) are not the kind of research questions that interest STEM professionals (e.g. “what structure does a protein have?”). Their theoretical foundations, professional activities and institutional organizations are not the same either. In a generic sense, we may have all kinds of interesting ideas about STEM education but unless these ideas are tested and validated (i.e. through STEM Education research), they are no more than mere opinions. Second, STEM Education is about a research-based field whereas STEM education is the training and the teaching of professionals in STEM subjects. I should note that STEM Education is not only about formal education environments such as schools. Learning takes place in informal settings like museums, the family and through media as well, and a similar line of reasoning can follow. For example, when a science outreach activity is conducted with a massive number of students and the outcome is described as a “success”, one has to cautiously ask: how do we know? What’s the evidence? Indeed what counts as evidence and how do we establish its reliability?

In short, clear articulation of the terminology around STEM, STEM Education and STEM education can help identify the various aims, values and methods embedded in each community so that they can forge productive communication and collaboration. A great deal of work remains to be done in STEM Education in order to provide an

evidence-based and justified approach to our claims about improving the quality of education.

At EPI•STEM, we are dedicated to the generation and application of research evidence on STEM education in collaboration with a range of stakeholders such as schools, universities, museums, industry and government agencies so that we can maximise skills and engagement in STEM subjects.

Professor Sibel Erduran is Chair of STEM Education and Director of EPI•STEM, the National Centre for STEM Education based at University of Limerick. She is Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy Social Sciences Committee and Editor of International Journal of Science Education.



RESEARCH & INNOVATION NEWS

Making Diagnosis More Accurate and Less Expensive

Research from the University of Limerick has unlocked a major scientific challenge which has exciting potential for Point Of Care medical tests. Scientists have long been working to overcome barriers in the detection of minute levels of biomarkers in blood. Sensors that can rapidly and accurately assess a person's health by detecting molecule-level traces of viruses and bacteria could save many lives by identifying the need for medical intervention at the earliest possible stage. These biomarker molecules are elusive in blood, so pinning them down and interrogating them with sensors is difficult. The solution proposed in the new research is to apply "liquid brakes" to molecules using silicone oil and place a one atom-thin insulating layer in between the molecules and the sensor surface.

Dr Damien Thompson, Department of Physics and Energy, and Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI), UL explains; "The trick is to slow the molecule down and hold it at a safe distance from the sensor surface. You need to slide something in between

the molecule and the surface and that something is a layer of alkanes. By measuring molecules more accurately and quickly without the need for expensive laboratories, we open up new ways of quickly diagnosing conditions in patients. Imagine a situation where a life-threatening condition could be rapidly diagnosed in its incubation stage using a simple hand-held test outside of a lab environment. The potential is very exciting and this research has unlocked what has been a long-standing issue for the diagnostics community: how to place molecules near conducting surfaces without perturbing the molecule's electrical properties. The potential is enormous, including identification of viruses causing Ebola, HIV and the common cold."

The research is reported in *Nature Materials Journal* and is supported by a Starting Investigators Research Grant, Science Foundation Ireland and enabled by high-performance computing facilities at MSSI and the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC).

Dr Damien Thompson,
Materials and Surface
Science Institute, UL.

UL to Host New €5m Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre



The Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD, recently launched the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMTC) which will be headquartered at UL and is funded by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. The Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, is investing €5 million over the next 5 years in this industry-focused Centre which will deliver advanced technology solutions to contemporary manufacturing issues currently challenging the Irish pharmaceutical sector.

Dr Mary Shire, Vice President Research, University of Limerick said: "Ireland has one of the best reputations globally in pharmaceutical manufacturing and it's important that we continue to support the sector so we attract further investment and retain existing investments. The PMTC provides companies with the opportunity to work together and harness academic expertise to address key manufacturing challenges they face. One specific research area is in process analytical technology which will help companies reduce cost and thus enhance competitiveness." Find out more www.pmtc.ie

Dr Chris Edlin, PMTC, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD, Dr Mary Shire and Professor Gavin Walker at the launch of PMTC.



Gavin Walker, is part of the research team at the newly established PMTC. The aim of PMTC is to make Ireland the global hub of pharmaceutical process innovation and manufacturing and ultimately support an industry which directly employs over 25,000 people. Manufacturing cost competitiveness and patent expiry are among the two most critical issues that threaten the future of this industry which contributes over €40 billion in annual Irish exports.



UL is considered one of the world's leading academic institutions on the subject of mechanical fastening of composites, as evidenced by its extensive refereed journal paper output and book chapters published on the subject. UL has led major EU research projects on joining science with top aerospace companies such as Airbus and Bombardier, and is now breaking into the rapidly growing composites automotive sector. The Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) at UL hosts the Irish Centre for Composites Research (IComp), where state-of-the-art computational and experimental labs have been developed to design, manufacture and evaluate mechanically fastened joints for high-performance lightweight composite structures.

Dr Conor McCarthy, Principal Investigator, UL.

Innovative Joining Solutions Making Structures Safer and Stronger

Nuts and bolts have been used for centuries to join safety-critical structures together. However, bolts require holes to be drilled in the assembled parts and this leads to a drastic reduction in their ability to withstand the forces of nature and impacts from everyday use. A UL research project which aims to develop new ways to join components has been awarded €1.35 million funding through the Science Foundation Ireland Investigators Programme.

Principal Investigator, Dr Conor McCarthy explains; "The component-joining industry in Europe is estimated to be worth over €100 billion annually and it underpins a vast number of industries from aircraft manufacture to medical implants. Our research is developing an innovative solution to join components together by blending the best elements from bolting and glueing technologies. This novel solution will be reliable, reversible, cheap and efficient and we expect it will underpin the development of virtually every future component composed of different parts and materials."

Children's TV Programming in Ireland & England Positively Portraying Unhealthy Food

Unhealthy food and drinks are common in children's TV programmes broadcast in Ireland and England, and frequently portrayed in a positive light, according to new research from the Graduate Entry Medical School UL. Statutory legislation to curb children's exposure to high sugar and fat food/drink in TV adverts was introduced in the UK in 2007, and similar regulations have recently come on stream in Ireland, however, these regulations are not being applied to programme content.

UL Professor of Paediatrics Clodagh O'Gorman and her colleagues assessed the frequency and type of food and drink portrayals in children's TV programmes, broadcast between 0600 and 1700 hours Monday to Friday, on the RTÉ and BBC TV channels in 2010. Both RTÉ and BBC are national public broadcast channels that do not carry any commercial product advertising, and which aim to inform, educate, and empower their audiences. All food and drink cues were coded according to type of product, use, motivation, outcome, and the characters involved. A total of 1155 food and drink cues were recorded across 82.5 hours of programming, accounting for 4.8% of the total broadcast material, and averaging 13.2 seconds for each cue. Just under 40% of the content came from the USA. Sweet snacks (13.3%) were the most common food cue, followed by confectionary/candy (11.4%). Tea and coffee were the most common beverage cue (13.5%), closely followed by sugar sweetened drinks (13%). Unhealthy foods accounted for almost half of food cues (47.5%), while sugary drinks made up 25% of drinks cues. Most of the cues involved a major character, 95% of which were 'goodies.' The cue was presented in a positive light in one in three instances (32.6%), portrayed negatively on almost one in five occasions (19.8%), and neutrally in around half of instances (47.5%). The most common motivating factors associated with each cue were celebratory or social (25.2%) and hunger/thirst (25%). Only 2% of cues were related to health.

A direct comparison between the content of UK and Irish programmes spanning 27.5 recorded hours showed that food/drink cues were more common on content broadcast on the BBC, with the total recorded time for these amounting to 2.3 hours for content broadcast in the UK and 45.6 minutes for content broadcast on RTE.

The paper Food and Beverage Cues in UK and Irish children - Television Programming was published in the Journal - Archives of Disease in Childhood.



UL Research Fellow Wins Inaugural Knowledge Transfer Ireland Research2Business Award

Pictured are Paul Dillon, Director, Technology Transfer Office, UL, Seán Sherlock T.D., Minister for Research & Innovation, Dr Mary Shire, Vice President Research, UL, and Dr. Alison Campbell, Director Knowledge Transfer Ireland with Dr Mark Southern, UL, who was named winner of the inaugural Knowledge Transfer Ireland Research2Business Award. Mark and his team at the Enterprise Research Centre, UL, are considered one of Ireland's leading groups in enabling manufacturing change; boosting productivity, output and profit. Mark has received research funding of over €4.6 million of which 23% has been from industry. Mark has supported research collaborations with companies across a range of different sectors including: Vistakon (Johnson & Johnson), Stryker, Aerogen, Oglesby & Butler, Ceramix Ireland, Shannon Coil Springs. These collaborations have led to the creation of over 100 new high-end manufacturing jobs in Ireland, in addition to sustaining core employment in these companies and enabling the companies to secure tens of millions of euro in new export sales.

Minister of State Launches Unique Framework to Support Community Participation in Primary Healthcare



Pictured are Professor of Primary Healthcare Research, Anne MacFarlane, Minister of State for Primary and Social Care, Kathleen Lynch, T.D., John Hennessy, National Director, Primary Care, HSE and Dr Mary Shire, UL Vice President Research at the recent launch of a joint publication by the Graduate Entry Medical School and the Health Service Executive, 'Framework for Community Participation in Primary Healthcare'. The Framework, designed to provide clear information about the factors which promote and support community participation in primary healthcare, is funded by the Health Research Board (HRB), HSE and Graduate Entry Medical School, UL and undertaken in partnership with NUI Galway and the Centre for Participatory Strategies Galway.



World-leading Health Research Championed in the Mid-West Region

Pictured are Professor Austin Stack, Foundation Chair of Medicine, UL and Professor Niall O’Higgins, Chairman of UL Hospitals Trust at the Annual UL Hospital Limerick Research Symposium which highlighted new research in the areas of; Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in the Irish Health System, sarcopenia and the ageing process, Vitamin K in cognitive health, infant sleep patterns and maternal health, innovative dialysis technologies and disparities in health care access.

100 Years of Anatomy Corrected - Better Outcomes for Patients



New research led by Professor of Surgery, J. Calvin Coffey, Graduate Entry Medical School, UL and Colorectal Surgeon, University Hospital Limerick (UHL) has refuted a century of mistaken abdominal anatomy by remapping the human mesentery in a way never described before. This research has significant implications for patient outcomes, leading to less invasive surgeries, fewer complications, faster patient recovery and lower overall costs. Professor Coffey explains: “The blood vessels which supply the gastrointestinal tract travel through the mesentery, a structure which attaches the intestine to the abdominal walls, and holds it in place and defends against the spread of disease, including cancer. However, for over 100 years the anatomy of the mesentery has been incorrectly described. This has significant impact for patients as a more accurate understanding allows us opt for

less invasive keyhole surgery with minimal blood loss, and, more importantly for the patient, minimal complications. With surgery that adopts the new mesenteric-based principles, previously common complications are now a rarity, patients recover quickly and achieve a normal quality of life faster, leading to savings in healthcare and socio-economic costs.” This research also has implications for disease treatment, in particular helping to identify new biological markers which can be used by Oncologists to determine the most appropriate form of chemotherapy for each patient. These findings contribute to a global drive towards more personalised care, helping to identify treatments which will best benefit individual patients. UHL and UL are partnering with world leaders in this field worldwide including the Cleveland Clinic and the Dana-Farber Institute/Harvard Cancer Centre.

UL Leading €2.6m Project to Combat Dialysis Failure

University of Limerick researcher, Dr Michael Walsh is leading a team involved in a €2.6 million European-wide project (ReDVA) to improve dialysis techniques for the 750,000 Europeans who require the treatment regularly.

Dr Walsh of the Centre for Applied Biomedical Engineering Research (CABER), based in the Materials and Surface Science Institute, UL explains: “The most common form of dialysis is haemodialysis, where three times a week blood is taken from a vascular access site in the arm, passed through a dialysis machine and returned to the patient. However these vascular access sites fail in at least 50% of patients within the first year leading to revision surgeries and increased risk of infection. This research is tackling the issues for patients on long-term dialysis and will ultimately improve patient outcomes, reduce hospital stays and



reduce the amount of discomfort for kidney dialysis patients”. This project is supported by the European Union’s Marie Curie IAPP (Industry-Academia Partnership & Pathways) programme.

Voting Advice App Developed by UL Researcher Launched for By-Elections

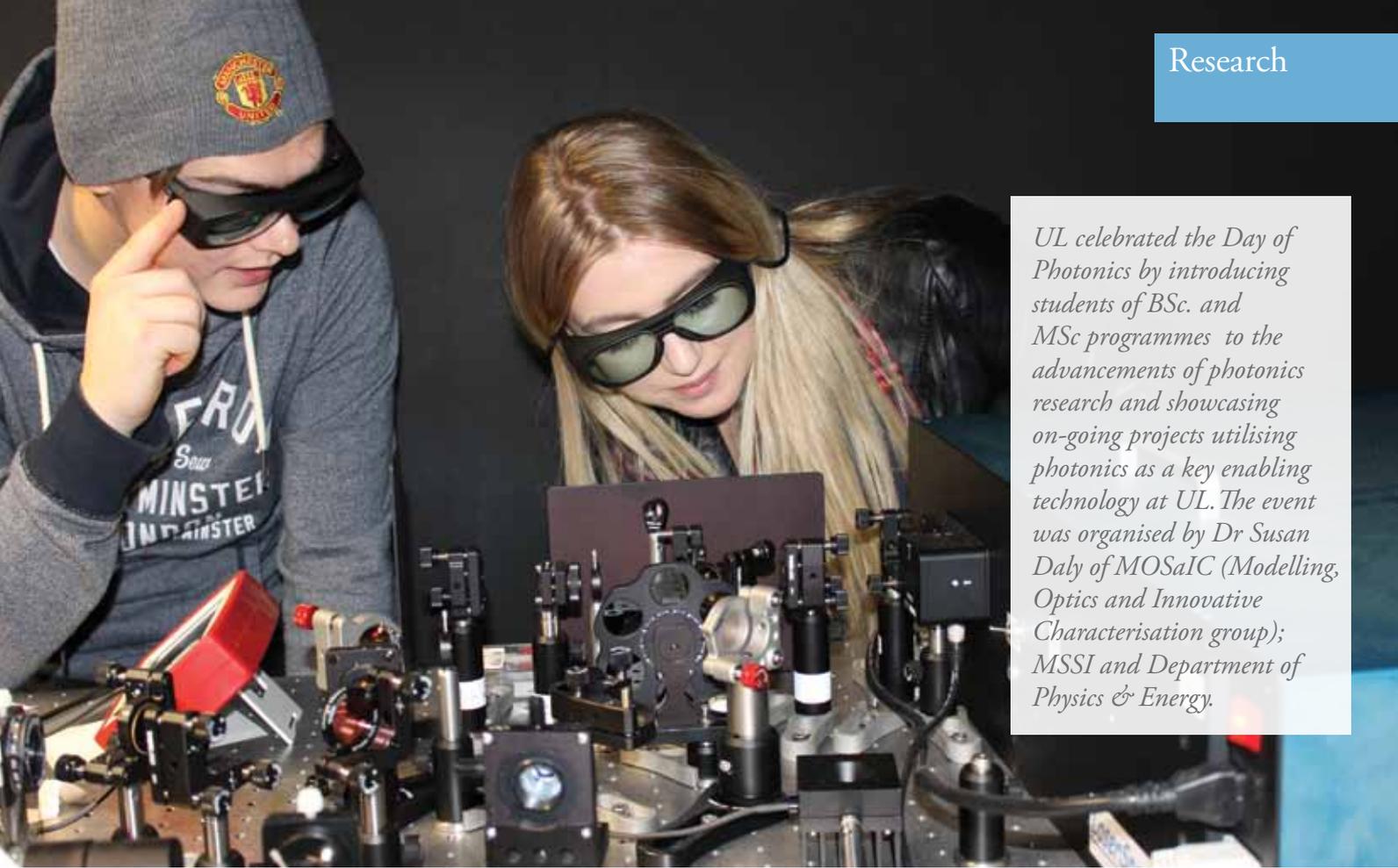
A web-based Voting Advice Application (VAA) ‘WhichCandidate.ie’ developed by UL researcher, Dr Rory Costello and run in partnership with the Irish Times is a not-for-profit site which helps voters to systematically compare election candidates. All candidates standing the by-elections for Dublin South-West and Roscommon-South Leitrim were asked to indicate where they stand on a wide range of issues. Voters can compare their own views with those of the candidates to see who best matches their preferences. The UL developed system will be rolled out nationally for the next general election.

Dr Rory Costello, the researcher leading the project explains: “Whichcandidate.ie provides a public service by allowing voters to evaluate each candidate’s position on matters of policy. For the first time, it is possible to see exactly where each candidate stands on a range of controversial economic and social issues, including water charges, welfare-to-work schemes, health insurance, abortion and immigration. It makes elections more transparent and provides voters with a simple and objective way to compare candidates’.

Hate Crime Highlighted as Major Concern for Irish NGOs in Recent UL Report

Minister of State for New Communities, Culture & Equality Aodhán Ó Riordáin, T.D., chaired a discussion on hate crime legislation at UL and is pictured here with Stephen O’Hare, Irish Council for Civil Liberties and Jennifer Schweppe, School of Law, UL.





UL celebrated the Day of Photonics by introducing students of BSc. and MSc programmes to the advancements of photonics research and showcasing on-going projects utilising photonics as a key enabling technology at UL. The event was organised by Dr Susan Daly of MOSaIC (Modelling, Optics and Innovative Characterisation group); MSSI and Department of Physics & Energy.



present the experiences and perspectives of NGOs who deal on a regular basis with the challenge of hate crime, and provide an analysis of the efficacy of Irish legislation in combating hate crime. Speaking at the launch of the report, Dr Amanda Haynes said: “Perpetrators of hate crime target minority and marginalised groups and have a particularly malign impact on the victim. In addition to the impact of the crime itself, victims are also forced to face the perpetrator’s hostility towards them on the basis of personal characteristics which may be fundamental to their sense of self. They may wonder how they protect themselves from repeat victimisation if they are being targeted because of who they are. For the wider community, the knowledge that people are being targeted because of their group memberships, promotes the sense that victims are interchangeable – ‘any member of the group will do’. Hate crimes have a ripple effect, spreading fear beyond the direct victim and into the wider community”.

A report by UL academics, *A Life Free From Fear - Legislating for Hate Crime in Ireland: An NGO Perspective* outlines the true extent of hate crime in Ireland today and how it affects many communities. Report authors Jennifer Schweppe, School of Law, Dr Amanda Haynes and Dr James Carr, Department of Sociology



Mathematical Model Illustrates Our Online “Copycat” Behaviour

Researchers from UL, University of Oxford and the Harvard School of Public Health have developed a mathematical model to examine online social networks, in particular the trade-off between copying our friends and relying on ‘best-seller’ lists.

The researchers examined how users are influenced in the choice of apps that they install on their Facebook pages by creating a mathematical model to capture the dynamics at play. By incorporating data from the installation of Facebook apps into their mathematical model, they found that users selected apps on the basis of recent adoptions by their friends rather than by using Facebook’s equivalent of a best-seller list of apps. The model suggests users tended to be swayed by recent activity—from their ‘friends’ on Facebook—that they saw on their Facebook feeds over the previous couple of days. The

research, published in the journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, finds that the “copycat” tendency in human behaviour is strong and that we can be influenced by the activities of others over a relatively short period of time.

Professor James Gleeson, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UL, said: ‘This study reveals how we can explore different scenarios using mathematical models to disentangle what drives people to behave the way they do using large data sets from the real online world. This opens up lots of new possibilities for studying human behaviour.’

Professor James Gleeson, Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UL.

UL Think Tank Showcases Ideas to Develop Limerick as a Healthy City

A UL think tank, 'Health Futures Lab,' an innovative collaboration between researchers and graduates at UL across the fields of: architecture, economics, product design, interactive media, occupational therapy, marketing and engineering recently explored the future of Limerick as a healthy city with an exhibition held in the City Centre. The goal of the Health Futures Lab is to offer guidelines for future innovation and exploration of how our cities and societies can be designed with health and well-being at the core. Three important themes emerged from the researchers' analysis including: health promotion, big data and health, mental health. The project consulted widely with the public as well as policy makers and community stakeholders from organisations such as: Canteen Food Limerick That's Limerick City, Learning Hub Limerick, Limerick City and County Council.

25% of 3-year-olds and 61% of all Irish adults are overweight or obese.

Healthy Ireland Strategy.

50% of primary school age children do not achieve the recommended level of physical activity.

Slan Report: Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition in Ireland.

UL graduates taking part in Health Futures Lab (L-R) Oonagh Ward, Robert Greaney and Honor Coleman.





UL FOUNDATION NEWS

News & Events

UL
President's
Dinner
Raises Funds
for Special
Olympics

More than 200 key philanthropic and business leaders turned out to support the University of Limerick President's Dinner which was held in 2014.



An insightful keynote speech was given by former Chairman and CEO of Unilever, and UL Honorary Doctorate Recipient, Limerickman Niall FitzGerald KBE, who emphasised the interdependence of commercial and societal needs.

“I believe more and more companies understand that attending to their own business means also attending to the needs of society. The two cannot be separated. We live in communities of citizens who are the consumers of our goods and services. If we betray their trust as citizens, we forfeit the loyalty of consumers,” said Mr FitzGerald.

UL President Don Barry gave invitees further information on UL’s activities particularly its capital development plans, saying “the University’s €224 million Capital Development Plan will aim to deliver 12 major infrastructural development projects including a new Clinical Education Research building at University Hospital Limerick, the long-awaited Phase 2 of the Glucksman Library and the development of a City Centre Campus including an academic building and student residences. This will be key to UL’s strong commitment to the ‘Limerick 2030 Plan’.”

Guests were treated to a solo flute performance by Michael Flatley on the evening. The proceeds of the evening were presented by UL Foundation Chair Loretta Brennan Glucksman to Mary Davis, Worldwide CEO of Special Olympics.

UL Foundation CEO, David Cronin paid tribute to Mrs Brennan Glucksman, and Foundation friends Niall FitzGerald KBE and Michael Flatley, whose global influence ensures that the University of Limerick continues to differentiate itself on the educational and philanthropic landscape internationally.



1. Michael Flatley giving a solo performance at the President’s Dinner. 2. UL Foundation Chair Loretta Brennan Glucksman and President Don Barry. 3. Joyce O’Donoghue, John O’Donoghue (CEO of NOONAN who were main sponsors of the event) and Don Barry. 4. David Cronin, Michael Walsh, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Stuart Dwyer, Rose Hynes. 5. Kevin Farnan, (Senior Relationship Director at Ulster Bank who were main sponsors of the event) Audrey Murphy and Don Barry. 6. Mary Davis, Worldwide CEO, Special Olympics, Christine Delaney, Athlete Face of the Special Olympics Games, and Matt English, CEO, Special Olympics Ireland. 7. Damien Clancy and Doug Howlett.





Michael Flatley Gives Céad Míle Fáilte to Sir Cliff Richard at CastleHyde

Michael Flatley, Cliff Richard and David Cronin.

On 8th June, the Lord of the Dance, Michael Flatley, welcomed Sir Cliff Richard to his home at CastleHyde with a special event to celebrate the star's unique contribution to the music industry and raise funds for Irish charities, including the UL Foundation. Sir Cliff, who was in Cork to perform at "Live at the Marquee", was delighted to be the guest of honour at CastleHyde. He mingled with the invited guests, celebrities and sports stars and also performed some of his greatest hits live for the delighted guests.

During the event, Michael Flatley announced that his foundation would donate some of the funds raised on the evening to the UL Foundation in order to gift a gift Steinway Grand Piano to the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL. The Irish-American dancer, choreographer and musician has rehearsed with his troupe at the Irish World Academy, both for his recent ITV "A Night to Remember" and for his new show, "Lord of the Dance - Dangerous Games".

Speaking at CastleHyde, David Cronin, Chief Executive of the UL Foundation said: "It is an honour for the UL Foundation to be chosen as a beneficiary of tonight's special event and we are very grateful to Michael Flatley for his friendship and support".



ULF CEO David Cronin with Sir Cliff Richard



UL Foundation Mourns the Passing of Emeritus Director, Dr Harry E. McKillop

The UL Foundation was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former Board Member, Harry E. McKillop, on 7th November 2014. Dr McKillop was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Economic Science by UL in February 2014 in honour of his lifelong work highlighting and addressing the plight of American Prisoners Of War (POWs) and Missing In Action (MIA) from the Vietnam and subsequent wars, as well as his support for Irish causes and his contribution to business developments in Ireland, in particular Shannon Airport.

Of strong Irish heritage, Harry McKillop was born and raised in the US and served as a naval officer aboard the USS Phoenix in the Pacific World War II. Dr McKillop's humanitarian campaigns began dramatically in 1969 when he joined the team and managed logistics for Mr Ross Perot Senior's high profile trip of the wives of American Prisoners

of War to Vietnam to provide supplies and relief to US POWs. Mr McKillop made additional trips to Vietnam in the 1970's and 1980's as well as to Laos and Cambodia, to continue the search for, and the ultimate return of, missing American soldiers.

Dr McKillop gave extensive service to UL through his membership of the Board of the UL Foundation. He has been recognised through the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award which was established by Mr Ross Perot to honour Harry and to celebrate the actions of those of Irish or Irish-American descent who have undertaken exemplary acts of humanitarianism. President George W Bush honoured Dr McKillop for more than 40 years of unselfish work for Americans in need around the world and for his patriotic service by awarding him the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

Scholarships

Top UL Engineering Students Awarded Analog Scholarships and Hank Krabbe Medal

Denis Doyle, Vice President and General Manager Limerick Manufacturing, Analog Devices, presenting the Hank Krabbe Gold Medal to Damien O'Brien, Graduate, Electronic & Computer Engineering.



Six of UL's top performing engineering students received awards at a presentation ceremony on 5th November. Funded by Analog Devices, the Analog scholarships comprise of a €7000 grant and are awarded to students from first, second and third year programmes at UL. Recipients of the scholarship are also eligible for Cooperative Education or summer placements at Analog Devices. The top graduating engineering student is eligible for the Hank Krabbe Medal and an accompanying grant of €5,000. Speaking at the scholarship awards ceremony, Denis Doyle, Vice President and General Manager Limerick Manufacturing, Analog Devices said; "There is a very strong, long-term and successful relationship between Analog Devices and the Electronic and Computer Engineering Department in UL, with many graduates of this course contributing to the success of Analog Devices.

Electronic Engineering will continue to be at the heart of our future and with that in mind we have designed the awards to promote the brightest, most innovative, resourceful & creative engineers. I would like to congratulate them and their families and wish them the best in their studies and future careers".

The Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering scholarship awardees were Graham Britchfield, James Ryan, Adrian O Riordan, Eoin Bolger and Anthony Purcell. Damien O'Brien was awarded the Hank Krabbe Medal. Damien and Adrian are now graduate engineers working at Analog Devices. The Analog Scholarships and Hank Krabbe Medal were funded by a gift of €125,000 made by Analog to the University of Limerick (UL) Foundation.



Tom and Mary McCauley Bursary is Established at UL

A new scholarship, established by Liam Burke of Press 22, has been named in memory of an Irish-American couple, Tom and Mary McCauley.

Liam was inspired by the story of the McCauley couple who met in America where they went to start new lives. Both experienced financial hardship at home in their formative years, but through a fierce work ethic built up a very successful property business together in the US later in life. The Bursary will support a first year student in the BA in Journalism and New Media who has come through UL's Access programme .

Deirdre O'Connor, Access Office, UL, Mary Dundon, Head of Journalism, UL and Liam Burke, Press 22 at the launch of the Tom and Mary McCauley Bursary.

Three Scholarships Awarded to Students in UL's New MA in Creative Writing Programme

Three students enrolled in UL's new Masters in Creative Writing programme were awarded scholarships in September. Bryanna Sweeney received the Thomas and Ellen O'Connor Scholarship, which was established by the children of Thomas and Ellen O'Connor (nee O'Neill) to commemorate their parents; Linda Fennelly received the Riverdream Scholarship, which was established through the generosity of John McColgan and Moya Doherty, the co-founders of Riverdance; and Niamh Donnelly received the Thomas and Ellen O'Connor Riverdream Scholarship, which is an amalgam of the first two Scholarships.



Each Scholarship will be held for one year and covers full fees for the MA in Creative Writing course. The MA in Creative Writing Programme is led by renowned, award-winning author, Joseph O'Connor, who is the inaugural Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing at UL.

Niamh Donnelly, Joseph O'Connor, Bryanna Sweeney and Linda Fennelly at the awarding of scholarships for the MA in Creative Writing Programme.



The future
looks bright *for*

For over 40 years the University of Limerick has been a leader in the cooperative education arena, both nationally and internationally. Cooperative Education (or Coop) has offered UL students from the class of 1972 onwards the opportunity to complement their academic study with real industry experience. The growth of the Coop programme has been exponential, beginning with fifty placements in 1974 and rising to more than 1,680 places this year. The international dimension to the programme is very significant, with 20% of students taking international placements across a network of 25 countries. UL graduates enjoy the highest level of employment in the Irish university sector.

So, what is the secret of UL's success? Director of Cooperative Education and Careers, Patrice Twomey would say that there are four key factors: *"a comprehensive employer engagement strategy, strong and relevant academic programmes, ambitious students and an institutional concern for employability"*. UL LINKS sat down with Patrice to find out if the future is bright for graduates of 2015.

Coop

“We are a certainly a university that punches above its weight across the employability spectrum. Despite the economic backdrop and challenges in the labour market, UL has achieved a placement rate of over 97% this year. Other higher education institutions have blinked during difficult economic times and have either cut back on their placement programmes or made them optional.

At UL we are very proud of the fact that UL continues to be a very inclusive programme, open to students across 56 degree programmes, regardless of discipline, faculty and vocational orientation of their degree. The scale of the programme is therefore very significant (the Coop programme is the largest work placement programme nationally – by some distance). Just to give some indication of scale, the Cooperative Education & Careers Division circulates over 10,000 Coop applications and organises over 4,000 interviews annually. On the Careers side of the house, in an era where there is a drive away from one-to-one career guidance sessions in other higher level institutions, this Division delivers over 2,000 individual student consultations and over 200 classroom-based employability sessions annually. It also delivers accredited employability modules to 500 students every year. So we’re very much an employability hotspot. I would say that, wouldn’t I? - but this past year has been a very good year for external endorsements of UL’s employability strength. Niall Fitzgerald, a Mechanical Engineering graduate

was the winner of this year’s National Graduate of the Year award. At the international Best University Placement Service awards in London, UL was the only Irish university selected as one of five finalists. Three UL students (from a total of six internationally) were inducted to the World Association for Cooperative Education international

Student Honor Society this year. UL was awarded a 5-star rating for graduate employability by 2014 QS Stars. Finally, Ava Mahoney, a UL postgraduate was the first female winner of the National Challenge, from over 4,000 entries. In overall terms, there is now much more confidence in graduate recruitment markets and the outlook for 2015 is significantly more upbeat. A recent survey of 100 employers of University of Limerick graduates (October 2014) shows that 70% of employers are predicting an increase in graduate intake for 2015. This is very encouraging news for new graduates. The reasons for this increased confidence are evident in the recovery of the Irish economy,

new company announcements, increased flows of foreign direct investment and employer use of graduate talent as a strategic resource. This bounce in the employment market is great news for Irish graduates, but particularly for UL graduates. At 70%, UL’s current rate of graduate employment is a full 18% higher than the average for the national university sector.

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Despite the economic backdrop and challenges in the labour market, UL has achieved a placement rate of over 97% this year.
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What Employers are Looking For...

Despite the increase in graduate numbers, the “war for talent” is as strong as ever. Certainly, opportunities are increasing but employer expectations are also increasing. Work readiness is a key attribute, with employers expecting graduates to add value right from the start (what some refer to as “plug in and play” graduates). Employers tend to be very concrete about particular elements of their desired graduate profile, work experience and degree classification being two important elements. Most employers of Irish graduates also go for a mix of domain-specific and generic skills.



Across all sectors, work placement emerges as the hero ingredient in terms of what employers are looking for in graduates, with many employers viewing placement as a proxy for graduate preparedness. Employers want graduates who are ready to hit the ground running and they see work placement as a mechanism for rapid effectiveness in the workplace.

They also view it as an “early ID” system for a future talent stream. Of course employer emphasis on work experience places UL students at a significant positional advantage. Secondly, degree classification remains an important criterion and is used by about 60% of employers who use the 2.1 cut-off for most of their graduate positions. For some graduates, this can be a blunt instrument in the initial recruitment filter but it shows no sign of abating. Thirdly, in addition to domain-specific knowledge, employers look for a range of generic skills. In the recent survey of UL graduate employers, the top five competences/attributes were drive/motivation, communication skills, a positive attitude, adaptability and demonstrable initiative.

Challenges for Employers...

According to the UL Employer Survey, the greatest challenge facing companies is that of managing their on-campus profile. Managing the brand, employer value proposition and students’ perception of same has come to be a key issue and is often particularly relevant to relatively new SMEs. Some employers find that student brand ambassadors can be a very effective way of spreading their message e.g. Northern Trust, Jameson. Use of social media, specific targeting of degree programmes, co-delivery of employability sessions with the Careers Service are other ways of building the brand. The second challenge is the lack of available graduates from particular disciplines, ICT being a particular case in point. The third challenge is the work readiness levels of graduates which UL has addressed through Coop placement, a comprehensive employability programme and a strong commitment to academic disciplinary expertise and capability.

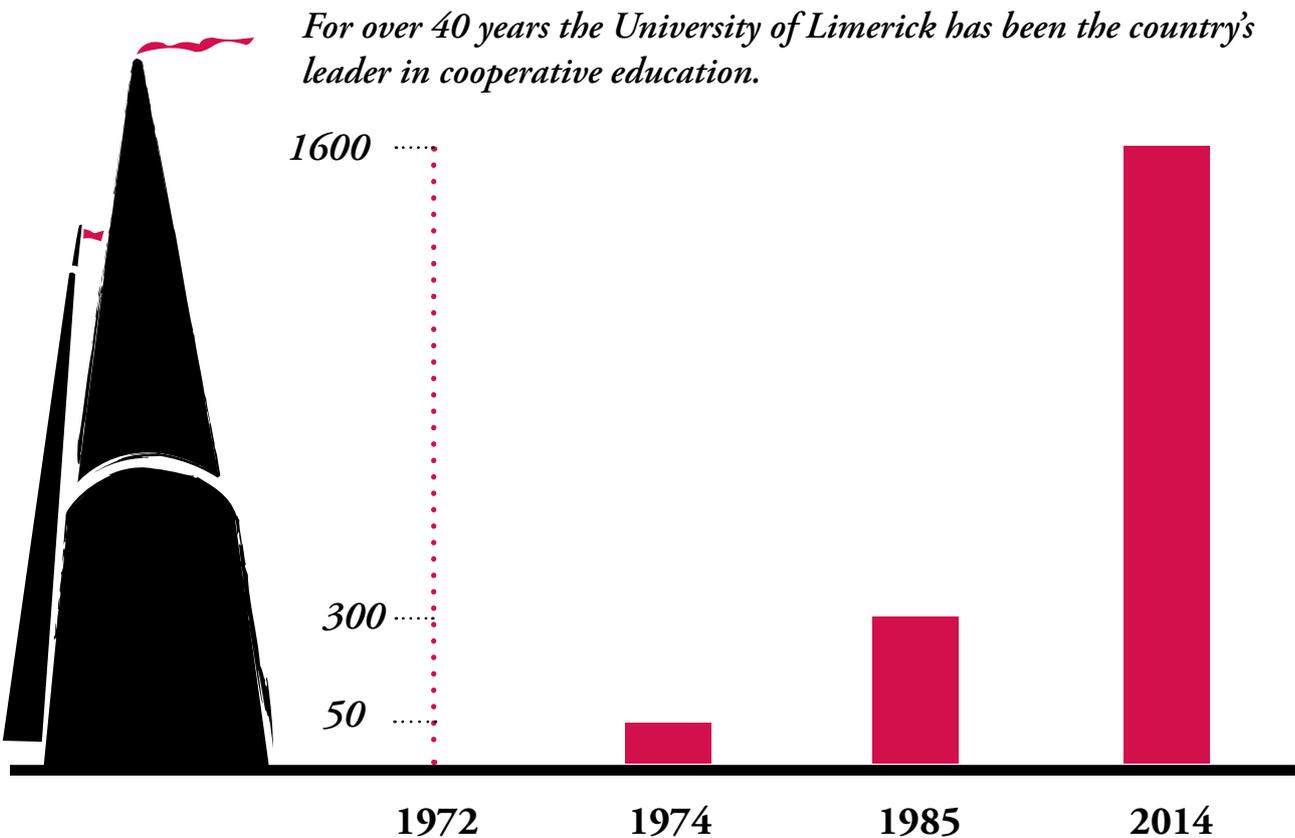


Recruitment Process...

There is a significant overlap between UL Coop and graduate employers and this synergy is reflected in the fact that over 75% of Coop employers are also graduate employers. Typically, graduate employer activities focus on careers fairs, on-campus presentations, applications and CVs and selection and interviews. The UL Careers Fair has proved to be very effective in showcasing the wealth of UL talent to graduate employers. It is the largest university careers fair nationally, with over 130 employers and attended by 2,000 students. The fair reflects a strong sectoral mix including accounting and professional services e.g. EY, PwC, Deloitte, KPMG; financial Services e.g. Northern Trust, State Street Bank, Hedgeserv, Citi, Allianz; pharmachem e.g., GSK, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Regeneron (new company to Limerick – will employ 300 people in high added value, high skilled jobs when ramped up) and retail e.g. Lidl, Aldi, Smyths to name just a few

areas. There is also a strong international presence at the fair including employers such as Jaguar-Landrover (UK), Dyson (UK), Bouygues Construction (France), Sabis Schools (UAE). Most employers attending this year’s careers fair were recruiting a minimum of ten graduates. The highest level of graduate recruitment is amongst the ‘Big 4’ accountancy firms, who recruit up to 290 graduates annually whilst Aldi offers one of the highest graduate starting salaries at €61,000 p.a.”

The future is bright for 2015 as the University of Limerick faces the future as the Sunday Times University of the Year 2015. Alastair McCall, Editor of The Sunday Times Good University Guide, said: “Limerick is one of the country’s youngest universities, and also one of the most nimble... and Limerick’s work placement programme makes a compelling case to prospective students in an uncertain global economy.”





UL Graduate Success Stories

DAVID JEFFREYS

BSc Computer Systems (started in 1997)

Co-owner, founder of Action Point, entrepreneur, employer

ACTION POINT 55 full time employees

A

ction Point are a technology services business founded by John Savage and myself back in 2005, both graduates of UL's Computer Systems degree course. John and I forged a friendship on the very first day of term in 1997 and have worked together ever since.

Because of this legacy, we like to think of Action Point as a product of the University. But Action Point wasn't founded based on any intellectual property, we had no product and no secret sauce; we just had a passion for doing things properly and an appetite for hard work, something which the University helped shape. That appetite for hard work is what earned John a gold medal for a perfect score of 4.0 when we graduated.

I did my Cooperative Education at AMT where I had the opportunity to develop a prototype for instant messaging software, part of a concept idea which later led to DataMate Global Communications being established. The product was the first step in establishing DataMate, and demonstrated the technical expertise in the organisation which helped the directors to raise investment capital to expand the business. In 2001, following graduation, I spent four years working in DataMate, with fellow graduate John Savage, as a software developer. Here we both developed a secure instant message platform aimed at the talent agencies in Hollywood, Los Angeles. The system was used by companies such as Universal Music Group. In 2005 we set up Action Point Software Ltd.

In 2011 we were awarded Best SME in the Midwest Regional Business Awards, won the Limerick County Enterprise Board - Enterprise of Year award, and were short listed to the top

eight in the National Enterprise Awards. In 2012, we went on to win the Best Technology Business Award in the Midwest Regional Business Awards, and we were awarded the 2014 Dell Partner of the Year Award for Ireland. I even got to meet with Michael Dell!

The significance of awards is that they recognise Excellence. The University of Limerick taught us what excellence is, what it means and what it takes in terms of personal commitment. In terms of Employability, over 50% of our employees hold a degree from the University of Limerick. That statistic in itself is a huge endorsement of the employability of the University's graduates. Why is this? I believe that it is because students that attend UL learn team work through working together on group projects, get to build relationships with prospective employers and gain valuable work experience through the University's innovative Cooperative Education Program. Employability is not just about having the right attitude or aptitude though, it's about being prepared in terms of having industry relevant skills. This is something that the University of Limerick excels at and something which we have first-hand experience of. In 2011 we worked with the CSIS department to assist them in developing a course which ultimately became the Higher Diploma in Software Development, taking in their first students in April 2012.

SPORTS NEWS

GAA Stars Awarded High Performance Scholarships at UL



Thirty-three GAA athletes across Hurling, Gaelic Football and Camogie were awarded the first UL GAA – Bank of Ireland High Performance Scholarships at the University of Limerick this term.

Speaking at the event, UL President, Professor Don Barry said; “At UL, we are very proud indeed of our students’ achievements both academically and in the field of sport and we recognise that we are lucky to have some of the country’s greatest sports

stars studying and training here. The UL GAA - Bank of Ireland High Performance Programme has been developed to support our sports stars in their ongoing commitment to scholarship, club and county.”

Speaking at the event, Liam Sheedy, Bank of Ireland said; “We are pleased to support the UL GAA high performance programme. The opportunity that it gives scholars to continue their studies, while working to realise their sporting potential, is something we are proud to be associated with and place a huge value on. The University, and the surrounding region is a very important market for us and we are available to provide support to all students as they move through the various stages of their lives”.

The UL GAA – Bank of Ireland High Performance Programme will provide students with financial assistance, as well as free access to the top class sports facilities in UL and a range of performance services and supports. There will be strict guidelines for awarding the Scholarships. Players in receipt of a Scholarship will be reassessed annually. Continuance in the High Performance Programme is dependent on maintaining a high level of performance and meeting the standards and targets set within the programme.

Among the scholarship recipients are All Ireland winners Julia White (Cork Senior Camogie 2014); Shane O’Callaghan (Kerry Senior Football Extended Panel 2014); Tony Kelly; David McNerney; Jack Browne; Cathal McNerney (Clare Senior Hurling Winners 2013, U21 2012, ’13 & ’14); Antoin McFadden; Daniel McLaughlin (Donegal Senior Football Winners 2013); Orlaith McGrath (Galway Senior Winners 2013); Shane Ryan (Kerry Minor 2014) and U21 All Star Jason Forde.

Also at the awards ceremony, representatives of All Ireland winning teams with links to the University of Limerick were honoured including graduates: Pdraig Walsh, Kilkenny All Ireland Hurling Champion and graduate of Arts in 2014, Maria Walsh – Cork Senior Camogie All Ireland Winner and 2012 graduate in Physical Education and Maths in 2012, Valerie Mulcahy, Cork Senior Ladies Football All Ireland Winner, and graduate of Physical Education and Irish.



1. Dermot Coughlan, UL, Conor McGlynn, Bank of Ireland and Declan Fitzgerald UL at the first UL GAA, Bank of Ireland High Performance Scholarships. 2. Conor McGlynn, Bank of Ireland, Liam Garvey and UL GAA President John Lenihan. 3. Julia White, P.E. with Chemistry (4th Year), Douglas pictured with Professor Don Barry, President University of Limerick and Liam Sheedy, Bank of Ireland. 4. Colin Crehan, O'Callaghan's Mills, Financial Mathematics (1st Year) pictured with President Barry and Robert Frost, Munster Council. 5. Dan Morrissey, Law & Accounting (4th Year), Ahane receiving his award. 6. Anna Galvin, Sport & Exercise Science (2nd Year) receiving her award. 7. Tony Kelly, Clare U21 Hurler, All-Star and Hurler of the Year is studying Business Studies at UL and was awarded a UL GAA - Bank of Ireland High Performance Scholarship presented by UL President, Professor Don Barry and Liam Sheedy, Bank of Ireland.

UL Launches Sponsorship of UL Bohemians Rugby Team

The University of Limerick has announced its sponsorship of UL Bohemians Rugby Team for the 2014/2015 season. UL Bohemian RFC, based at Thomond Park, Annacotty and at the University of Limerick, is an amalgamation (1999) of Bohemian RFC (founded 1922) and University of Limerick RFC. The UL Bohemian Rugby Academy is committed to maximising the potential of aspiring young rugby players by providing an environment with world-class training facilities, expert coaching and conditioning advice and an all-encompassing support structure ensuring rugby and academic excellence.

For further information about UL Bohemians go to www.ulbohs.ie

Pictured are David Mahedy, Director of Sport, UL, Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar, UL, Ed Kelly, Captain, UL Bohs and Mike Moroney, President, UL Bohs.





Michael Fennelly: All Ireland Senior Hurling Champion - Kilkenny, Graduate, MSc in Sports Performance '14.



Tony Kelly: Clare U21 Hurler and All-Star. Tony is the only player in history to have won the Hurler and Young Hurler of the Year awards in the same year.

ALL IRELAND GLORY *for UL Students and Graduates*

Pádraig Walsh

All Ireland Senior Hurling Champion - Kilkenny, UL Fitzgibbon Cup Captain 2013/2014 and Graduate, BA English and History '14.

Anna Geary:

Captain 2014 Cork All Ireland Camogie Champions and graduate Bachelor of Business Studies '09.

James O'Donoghue

All Star and Footballer of the Year 2014 James O'Donoghue





Tony Kelly is a recipient of the UL GAA – Bank of Ireland High Performance Scholarship and is currently studying the Bachelor of Business Studies.



Fionn Fitzgerald: (pictured on the right holding the Sam Maguire) Co-Captain of the 2014 All-Ireland winning Kerry Senior Football Team and graduate of the BSc Sports and Exercise Science '12 and the MSc Sports Performance '14.

The talent from Ireland's Sports campus was very much on display in 2014 with over forty GAA All Ireland winners among UL students and graduates across all codes from senior to intermediate level, here is a selection of some of the UL stars past and present.

celebrates with teammate Kieran O'Leary at the final whistle of the 2014 All Ireland Final, James is currently studying BSc Sports and Exercise Science.

Eamonn Fitzmaurice:

Manager of Kerry All Ireland Senior Football Champions 2014 and graduate of MA European Integration '99.

2014 Camogie and Gaelic Football All Ireland winners,

for Cork receiving their All Star Awards – Geraldine O'Flynn, BSc Physical Education and Sports Science '09, Brid Stack, Bachelor of Science in Education, PE and Maths '08 and Angela Walsh, BSc Physical Education and Sports Science.



Sports News from the UL Clubs and Socs



UL Students Reach New Heights OPC Kilimajaro - *Elbrus Expedition 2014*

During the summer of 2014 the University of Limerick Outdoor Pursuits Club embarked on a 22 day expedition to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (5895m) in Tanzania and Mt. Elbrus (5643m) in Russia, the highest mountains in both Africa and Europe as part of the well known 7 summits challenge (climbing the highest mountain on each continent). The club, now celebrating a rich 22 year history at the University of Limerick last undertook an expedition in 2003 to climb Aconcagua (6960m) in Argentina, the highest mountain in South America and another of the 7 summits. It was a long time coming but this expedition was worth the wait. Keith Young gave UL Links an account.



“The expedition team of 8, consisting of undergraduate and postgraduate students, and alumni of the University, left Limerick on the 24th of July destined for Tanzania and their first climb, Mt. Kilimanjaro. The successful climb took a total of 7 days on the mountain up and down. With little rest the club then travelled on to the Russian Federation, arriving in their base in



Terskol in the Caucasus on the 4th of August. A few days later the team made their way to the 'Barrel Huts' sitting at 3680m on Mt. Elbrus. It is from here that we hoped to climb to the summit. However after days of bad weather the team had to back off the mountain at 5000m due to stormy conditions and lightning on summit day. Unfortunately there was no time left for us to make another attempt on the summit.

Catering for an annual membership of 600+ students, staff and alumni of all nationalities and cultures the club goes on weekly trips, hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing, caving and orienteering across the country. Given this, our choice in selecting Mountain Rescue Ireland as the beneficiary of monies fundraised from this expedition should come as no surprise. Mountain Rescue Ireland provide live-saving services across the country that are vital to all those who go hiking or climbing. We are delighted to announce that a total of €1000 euro has been raised and we would like to thank all those who donated. The club would also like to thank all our sponsors for the expedition: Ulster Bank, River Deep Mountain High and Campus Life Services without whom none of this would have been possible."

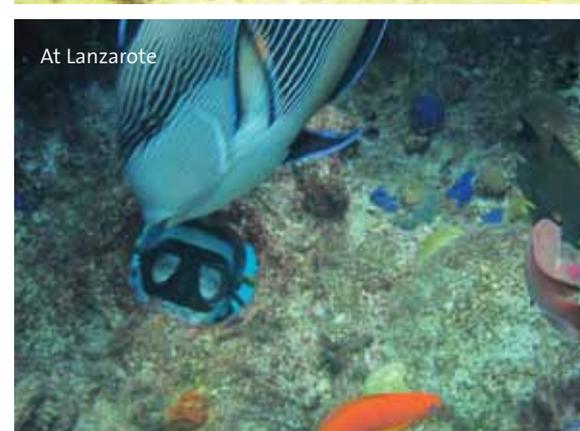
UL Sub Aqua Club in Action this Year ... from Doolin to Lanzarote



Diving at Doolin.



At the Red Sea



At Lanzarote



1. Climbing Mt Elbrus. 2. The Team at Dublin airport. 3. At The mount Kilimanjaro Summit.



Darren Lehane with his product NUTRIA

UL STUDENTS

Student Award Winners... UL's Rising Stars

UL Graduate's Life-Saving Technology Wins James Dyson Award

NUTRIA, a new feeding system for patients who cannot ingest food normally, designed by 22-year-old University of Limerick graduate, Darren Lehane, has won the Irish leg of the 2014 James Dyson award.

A recent graduate of UL's BSc Product Design and Technology, Darren was inspired to come up with the new invention after witnessing the hardship of his baby cousin, Danielle, who had to use a feeding tube shortly after her birth. The project was part of Darren's Final Year Project.

Darren began to investigate ways of improving the feeding system and joined an online forum where parents shared the problems they were experiencing with tube feeding. "It was here that I learned of the skin irritation caused by taping the tube to the patient's cheek. The appearance of a child with a tube taped to their face, has in itself become a symbol of illness. So I set myself the goal to make the tube as discrete as possible."

Unlike existing NG tubes, NUTRIA removes the risk of incorrect tube insertion and rests just inside the nostril, almost invisible from the outside. Excess tube is cut flush with the valve and not

exposed on the face. To avoid mis-inserting the tube into the stomach, the system uses a Terahertz radiation microchip to show the exact position of the tube inside the body on a smartphone screen. Terahertz is a lot safer than x-ray due to a comparatively low frequency and long wavelength.

“It took a lot of thinking to figure out that this project would consist of 3 separate parts, that would work together as a suite of products. After listening to my uncle’s experience with his daughter, it became apparent that tube placement was only one of several issues that made life difficult for carers and patients alike. NUTRIA consists of a nostril valve to remove the need for taping of excess tubing, an audio jack accessory to safely monitor tube insertion on smart phone and a re-engineered pump with only two buttons; the on/off switch, and a button that winds in the feeding tube. All other functionality is moved to an app that’s operated on any smart device, via Bluetooth.”

Darren has so far designed over 21 prototypes, disassembled 1 microwave, 3 vacuum cleaners, 2 retractable dog leashes, 4 measuring tapes, and 3 scalpel blade holders, as well as retrofitting countless medical products to the various prototypes. NUTRIA will progress to the international stage of the James Dyson Award and Darren aims to commercialise the product.

Judge Adrian Weckler said “I was extremely impressed with the vision, design and development expertise with which NUTRIA was created. Although it faces some stiff challenges ahead, the product is an example of practical innovation and great design.”

For the 5th year running now, BSc Product Design and Technology students from the University of Limerick have been successful at both the awards and short-listing stages of the internationally renowned James Dyson Awards.

Find out more about product design at www.scieng.ul.ie/departments/dmt

UL Student wins National Circuit Design Award

Final year, Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic Engineering student, Christopher Gallagher was recently awarded 1st place in the 2014 MIDAS Ireland Third Level Project Competition. Sponsored by Analog Devices, the competition is open to Third Level students in Ireland, whose Final Year Projects involve circuit design, or related areas, and is adjudicated by a panel of experienced industry professionals.

Christopher Gallagher’s project, “Development of a Successive Approximation Register Analog-to-Digital Converter on a 0.35µm Process”, supervised by Dr Brendan Mullane, Dr Tony Scanlan and Dr John Nelson of the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, was the best of three projects, which made a short-list drawn from electronic engineering students from all over Ireland.

MIDAS, the Microelectronics Industry Design Association in Ireland, is an industry-led organisation that defines and develops the future direction for the microelectronics industry in Ireland.

Pictured are Mike Mulqueen, Analog Devices with Daire Breathnach, Education Chair, MIDAS, presenting 1st prize to UL student Christopher Gallagher.



UL Biological Engineering Graduate Fiona Malone was recently awarded the George Berkeley Gold Medal by Ambassador Patricia O'Brien, Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organisations at Geneva.

The world's only pan-discipline academic awards programme, The Undergraduate Awards (UA) recognises and rewards innovative young thinkers across 25 disciplines from business and engineering to visual arts and midwifery.



*M*ichael Fennelly, One4All Rewards with Eoin Cahill, 4th Year UL Marketing Student. Eoin is the An Post Student Marketer of the Year and was awarded at the Smart Marketing Awards.



UL Journalism Students Win Top National and Regional Print and Broadcasting Awards

*F*our University of Limerick journalism students have won top regional awards for their investigative print and broadcasting reporting. Limerick student, Robert McNamara, has won the Sunday Times Young Journalist of the Year Award 2014 for a report that revealed 59 asylum seekers have died in State care over the past 10 years and the Department of Justice does not know the cause of their deaths.

Frank Fitzgibbon, Ireland Editor of the Sunday Times, said: "We are delighted to be associated with these awards which recognise the type of serious journalism that deserves to be brought to the widest possible audience. Investigative journalism takes time and costs money, but if it leads to positive action then the results will make the investment worthwhile. UL is to be congratulated for promoting a scheme which



encourages students to go beyond opinion and, instead, engage in research and dig deep for facts that create the basis for informed commentary.”

Offaly student, Kevin O’Brien, won the Irish Examiner Young Sports Journalist of the Year Award 2014 for a report revealing that seven county boards were fined €4,784 for missing drugs tests – these included the Clare hurling team, winners of the 2013 All-Ireland.

Limerick student, Shane O’Riordan, has won the Pádraig Kennelly Regional Journalist of the Year Award for an investigative story on our A&E hospital system. He secured an interview with University of Limerick consultant geriatrician, Professor Michael Watts, who is warning that the impending “tsunami” of our ageing population could collapse the nationwide A&E services if they are not radically reformed.

Mayo student, Cormac Dowling, has won the Limerick Live95 FM Broadcast Journalism Award 2014 for a report he did on the controversial topic of hare coursing. His radio documentary, For the Love of Dog, was recorded at the JP McManus Irish Cup Final in Patrickswell, County Limerick.



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1. Shane O’Riordan, winner of the Pádraig Kennelly Regional Journalist of the Year Award being presented with his award by Jerry Kennelly. 2. Robert McNamara the Sunday Times Young Journalist of the Year Award winner 2014 is presented with his award by Sunday Times Ireland Editor Frank Fitzgibbon. 3. Kevin O’Brien, the Irish Examiner Young Sports Journalist of the Year Award 2014 accepting his award from Irish Examiner Assistant Sports Editor Terry Reilly. 4. Cormac Dowling the Limerick Live95 FM Broadcast Journalism Award Winner 2014 pictured with Limerick Live95 FM CEO Joe Nash.



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UL Speech and Language Therapy Students Making a Difference

Students completing a Masters in Speech & Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) in the Department of Clinical Therapies at UL have been using their expertise to deliver speech therapy in a Limerick City School. Visiting a local primary school each week to deliver on-site, integrated speech and language intervention became part of their clinical learning when Iain Burns, Resource Teacher at Scoil Ide, Corbally, contacted the department enquiring about assistance. Aoife Gallagher (Practice Educator and SLT), recognising the opportunity felt “it was a great chance for the students to experience a multidisciplinary approach to the delivery of speech and language intervention as well as enhancing University links with the local community”.

The students have been working on the children’s inferential understanding using a book sharing technique which research has shown to be effective for children of this age group as well as individual therapy sessions under the supervision of their Practice Educator. The local HSE SLT service, to whom some of the children have previously been referred, has welcomed UL’s involvement with the school. Mr. Peter Long, Principal, commented that the school has long believed speech and language therapy services should be provided in the child’s learning environment and, of the placement, he said “it has proven so beneficial to the children, in a familiar setting for them that we would love to see it continue and expand”.

Clinical outcomes of the intervention and views of progress, as well as the placement itself from the children, parents and teachers perspectives, will be gathered and top tips for supporting children with speech and language impairments will be shared with the school and home so that the work continues when the placement ends.

Entrepreneurship is Starting to Take Hold on Campus!

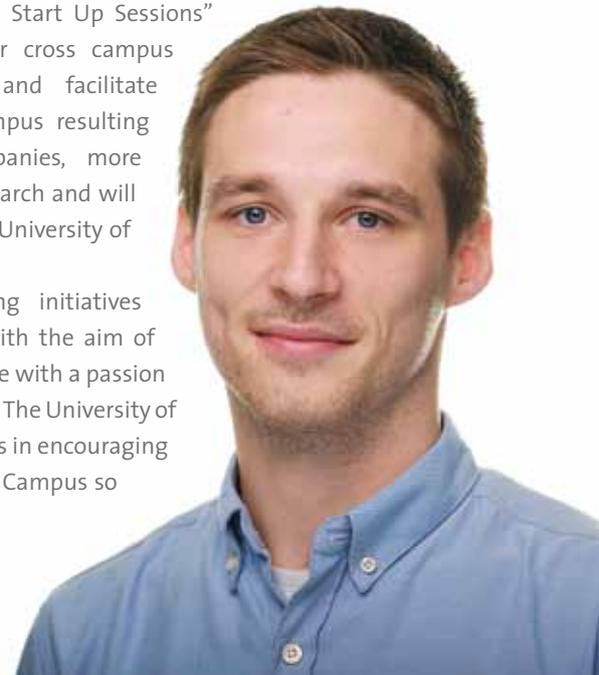
My name is Eoin Kelleher and I’m a 4th Year Business Student at the University of Limerick. I’ve recently being enjoying a new role in helping to facilitate Entrepreneurship on Campus.

I’m a final year student in the Kemmy Business School and like all students at UL spent my third year on Cooperative Education. My job was in the Nexus Innovation Centre where I was immersed in the day to day activities of the centre. It was the energy and ambition in the Nexus Innovation Centre that convinced me that this was something students needed to be a part of. The energy in Entrepreneurship is infectious. I knew if we could expose students to entrepreneurship once we turned the tap on, we wouldn’t be able to turn it off.

Following my Coop I was appointed as the new Student Ambassador for Entrepreneurship. This new role is facilitating a range of new initiatives being launched which promote student entrepreneurship through the University of Limerick. Supported by the Kemmy Business School and The Nexus Innovation Centre, Student Entrepreneurship is starting to take hold on Campus with the “Student Start Up Sessions” being launched earlier this year.

The “Student Start Up Sessions” are run in collaboration with student bodies here on Campus and aim to support enterprising students by helping them develop entrepreneurial competencies through a structured schedule of events which are open to the whole UL Community. We hope to increase awareness of entrepreneurship in the UL community and to enhance its skills and employability by creating the environment which facilitates students understanding and actively engaging in enterprising activities. These “Student Start Up Sessions” will be part of a wider cross campus initiative to promote and facilitate entrepreneurship on campus resulting in new spin-out companies, more commercialisation of research and will increase employability of University of Limerick Graduates.

There are many exciting initiatives in the pipeline and all with the aim of uniting like-minded people with a passion for making things happen. The University of Limerick is taking big steps in encouraging entrepreneurship here on Campus so watch this space!





INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS

International Students at UL will Contribute €19 million to the Mid-West Region

The University of Limerick has recently recorded the largest cohort of International Students in its history with 2,500 students representing over 100 countries attending the University.

It is estimated that the students will contribute in the region of €19million to the Mid -West region. The €19million figure is based on student spending estimates of between €7,000 and €12,000 in one year and does not include tuition fees paid to the University of Limerick. Josephine Page, Director, International Education Division said: “International students make a very significance impact to our region in terms of our economy, tourism, but also in the cultural links built which will continue for years to come.”

Among the international students visiting UL this year are those taking part in Study Abroad programmes, Erasmus and International Exchange programmes and full-time degree students.

UL also welcomes 150 Brazilian students taking part in the Science Without Borders programme. Josephine Page added: "I think the reason we excel in this area is because so many of our students are encouraged to partake in international study themselves and so we welcome international students as we'd like our students to be welcomed abroad. 30 % of UL undergraduate students spend a semester abroad, this is through Erasmus, non-EU exchange or Cooperative Education."

UL has links with over 400 universities in 38 countries and welcomes over 2,500 international students each year. International students currently account for 13.5% of the total student number and this continues to increase year-on-year. 1 in 3 undergraduate students at UL spend a semester overseas – last year saw almost 600 UL students travel abroad on study or work placements, making it the largest and most successful Erasmus programme in Ireland. In a recent International Student Barometer™ survey, UL was voted as the number one university in providing the Best Student Experience, Best Student Support and Warmest Welcome in Ireland. Across the four surveyed categories of 'Living', 'Support', 'Arrival' and 'Learning', UL was voted as having the best overall Living Experience in Ireland and the 5th in the world.

UL also scored first out of 238 institutions world-wide in the categories of 'Social Activities', 'Opportunities to experience Irish Culture', 'Social Facilities', 'Accommodation Office' and 'Clubs & Societies'. UL has a number of supports in place for international students including a dedicated international student support officer, study support centres, language training, a Buddy Programme and a generous number of scholarships.



UL Awarded over €1 million in Erasmus Funding Making it the Largest Programme in Ireland

The University of Limerick has been awarded over €1 million in funding, the highest amount allocated to any Irish third-level institution, by Erasmus+, the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. The funding will finance grants for students who undertake a study or work placement abroad while the rest of the funding will be used to support students with a disability and those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar said: "The University of Limerick has the largest and most successful Erasmus programme in Ireland with 1 in 3 undergraduate students spending a semester overseas on study or work placements, which adds greatly to their student experience. Moreover, it is known that time spent abroad directly enhances students' employability, which is reflected in the fact that the University of Limerick has the highest graduate employment rate in Ireland."

The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability and also support the modernisation of education, training and youth systems in Europe. The seven-year programme has a budget of over €14 billion which will help to support more than 4 million people to study, train, work or volunteer abroad. Students who would like to carry out their postgraduate study abroad will benefit from a new loan guarantee scheme, run by the European Investment Fund. Erasmus+ will also provide funding for educating and training staff, youth workers and for partnerships between universities, colleges, schools, enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.



UL Makes Further Links in China

Pictured are Lisa Pan, China Manager UL, Irish Ambassador Paul Kavanagh, Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar, UL, Minister for Education and Skills Jan O’Sullivan TD, Mr Gang Xiu, President Tianjin Foreign Studies University (TFSU), Ellen O’ Connor, International Recruitment Manager, UL and Professor Jingcheng WANG, Deputy Dean, School of International Business at the signing of the a memorandum of association between UL and TFSU in China recently. Professor Paul McCutcheon represented the University of Limerick on a

Trade Mission to China with Minister for Education & Skills, Jan O’Sullivan TD. Professor McCutcheon signed two MOU’s during the visit, the other with University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB). Chinese students represent the second largest nationality of UL’s international students, with on average 130 students arriving to UL every year to study. The Chinese community at UL is an active, vibrant element of the campus community bringing a wealth of culture and tradition to Limerick during the course of their studies.

UL International Student Ambassadors Honoured



The University of Limerick Education in Ireland International Student Ambassadors, Marian Jones Brooks (USA), Kelly Milford (USA) and Raj Shah (India), were honoured for their work in promoting Ireland as an education destination by the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn T.D. and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. at the Education in Ireland Student Ambassador Programme Awards held in Farmleigh House. Minister Quinn presented the Student Ambassadors with Certificates of Recognition and thanked them for their contribution in promoting Ireland as a study abroad destination. They are pictured here with UL International Recruitment Manager Amanda Glennon (second from left) and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny (centre).

Amber Patton, USA- My International Experience

My name is Amber Patton and I am earning my MA in creative writing at UL. I earned a Bachelor's degree in creative writing at Pacific University in Oregon. During my four years of college in the U.S., I minored in music and literature as well as studied abroad at UL during my third year.

My undergraduate thesis was titled, 'World Building in the Fantasy Novel', and it explored two main elements of creating a completely original fantasy world. For the past five years I have been writing an epic fantasy novel which includes new races, religions and languages. I am very excited to continue my education and will finish my novel under the guidance of Joseph O'Connor during my studies in Ireland.

I was first introduced to UL through Pacific University in the States. As a third year undergraduate student, I could choose to study in three different English speaking countries, Australia, England and Ireland. I had no idea then, but choosing to study in Ireland would change my life. It exposed me to authors like William B. Yeats, James Joyce, Claire Keegan and other famous Irish authors I would have never had the chance to read back in the states..

What first drew me to study in Ireland was the rich culture of music and literature. As a musician, I was ecstatic to learn more traditional styles of playing, and I knew I would have the opportunity to practice with new instruments. I wanted to experience living in a new culture, one with such a rich history in mythology and folklore. I knew my writing would also benefit from my travels. By living in Ireland I would have easy access to the rest of Europe, one weekend I could fly to Rome and the next be in Paris.

As many study abroad students might say, choosing UL

was the best decision of my life. Back in 2012 I became very involved with the Archery club and went on to place nationally in the Barebow Nationals at NUIG. I won over 13 awards with the club and competed all over Ireland. In 12 months, I travelled to over five countries, and visited over 20 European cities. Academically, I attended enthralling lectures on Yeats with Dr Margret Harper and read what felt like a mountain of books.

The best part about my study abroad experience was the friends I made. I was very close to my roommates from France, and the Archery team became my family away from home. However, 12 months flew by and I had to return home to the states to finish my degree. I knew after I earned my Bachelor's degree I wanted to continue my education in Europe. There were a lot of factors that drew me back to UL in pursuit of my Masters in Creative Writing. The key reason for my return was the opportunity to work with and

be mentored by Joseph O'Connor, author of *Star of the Sea*, *The Thrill of it All* and countless other favourites. During our interview he explained that he wanted to make the MA a place that would not only prepare writers for a life as an author but also give students opportunities to meet editors, publishers and agents. Choosing this program would expand my options for finding work in Ireland after I graduate, which is my ultimate goal.

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*By living in Ireland
I would have easy
access to the rest of
Europe, one weekend
I could fly to Rome
and the next be
in Paris...*

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Studying under Joseph O'Connor has been enlightening and a thrill. I am working with eleven amazing and talented writers from all over Ireland and the UK. Besides workshops and literature courses, we also have one-on-one lectures from famous Irish authors like Clarie Keegan and Colum McCann. We are currently teaming up with the MA in English students to create a beautiful and brand new literary journal, called The Ogham Stone. So far, this MA has an incredible mixture of creative writing, literature and editing and publishing; four very important parts of being a quality writer in today's society.

After I graduate, I plan to remain in Ireland and start my career with an editing and or publishing company. I will continue to pursue my work as a freelance writer and travel the world. My ultimate dream is to finish my fantasy novel in the next few years and work towards publishing my life's work.



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*As many study
abroad students
might say,
choosing UL was
the best decision
of my life.*
”

2014 UL Alumni Award Recipients, David Mahedy BA '78 (left), Eoin O'Connell BBS '86 (second left) and Justin Keatinge BSc '91 (right) are congratulated by UL President Professor Don Barry.



UL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UL Alumni Awards

For the ninth successive year, ULAA hosted the Annual UL Alumni Awards in honour of the outstanding contributions and achievements of individual members of the University's graduate community.

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t the glittering black-tie evening held in Limerick's Castletroy Park Hotel, three University of Limerick graduates were honoured with the UL Alumni Association's highest honour. The 2014 UL Alumni Awards celebration was made possible through the generous support of event partners, GE Capital Aviation Services, Hays Recruitment and Hogan Dowling McNamara (HDM) Solicitors.

2014 UL Alumni Award - Entrepreneurship: Mr Justin Keatinge

From his early days at secondary school in St Flannan's College in Ennis, Co Clare, Justin Keatinge had a passion to succeed in business and always knew he would become an entrepreneur. After graduating from the University of Limerick in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems, Justin started his working life in the IT department of ESB. It was here that he met John Mullen and together they went on to found Version 1 in 1996.

Establishing themselves as specialists in Oracle solutions, Justin and John built their reputation in this niche market and steadily grew and diversified the business from there. From a base of two people, a small Dublin office and €60,000 revenue in 1997, Version 1 today has 550 employees in offices in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Edinburgh, Knutsford, Kent and London and forecasted turnover of €60 million this year. Justin has led Version 1 through organic growth and strategic acquisitions to become one of the fastest growing IT services companies in Western Europe. Under his strategic direction Version 1 has doubled both profitability and revenue over the last few years, while at the same time delivering consistent improvement in customer satisfaction and better than world-class employee engagement.

As Managing Director at Version 1, Justin is currently focused on executing an International expansion programme, mainly focused on the UK Market, through strategic acquisitions and embedding the Version 1 culture and values within those organisations.

On a personal level, Justin is husband to Maureen and father to three energetic children. In his spare time, you will most likely find Justin competing in a marathon or triathlon event in any of the four corners of Ireland. As an active sportsman Justin has competed in over 40 races of marathon length or longer. He has been involved in the Irish Mountain Running Association (governing body for mountain running in Ireland) for the last 10 years. As well as being an active competitor for IMRA, he has taken a key leadership role in the organisation where he has the privilege of running with the Number 1 shirt.

2014 UL Alumni Award - Sport:

Mr David Mahedy

David (Dave) Mahedy has dedicated his whole life to sport as a coach, mentor, leader and hugely-effective voluntary contributor to sport within the wider community. Dave graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education in 1978 from the former Thomond College of Education (TCE was integrated into UL in 1991). As a newly-qualified PE teacher, Dave decided against a return to his home in Dublin and instead embraced 'Sporting Limerick' and what he recalls as "an opportune time in the modernising of sport". Dave's expertise in the areas of sports coaching, training and management has spanned a variety of sports where over four decades his involvement in various roles and capacities include:

Soccer: Limerick United / League of Ireland Champions 1979-

80 / FAI Cup Winners 1982 / Champions League v Real Madrid / Cup Winners v AZ Alkmaar / UEFA Cup v Southampton plus Friendlies v Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspurs. Also, St Patrick's Athletics: League of Ireland Champions, 1998 - 99, 2001-02 / Champions League v Glasgow Celtic / League Cup 2001-01. Also, FAI: Junior International Manager 1992-94

Gaelic Games: Limerick Senior Hurling / Munster Champions 1994, 1996 / All Ireland Finalists 1994, 1996 / Senior County Championships with Ballybrown, Patrickswell, UL GAA Clubs / Senior Munster Championships with Ballybrown 1989

Rugby: Munster (1998 - 2008) / Heineken Cup 2006, 2008 / Celtic Leagues 2003, 2005

Golf: Castletroy Golf Club / Munster Senior Club Champions 2007, 2008.

Separately, as full-time Director of Sport at UL, Dave's professional achievements include the development of UL Sport - Ireland's Sports Campus; UL Sport Arena (including Ireland's first 50m Swimming Pool); North Campus Team Park (Europe's biggest Synthetic Pitch Development); UL Adventure Centre in Killaloe; Special Olympics National Games 2010, 2014; High Performance Swim Centre; and upcoming developments: Munster One Centre Training Facility as well as a 25m Diving/ Training Pool for UL Sport.

Married to Kay and with three grown children, one of Dave's personal highlights was "meeting Sister Maria from Lisnagry who needed help in setting up a Special Olympics Club in the school. I volunteered, got stuck in from the very start and it is still one of my proudest achievements when I see the role of Special Olympics today."

2014 UL Alumni Award – Business:

Mr Eoin O'Connell

Originally from Corofin, Co. Clare Ireland, Eoin O'Connell is the President and CEO of Kerry EMEA. He also has Global executive responsibility for two of Kerry's largest customers.

Eoin started his career with Kerry Foods, Kerry's Consumer Foods Division, as a graduate accountant from the University of Limerick following his graduation in 1986 with a Bachelor in Business Studies. He spent 4 years in Ireland before moving to the US in 1990.

He held a number of accounting roles and a procurement role in Canada while on a 2 year assignment in the mid-90's. In 1997, he moved to Mexico to take on the role of Operations Director for Kerry's fledgling LATAM region. After a short while he took



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1. John Dineen and Maureen Lynch.
2. Joe O'Connell, Brid O'Connell, Eoin O'Connell (2014 UL Alumni Award Recipient - Business) and Therese O'Connell.
3. Laura Keays, Sandra O'Dwyer and Sara Llamas.
4. Sile and Edmond Harty (2014 UL Alumni Award Recipient - Entrepreneurship).
5. Anna Ryan, Connor McCarthy and Ciara O'Sullivan.
6. Declan Kidney with UL Alumni Award Recipients for their contribution to Sport: Fiona O'Driscoll (2007), David Mahedy (2014), Tony Ward (2012) and Paul Gleeson (2006).
7. Kay and David Mahedy (2014 UL Alumni Award Recipient).
8. Stephanie Broussard, Maura Mc Nairney and Lee Ann Badum.

on a General Management role as President of the region and subsequently held similar roles in Canada and North America in progressively larger businesses. In 2012, he returned to Ireland to take on his current role.

Throughout his career, Eoin has developed the leadership skills and business acumen which has seen him rise to the top levels of management within the Kerry Group. In a career with significant international experience, he brings a fresh way of looking at business opportunities in the EMEA region and globally. His reputation is one of turning around businesses and setting them on a path to growth. He has done this successfully on a number of occasions in his career.

Eoin is highly respected throughout the organisation and renowned for his practical and realistic approach to business. It's this approach which permeates throughout his leadership team and has seen the Kerry business in EMEA achieve impressive results since his appointment.

He has had the privilege of working with and developing a number of senior people in Kerry and is excited at the prospect of being part of the development of the graduates joining the region and facilitating the growth of their careers.

Eoin is married to Nicole and they have two daughters, Aoife and Ayla. He is a lifelong follower of the GAA and more recently American football and rugby. He also enjoys hiking, kayaking and golfing in his spare time.

UL Reunions 2014

With the aim of bringing graduates back to the campus to renew old friendships and see first-hand developments at their *alma mater*, ULAA again hosted class reunion events in September where UL's President, Professor Don Barry met with graduates of NCPE, Thomond College of Education, NIHE and UL from 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009.



While the majority of graduates who attended are living in Ireland, a number of graduates travelled from abroad for the occasion including, from England, Germany, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Spain and USA. ULAA thanks everyone who contributed to the success of these reunions.

Graduates enjoying the Annual UL Alumni Reunion Party held in the Stables in 2014 were (l-r):

1. BSc Computer Systems '89 alumni, Joan Giltinan, Jenny O'Keeffe (nee Charters) and Martin Buckley. 2. BA European Studies '94 alumnae, Mary Ellen Greene, Mary McGrath, Elaine Waugh, Mary Hayes with Kevin Baker BBS '94. 3. Ber Angley (back left) and BA European Studies '89 alumna Catherine Spillane (third right) with BBS '89 alumni, Maria O'Toole, Dorothy Prendergast, Dorothy Sheridan, Alan Ahearne, Bernie Sheridan, Judy Doyle, Mike Nesbitt and Jacqueline O'Neill.



4. BSc Materials Science '89 alumni, Michael Cronin, Ned Vaughan, Kieran Stapleton, Johnny O'Neill and Tony Hamm. 5. BA European Studies '89 alumnae, Aine Muldoon, Sheila Barr, Anne Marie Casey, Niamh Ward, Niamh O'Carroll with Siobhan Fogarty (BSc Industrial Chemistry '89). 6. BEng '94 alumni, Nick Ryan (Aeronautical), Michael Gleeson (Production), Noel Harnett (Industrial) with Dermot Carey, Ronan O'Conghaile and Donnacha McKenna (all Production Engineering). 7. BEng Electronic Engineering '09 alumni, Shane Fitzpatrick, Rachel Meehan (Guest), Gavin O'Donoghue, James Roche, Connor O'Sullivan, Eamon Prendergast and Miriam Savage. 8. BA European Studies '94 alumna, Eimear Healy (second left) and Denise Frobarth BBS '94 (third right) with BSc Computer Systems '94 alumni, Jared O'Brien, Majella O'Dea, Neal McCarthy, Enda Fadian, Noreen Ryan and Michael Duggan.



Johnny Paradise BBS 2010

Following his graduation from UL, Johnny was the recipient of the prestigious Conlisk Scholarship through which he completed a Masters in Business at Fairfield University in Connecticut and during which time he completed an internship on New York's Wall Street. Johnny is now back in his hometown of Limerick where he works as a Financial Analyst with Northern Trust and recently made headlines when he gave the ultimate gift to a complete stranger by donating a kidney. His altruistic, selfless gesture was prompted by watching a television documentary on organ donation.

Gillian Driver BEng Electronic Engineering '99

Limerick native, Gillian Driver owns and runs her own coaching and training business 'Engage2Change', specialising in the area of Careers and Personal Development. She also designs and blends digital media and e-learning content with classroom learning and one-to-one coaching to enhance the learning experiences of the people with whom she works.

Dr Anthony Maher BSc Industrial Biochemistry '08 & PhD '13

Originally from near Listowel, Anthony is a member of the Kerry team who were crowned 2014 All-Ireland Senior Football Champions. Now working with Pfizer in Cork, he was previously a Researcher at UL and just recently won Science Foundation Ireland's 2014 Research Image of the Year competition for a depiction of his research at UL's Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC).

Hermitage Green

Irish acoustic folk rock band, Hermitage Green has enjoyed international success since their formation in Limerick over four years ago. Known best for their hard-hitting rhythm sections driven by the tribal combinations of bodhrán and djembe, rhythmic guitar lines with dobro melodies and soaring four part vocal harmonies, the band's line-up-up includes three UL graduates, Dr Darragh Graham BSc Sports & Exercise Science '05 & PhD '13, Daniel Murphy BSc Music Media and Performance Technology '10 and Darragh Griffin MA Irish Traditional Music Performance '12.

Maria Flanagan BA (Public Admin)'97, Grad. Dip. (Business Admin) '98 & MA (Business) '11

Originally from Offaly, Maria is now based in Dublin where she works as a Development Associate with Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI), an organisation that supports social entrepreneur-led projects which develop new, innovative solutions to address Ireland's most entrenched social and environmental problems. Maria loves the outdoors and in her spare time helps to promote the work of Irish Whale and Dolphin Group and Leave No Trace Ireland, encouraging people to respect the environment and marine life around our coasts.

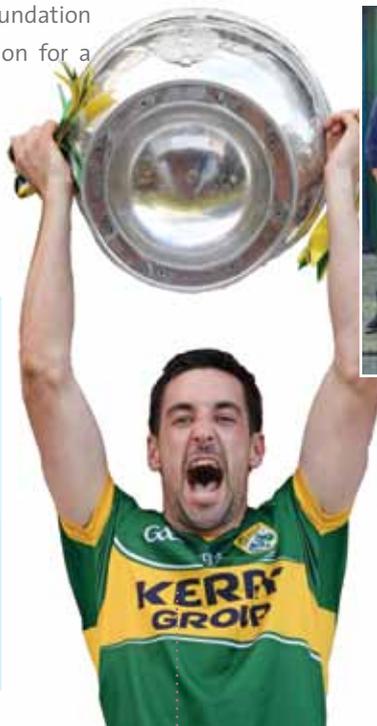


Photo Credit: Limerick Leader

Johnny Paradise



Gillian Driver



Dr Anthony Maher



Hermitage Green



Maria Flanagan

ate Lives

Shane Clifford BBS '98

A native of Annacotty, Limerick, Shane is now based in New York where he is the Executive Vice President for the Permal Group with responsibility for broadening the group's world-wide footprint. He currently lives in New Jersey with his wife, Tricia, and their three children, Liam, Owen, and Sean.

Helen Finnerty BA (European Studies) '91 and
Liam Kelly BBS '88

Originally from Killimor, Co Galway and Enniscrone Co Sligo respectively, Helen and Liam recently relocated to Philadelphia in the U.S. where Liam took up the role of Executive Vice President and President the Americas for Teleflex. While Helen previously worked for Allianz in Dublin as Business Services Manager, she currently looks after their five children.

Moira Murrell BA European Studies '92

Killarney native Moira Murrell was recently named Chief Executive of Kerry County Council. Moira had worked previously with Cork County Council as a Director of Services. She is married to Brendan O'Neill and the couple have three children: Patrick, Mary Anna and Charles.

Eoin Cahill BBS '14

Limerick native Eoin is now based in Google HQ in Dublin, where he works as an Account Strategist responsible for managing Google's Advertising clients in the SMB sector for UK and Ireland. He is a self-proclaimed "digital marketing nerd" who also plays GAA and guitar in his spare time.

Colm Walsh MA Interactive Media '11

Following a request from Arts + Minds Cork (a HSE initiative which promotes the arts in mental health care and recovery), Cork-based film-maker Colm (and part-time Lecturer at UL) ran an eight-week workshop on film-making. The short films made by users of mental health services in the Cork region were subsequently screened during Cork Film Festival.

Deirdre (Corbett) Ryan, BBS 1998

Executive Director of Bóthar, the non-profit organisation that specialises in helping impoverished families in the developing world using Irish dairy livestock. Deirdre is a Limerick native who previously established and acted as managing director of award winning marketing agency, SPARK Marketing (Limerick and Dublin). She completed her undergraduate thesis on the use of Irish Livestock in development assistance.

Shane Clifford



Colm Walsh



(Photo Credit: Richie Tyndall)



Helen Finnerty



Moira Murrell



Eoin Cahill



Deirdre (Corbett) Ryan



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UL GRADUATIONS

Graduation Days...Congratulations!

This year's Autumn Conferings saw the graduation of over 2,600 students including 48 PhD graduates over 4 days.

1. Sinead Long, Cappagh, Askeaton, Co. Limerick who was conferred with a BA Architecture.
2. James McAssey, Carlow town who was conferred with a BSc in Physical Education also received the Silver Medal for Joint First Place, Interfaculty Programmes 2014.
3. Dr Laura-Ann Furlong, conferred with a PhD and Lt Patrick Molloy awarded a BSc in Sport & Exercise Sciences both from Ballycumber, Offaly.



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- 4. Paul Flanagan who was conferred with a BSc in Physical Education.
 - 5. Alice Carroll, Parteen and John O'Dwyer, Castletroy, both conferred with a BBS.
 - 6. Patrick McHugh, Drumkerrin, Leitrim conferred with a BTech(Education) Materials & Engineering Technology.
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- 7. Syed Naqvi from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada and David Chong from Vancouver, Canada who were conferred with a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery.
 - 8. James McCormick, Clonlara and Emmet Farrell, Tuam both conferred with Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery.
 - 9. Three-time medal winner Dr. Caoimhe Costigan, Sutton, Dublin who was awarded First Prize for Overall Performance in the Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery Graduate Entry Degree Programme 2014; First Prize in the Discipline of General Practice/ Primary Care 2014 and First Prize in the Discipline of Psychiatry 2014.
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October saw UCH produce its own ‘Limerick’s Dream Will Do’ show supported by the “Made in Limerick” initiative funded by Limerick City of Culture.

This was a superb night at the musicals showcasing 6 of Limerick’s own leading musical singers including John Brannoch, Shonagh Daly, Nigel Dugdale, Jean McGlynn, Amanda Minihan and Liam O’Brien. The artists were joined on the night by leading international and West End musical star, Jason Donovan and the Limerick Music Society Choir to create an event which recognised, for the first time, the City’s strong tradition of musical theatre and its contribution to the development of musical talent in Limerick.

Since 2013, University Concert Hall is part of the highly successful University of Limerick subsidiary company Plassey Campus Centre responsible for the development of all of the campus communal facilities and actively promoting the campus for public use and international conferences and events. According to UCH Chairman, Harry Fehily, “the UCH Board of Directors are delighted to lead the newly structured venue and together with UCH General Manager, Sinéad Hope, we are committed to making UCH a leading Mid-west performing arts and entertainment centre of national and international standing for audiences and artists alike”.



UNIVERSITY
of
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