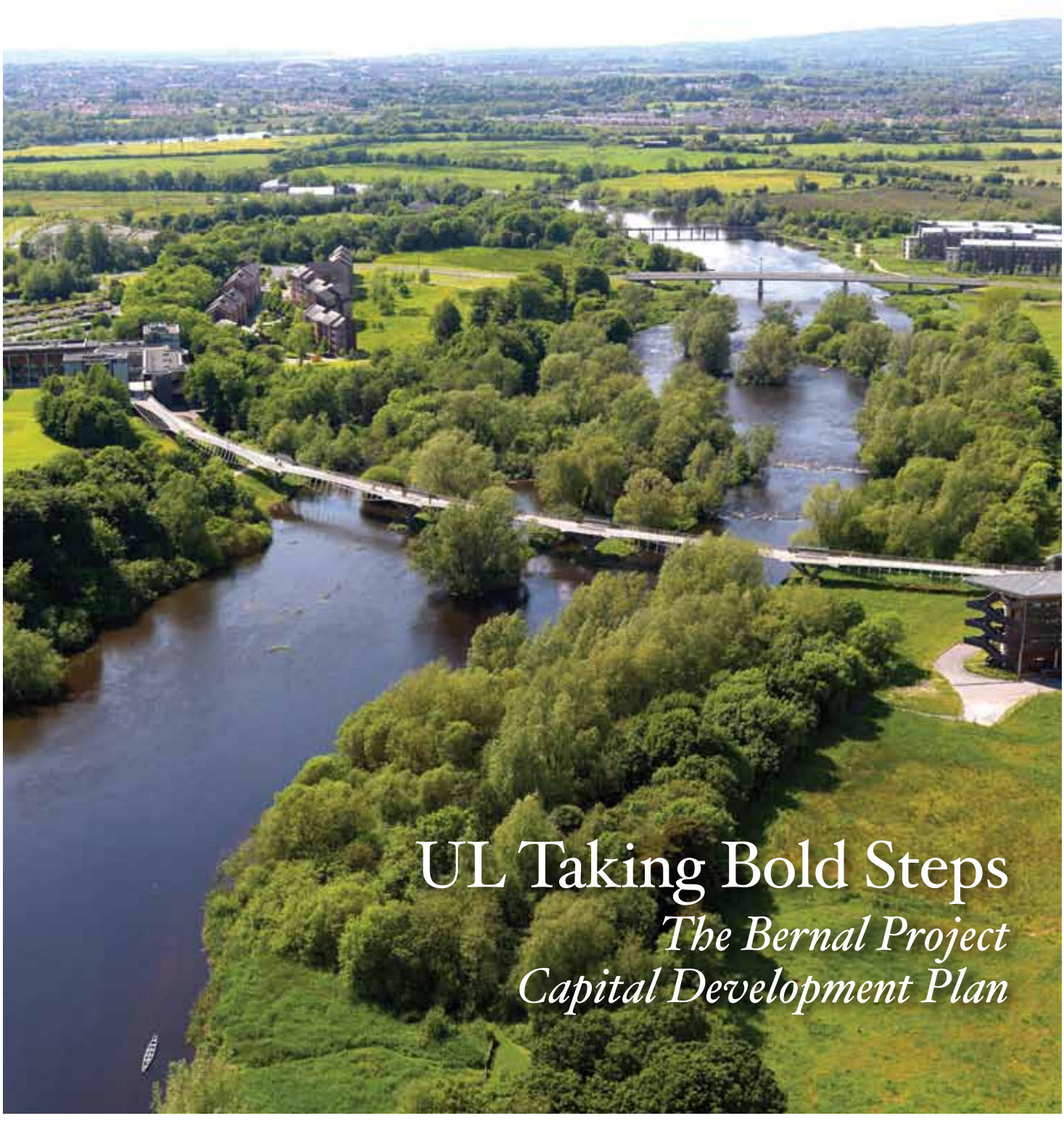
UL LINKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK MAGAZINE



UL Taking Bold Steps

The Bernal Project

Capital Development Plan

Features | Interviews | Events | Updates | News

UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

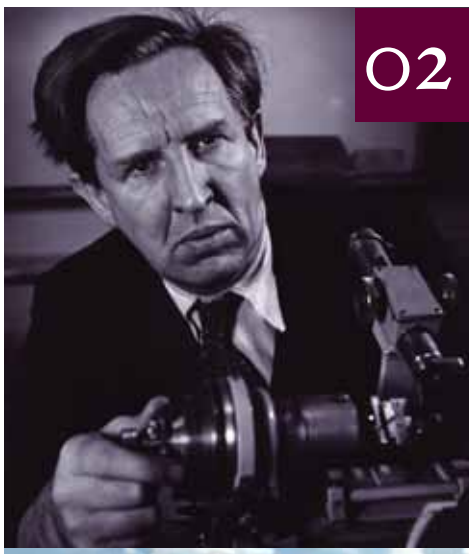
CONTENTS

Spring 2014 / Vol 6 / Issue 2

President's Welcome

Features

News and Updates



Research & Innovation News

Editor: Éamonn Cregan

Project Manager: Eleanor McCormack

Writers: Eleanor McCormack, Christine Brennan, Sheena Doyle

Editorial Team: Christine Brennan, Sheena Doyle, Michelle Houlden

Contributors: Sarah Hartnett, Majella O' Connell

Design: Designers Ink

Print: GPS

Photography: Press 22, Alan Place Photography, Sean Curtain Photography

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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***

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

1. The Bernal Building.
2. Newly-elected Chair of the UL Foundation Loretta Brennan Glucksman.
3. President Don Barry with Vice-President of the EIB Jonathan Taylor.

Welcome to this edition of *UL Links*. It has been another exciting year for the University of Limerick, with many initiatives launched and underway which will see us progress successfully into the future.

This year we announced details of **The Bernal Project, a €52 million research and innovation initiative** developed in collaboration with Government, private enterprise and our philanthropic partners, particularly the Atlantic Philanthropies. It is a most significant project for UL, but also represents one of the most significant investments ever in science and engineering in this country. It will allow us to recruit 10 world leading professors, to establish a start-up fund to seed research activity and to construct a new research facility. As we face into 2014 I am pleased to say that 5 of our Professors are recruited and the construction of the €25 million research facility is underway.

UL has also launched a new **€224 million Capital Development Plan,** following approval of a €100 million loan approval from the European Investment Bank. UL has ambitious plans for 50,000m² of research, student, sports and academic infrastructure, including a clinical research facility at University Hospital Limerick and a City Centre Campus .

UL is also proud to join with all the people of Limerick to enhance and celebrate Limerick as Ireland's inaugural National City of Culture. 2014 should be a remarkable and invigorating year for Limerick and we are especially looking forward to participating in Limerick's vibrant cultural life during the year in prospect.

I am also delighted to welcome **Mrs Loretta Brennan Glucksman** as **the newly-elected Chair of the UL Foundation.** We are fortunate to count among our friends such internationally-recognised philanthropists as Loretta and her late husband Lew Glucksman and Chuck Feeney. The legacy of their generosity will enrich the lives, imaginations and careers of current and future generations of learners and researchers for many, many years to come. With Loretta's leadership and the support of the Foundation and global philanthropic organisations such as the Atlantic Philanthropies, we can grow and develop for the benefit of the communities we serve.

As UL commences its fifth decade this innovative institution continues to **re-imagine what education in and for a modern Ireland should and can mean.** We are a distinctive, pioneering and connected university that shapes the future through educating and empowering people to meet the real challenges of tomorrow. We thank all members of the UL family for their guidance and support and we look forward to overcoming challenges and enjoying successes in partnership with you, our friends, alumni, students and staff.

Don Barry

Professor Don Barry
President

T
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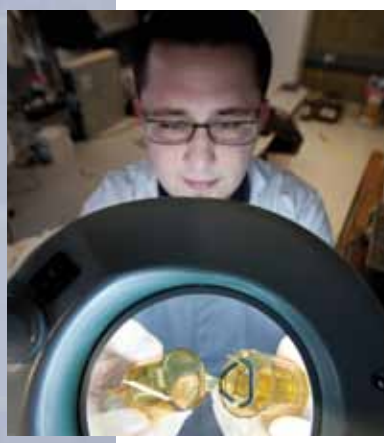
Building an Innovation Ecosystem

THE RNAL – OJECT



President Barry with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at the official launch of The Bernal Project.

The University of Limerick's research programmes are unsurpassed in terms of impact in the real world. We benchmark ahead of our peers in terms of patents, campus spin-out companies, job creation and innovation.

UL has carefully analysed Ireland's innovation needs and strategically selected areas with high growth potential that can make major contributions to Ireland's economic recovery and future development. Building on UL's existing foundations of research excellence in these areas, we have devised The Bernal Project to attract world-class professors, provide advanced infrastructure and resources and undertake pioneering research that can re-build Ireland's economy.

UL's research track record and the promise offered by The Bernal Project have secured Government grant assistance and major investment from private donors including one of the world's leading philanthropic organisations, The Atlantic Philanthropies. This targeted support for UL's independent research initiative represents a considerable vote of confidence in the University of Limerick and its research vision.

Bernal Chairs are globally-recognised leaders in their scientific, engineering and technological fields who will deliver a significant enhancement to UL's ranking on international university league tables, while also meeting our national goals for R&D. Five of the ten Chairs have already been recruited and the search continues for the other five.

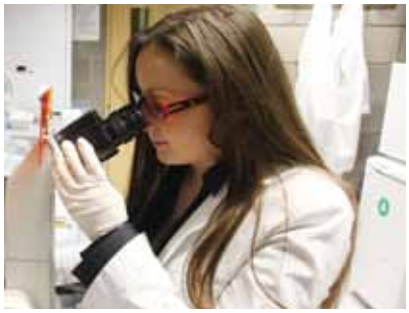
UL wants to recruit leaders in critically-important fields to pioneer innovation, drive change and achieve success that will yield significant benefits for society in the future. The Bernal Project will help nurture Ireland's research leaders of the future and support Ireland's progress for many generations to come.

Professor Don Barry
President, University of Limerick

The - Bernal - Project

The University of Limerick wishes to enhance its research in the Applied Science & Engineering sphere and has made a strategic decision to concentrate its enhancement efforts in areas which:

- **Generate a Reputation of Research Excellence for the University**
- **Address Technical Problems of Importance to Ireland**
- **Generate Excellent Interactions with Industry.**



The Bernal Project is a €52 million strategic initiative that will enable the University of Limerick to enhance its teaching and research outputs which will have an impact on economic, educational and social development nationally and globally. The project is aligned with the University's Strategic Plan 2011-2015: Pioneering and Connected.

The University of Limerick has a proud track record of excellence and impact in science and engineering, and is prioritising key disciplines in the Faculty of Science & Engineering to address academic and research needs.

The Bernal Project is focussed on the development of the following selected areas:

- ***Pharmaceutical Science and Engineering,***
- ***Modern Materials, Biomedical Materials and Engineering,***
- ***Energy and Sustainable Environment.***

These selections are based in part on our current strengths and in many cases a reorientation of existing strengths into new areas.

Each of the selected areas is already supported by major funding from the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (Higher Education Authority), Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the European Union and a variety of commercial sources. These priorities align closely with Ireland's National Research Prioritisation.

The Bernal Project will have an impact on economic, educational and social development nationally and globally.

- The Bernal Professorships -

The Bernal Project will create ten new professorships in the three selected areas at the University of Limerick. As Bernal Professors, the senior academic appointees will have the ability to motivate, attract, mentor and work with a larger cohort of emerging academic staff and researchers. Typically, each Research Leader will work with 3 developing academic staff (mostly at lecturer level, some of whom are already at UL), and 10-15 researchers at postgraduate and postdoctoral levels, leading to a new research cohort of 140-180 people.

The objective is to generate for UL a world-wide reputation in applied sciences and engineering, with strong outputs in terms of the attractiveness of our research graduates, the citation rates of our scholarly publications and our contributions to the development of industry and wealth in Ireland and the Shannon region.

- The Bernal Building -

The construction of the the Bernal Building Project commenced in the summer 2013 to develop a 7,459m^2 facility that will house fully-equipped laboratories to enable teaching and research by the ten appointees and their staff. In addition to significant laboratory space the building will also provide offices, teaching facilities including seminar rooms and a 200 seat lecture hall. The building project is expected to be completed for January 2015.

The Bernal Building is being constructed on the South Campus adjacent to existing science and engineering research facilities. This will further strengthen the University's Science Zone and provide a particularly creative environment for this new research development, providing close proximity between researchers, students, professors and research facilities across different disciplines. This strategy has sprung from the need to bring together creative minds that interact in an interdisciplinary way as well as sharing specialised facilities and equipment.

- Funding -

This €52 million project is funded on a partnership basis between the State, the University and philanthropic support. The University of Limerick Foundation, the philanthropic body that supports the University has been instrumental in UL securing this private support. In addition to contributions from University and State sources, The Atlantic Philanthropies has been the project's main sponsor to date with a commitment of €26.3million. Atlantic embraced the Bernal initiative on recognising that their support could have a major positive impact in advancing a key strategic sector of the University, with which it has a long-standing relationship.

- The University of Limerick Foundation -

The University of Limerick Foundation facilitates philanthropic support for UL's strategic development through investments in research and training, as well as campus development projects. The Foundation also oversees a portfolio of philanthropic projects, donations and support for the wider Limerick community. The Foundation has again this year reported continued strong support for the University's strategic investment programme despite the on-going difficult economic climate.

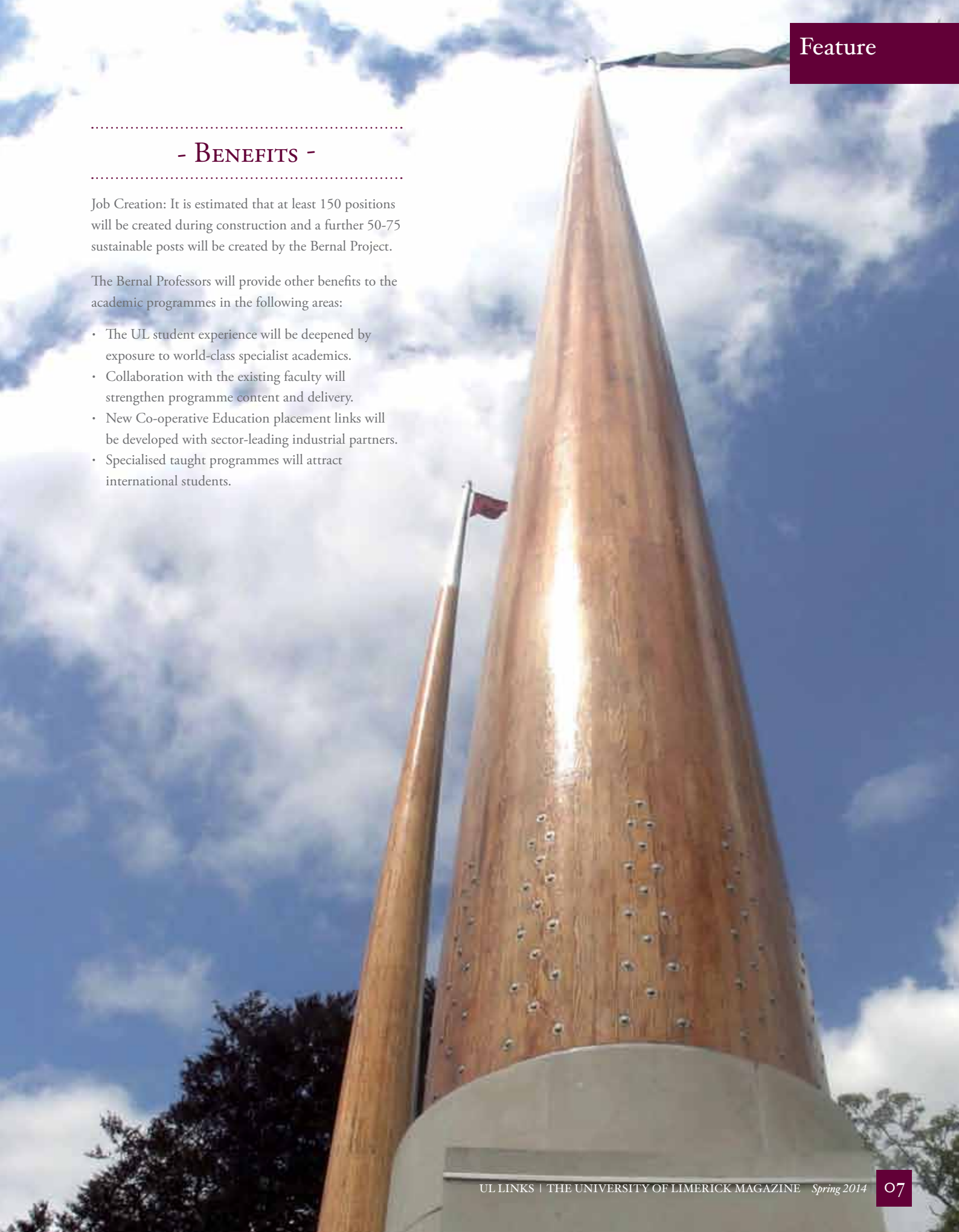
The Bernal Project is the largest ever philanthropic investment secured by the University of Limerick Foundation. Foundation CEO, David Cronin stated that "The Foundation is delighted to have played a role in this transformational project for the University. The Bernal project has the potential to re-position the University on the educational landscape in Ireland and internationally for generations to come. The vision of Chuck Feeney continues to impact across the globe".

The main projects supported by the Foundation's donors in recent years have included the launch of a new Chair in Creative Writing to honour the former Foundation Director and author Frank McCourt, a range of Regeneration initiatives in the City of Limerick, and investment in a Seed & Early-Stage Equity Fund supporting the commercialisation of University research. Campus development over that period included a range of new sporting facilities and the announcement of a new purpose-built facility to home Munster Rugby. The Foundation continues to acquire collections of cultural significance to enhance the Glucksman Library.

The University of Limerick Foundation has raised in the region of €200 million for the University from private individuals, institutions and business during the last 25 years and has supported many of the capital projects in what is now a world class campus.

Speaking at the launch of the Bernal Project, Mary Sutton, Republic of Ireland Country Director for The Atlantic Philanthropies said, "We are very enthusiastic about the potential of this major initiative and we are very happy to be collaborating with Government and with the University of Limerick Foundation to help to realise the ambitious vision behind the project." She continued, "Atlantic's involvement with the Bernal project comes in the context of a very long-standing relationship with the University of Limerick and with the perspective afforded by much experience with UL. And looking to the success of past projects as an indicator we believe there is very good reason to be optimistic and excited about the prospects for the Bernal project".



- Benefits -

Job Creation: It is estimated that at least 150 positions will be created during construction and a further 50-75 sustainable posts will be created by the Bernal Project.

The Bernal Professors will provide other benefits to the academic programmes in the following areas:

- The UL student experience will be deepened by exposure to world-class specialist academics.
- Collaboration with the existing faculty will strengthen programme content and delivery.
- New Co-operative Education placement links will be developed with sector-leading industrial partners.
- Specialised taught programmes will attract international students.

- The Bernal

Professor of Microscopy and Imaging

Professor Ursel Bangert

Professor Ursel Bangert who obtained her PhD in Physics from the University of Cologne, Germany, has been awarded Chair of Microscopy and Imaging. She has held academic posts at the University of Surrey and UMIST prior to her appointment as Reader in the School of Materials in the University of Manchester in 2004. As a member of the electron optics group there she took an active part in the running and development of the electron optical facilities, and is also strongly involved with the UK STEM facilities at Liverpool and Daresbury. She has worked in the general area of electron microscopy for over 20 years. A particular interest is the advancement and exploration of electron microscopies combined with spectroscopies with ultra-high spatial resolution. Her research has centred around functional materials, and, more recently, nanostructured materials, the underlying theme being the relationship between micro- and electronic structure. She has pioneered low loss EELS for highly spatially resolved electronic structure studies as well as single atom EELS. Having worked on electron microscopy of graphene since its discovery (the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2010 was awarded to Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov at the University of Manchester for their work on graphene), Professor Bangert was the first to conduct atomic resolution HAADF and low loss EELS on graphene.

Professor Bangert has published over 150 peer review articles including two full papers in Nature.

Professor of Energy

Professor Bartek Glowacki

Professor Bartek Glowacki was recently appointed as Bernal Chair of Energy. A physics graduate who received his PhD in the Polish Academy of Science, Bartek also received the life title of Professor from the President of Poland and became Expert in Energy at the Institute of Power Engineering in Poland. He has also held the Personal Chair of Energy and Materials Science in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy of the University of Cambridge. Bartek is a member of the World Energy Council and his appointment follows a decision by UL, as part of its strategic plan 2011-2015, to enhance its research in the Science & Engineering sphere through the Bernal Project. Bartek leads the Transnational Energy Materials Printing Initiative (www.tempri.eu). He has already established two inkjet printing systems at UL which are going to be used for energy materials development by his research team. He has a deep interest in applications of energy devices where fundamental quantum physics meets heavy industry.

Professor Glowacki has published 8 book chapters and 19 patents, and authored or co-authored 311 research publications, receiving 2478 citations and an h-index of 24.

The Bernal Professors pictured u

Professor of Crystal Engineering *Professor Mich*

Professor Michael Zaworotko has been awarded the Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering. Professor Zaworotko was previously based at the University of South Florida and is among the top 20 research chemists in the world. This appointment is the first under the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Professorship Programme which aims to attract iconic research talent to Ireland. The programme includes funding of €5 million to support a body of research critical to our indigenous pharmaceutical industry and enhancing Ireland's reputation as a centre for excellence. Professor Zaworokto is in demand as a consultant to several major pharmaceutical companies many of whom have supported

Professors -

with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny

Professor of Fluid Mechanics
Professor Harry Van den Akker

Professor Harry Van den Akker is the newly-appointed Bernal Chair of Fluid Mechanics. He was previously the Professor in Transport Phenomena at Delft University of Technology. Prior to this Professor Van den Akker was a research engineer at Shell Research in Amsterdam and has held visiting appointments in Princeton and at King's College London. He was President of the Dutch Physical Society for 6 years, and Scientific Director of the Netherlands Research School in Process Technology for 12 years. He is regarded as a world leader in the fluid dynamics of multiphase mixing. Professor Van den Akker will continue a partial appointment in TUDelft to facilitate collaborations with the University of Limerick.

Professor Van den Akker's published work is in the top 20 rank of articles cited from the major journals in the area including American Institute of Chemical Engineering Journal and Chemical Engineering Research and Development. Professor Van den Akker comes to UL as world leader in the area of Fluid Mechanics and will contribute to all engineering disciplines with Fluid Mechanics at their core.

Professor of Pharmaceutical Powder Engineering
Professor Gavin Walker

Professor Gavin Walker who was a Reader in Chemical Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and retains a Visiting Professorship at the École des Mines de Nantes, France, took up the Bernal Chair in Pharmaceutical Powder Engineering in July 2012. Professor Walker's particular expertise is in pharmaceutical process engineering and modelling of particulate systems.

In the pharmaceutical industry, the term "Secondary Manufacture" refers to a series of physical and chemical processes whereby the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient is processed with excipient materials to produce a drug product. These secondary processes include engineering unit operations, such as mixing, blending, wet and dry granulating, extruding, drying, compressing, coating and tablet pressing critically, the fundamental science and engineering underpinning these powder processes are not fully understood. This professorship aims to develop fundamental and applied aspects of pharmaceutical engineering, and become the focus for the development of this important area of engineering science both in Ireland and internationally.

Professor Walker's personal research group includes 12 research students and 4 post-doctoral researchers. He has published 100 international journal papers in areas of pharmaceutical, environmental and bioengineering. He is Associate-Editor of the Chemical Engineering Journal and Chemical Engineering Research and Design. Professor Walker is co-Principal Investigator on SFI funded SSPC (Solid State Pharmaceutical Cluster) and the Principal Investigator on Enterprise Ireland Funded PMTC (Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre) hosted at University of Limerick.

ael Zaworotko

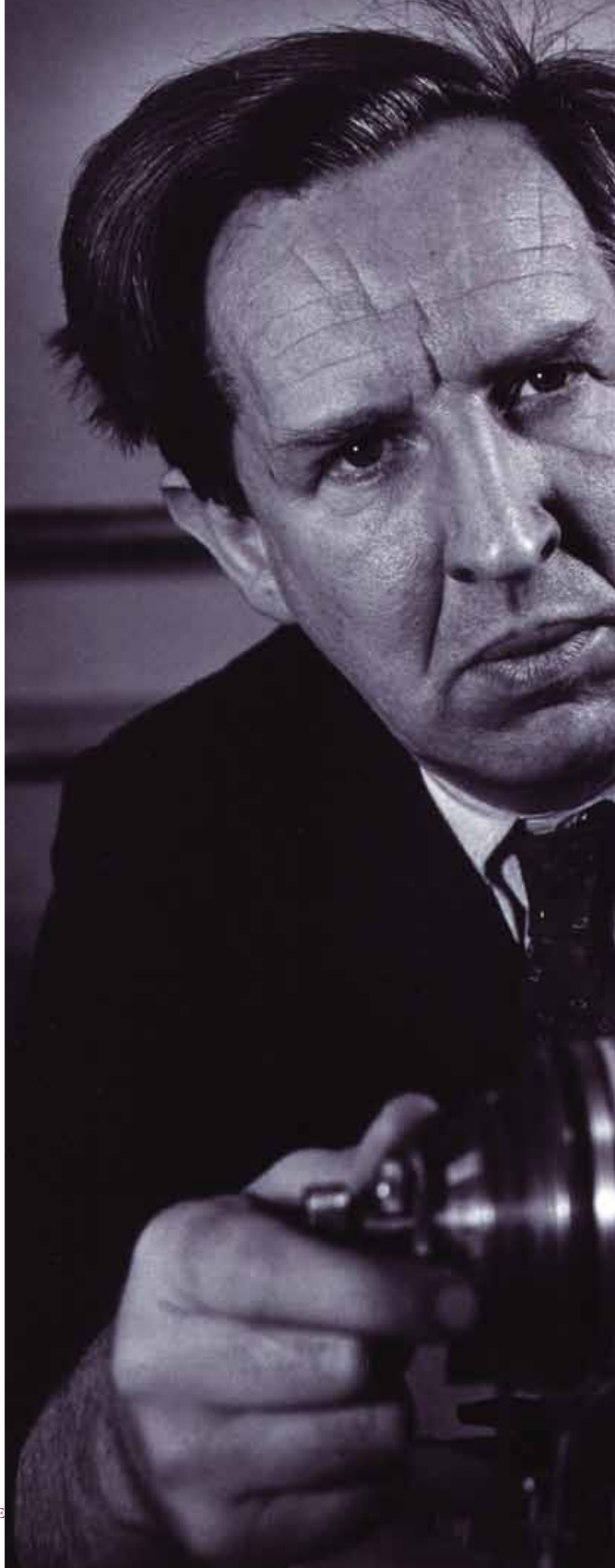
his research. He is a Member of UTEK Corporation's Scientific Advisory Council, Member of Thar Pharmaceuticals Scientific Advisory Board and a Member of Alkermes Scientific Advisory Board. He holds 6 patents and a further 10 are pending. Professor Zaworotko is a prolific publisher of high quality, peer-reviewed journals. His h-index is 68. He has published over 300 original research articles and these have been cited over 21,000 times. He is among the top 20 most cited chemists in the ISI database, was Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2011 and is a reviewer for Science, Nature, JACS and Angewandte Chemie.

- John Desmond Bernal -

The Bernal Project is named after John Desmond Bernal - one of Ireland's most influential 20th century scientists. Professor Bernal had a reputation as a selfless supporter of and mentor to young scientists. His peers affectionately referred to him as Sage.

His education began at the local school before transferring to Hodder School and then Sandhurst College in England, where he worked his way through the school library each Sunday after Mass. He was accepted into Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1919 for an undergraduate degree in Natural Science where he developed a strong interest in the emerging science of X-ray crystallography. Only in 1913 did the father and son pair W.H. Bragg and W.L. Bragg demonstrate that the diffraction of X-rays from a crystal could be used to determine the inner chemical structure of the material and in 1923 Bernal joined the elder Bragg in his group at the Royal Institution (RI). There he worked on a range of topics within the burgeoning field including both technical and theoretical developments.

Bernal left the RI in 1927 to become the first lecturer in structural crystallography at Cambridge and remained there until 1937 when he obtained a chair in Physics at Birkbeck College, University of London and was the head of the newly established department of crystallography. His research moved from the technical development to the applications of crystallographic methods to new fields of science especially biologically important materials. Initially, he and his collaborator William Astbury at the University of Leeds, with whom he'd worked at the RI, separated the field of biochemistry between them, with Bernal studying the smaller crystalline components such as amino acids and steroids, while Astbury focused on fibrous materials and proteins. However, as time passed the scope of his group expanded and ground-breaking work on the structure of viruses and proteins led to the foundation of protein crystallography. This development fundamentally changed the focus of biochemical research and the understanding of biological activity as it allowed for the 3-D chemical structure of the component species to be examined as often as the processes occurred.



J. D. Bernal was driven by a belief that science and technology would improve the living standards of humanity if properly focused...

Bernal specialised in the identification of new fields to explore but rarely stayed long enough to fully develope the area, which he left to trusted colleagues. Indeed, two of his former students (Dorothy Hodgkin and Max Pertuz) were awarded Nobel prizes for pioneering work in protein crystallography for the first structural determination of vitamin B12 and haemoglobin, respectively.

Bernal also pioneered investigations into the structure of liquid water by diffraction methods. Work on water stretched over Bernal's career. In 1933 he proposed the structure of H_2O as a bent molecule with a O-H bond length of 0.96 Å (current value is 0.958 Å) and the presence of hydrogen bonding between the molecules to construct regions of microcrystalline water resembling that of ice with disordered regions connecting these pockets.

During the Second World War, Bernal worked on operational research, contributing to the planning of the D-day landings and he was awarded the U.S. Medal of Freedom in 1945. Subsequently, he became interested in the rebuilding of Britain and initiated research into the structure and properties of metal hydroxides and the silicate components of cements. As often was the case, the final determinations and discoveries were carried out by other groups but the emphasis of importance of these problems was driven by Bernal.

J. D. Bernal was driven by a belief that science and technology would improve the living standards of humanity if properly focused and was a frequent campaigner for peace and demilitarisation in the years after the Second World War. He suffered a series of cerebral haemorrhages from 1963 until his death in 1971. His legacy was the development of crystallography as a central tool across the sciences.

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3. Vincent Casey 2007 J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 57 doi:10.1088/1742-6596/57/1/E01 dedicated to "John Desmond Bernal: Science and Society"

Prepared by Dr Colin Seaton, Research Fellow
University of Limerick, October 2011.

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"This investment will have major significance in promoting Ireland as a location for Foreign Direct Investment and job creation particularly in R&D and advanced manufacturing. The Bernal Project provides an opportunity to align the strategic needs of the State with those of the University in their common goal to impact economic, educational and social development nationally."

Dr Mary Shire
Vice President Research

- The Launch -

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD officially launched the €52 million Bernal Project at UL in October. The Project will make a significant contribution to Ireland's national research initiatives in the strategically important areas of pharmaceutical, biomedical and energy research and development. Over 300 business leaders, industry representatives and representatives from State Agencies arrived to the Graduate Entry Medical School to network and celebrate the launch with UL.

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD said at the event : "I'm delighted to be here to announce this project which not only creates jobs in the construction phase but is exactly the kind of development Ireland needs as we continue to enhance our attractiveness as a location for inward investment and jobs in research and development. The 150 construction jobs will be a great boost for the sector and I also welcome the 75 high-quality, high-skilled permanent jobs in the project, which builds on the 3,000 new jobs being created each month. Following the recent Budget, successfully exiting the bailout later this year will improve international confidence in Ireland and will help attract in more investment and jobs in research and development activities."

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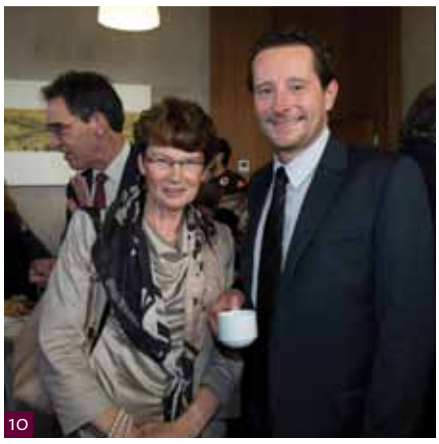
Speaking at the launch of the project, UL President, Professor Don Barry said; "The imperative in growing the University and contributing to the economic development of Ireland is premised on developing a deep knowledge infrastructure and human capital base that will attract investment and stimulate the development of high-end industry and services at the core of a revitalised "smart" economy."

"The Bernal Project displays great vision and focus on areas of strategic importance for Ireland's future and the evolution of our research system."

Professor Mark Ferguson
Director General,
Science Foundation Ireland



"The disciplines of science and engineering are the key to our economy's future growth. UL has a reputation for building effective industry partnerships and creating graduates ready to take on future scientific challenges. The Bernal Laboratory creates a home for world-leading research in fields which are vital for Ireland's recovery and building this institutions reputation."

Professor Kieran Hodnett
Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering

1. Vice President Research, Dr Mary Shire with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, UL President Don Barry and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Professor Kieran Hodnett. 2. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny with 100-year-old Jack Powell who spoke of his meeting with Desmond Bernal in which he spoke about the effect of global warming, 50 years ago!. 3. Professor Roger Downer and Dr Ed Walsh. 4. David Cronin, ULF, UL Founding President Dr Ed Walsh and Jim Downey Atlantic Philanthropies. 5. Former UL Chancellor Sean Donlon and President Emeritus John O' Connor. 6. President Emeritus Professor Roger Downer and Head of GEMs Professor Michael Larvin. 7. Jim Downey, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Mary Sutton, Republic of Ireland Country Director for The Atlantic Philanthropies, UL President Don Barry and David Cronin, ULF. 8. Denis Brosnan, Chairperson, Limerick Economic Forum, Councillor John Sheahan Cathaoirleach, and Jerry Moloney Enterprise Ireland. 9. Vice-President Academic and Registrar Paul McCutcheon with Breda Deedigan, UL Governing Authority and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanties and Social Sciences Professor Tom Lodge. 10. Helen Van den Akker and Bernal Professor Gavin Walker. 11. Professor Kieran Hodnett, Councillor Joe Leddin, and Councillor John Sheahan, Cathaoirleach.

Professor Don Barry and Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan T.D., pictured at the launch of the UL Capital Development Plan.

UL NEWS

EIB backs €100 Million Support for the University of Limerick

The board of the European Investment Bank, comprising directors from 28 EU member states and the European Commission, has approved a €100 million loan facility to support a major capital development plan at the University of Limerick. This long-term loan will help implement the University's €224 million capital investment programme and will support the construction of new medical, pharmaceutical and engineering facilities, as well as expansion and refurbishment of other parts of the campus over the next five years. For a full outline of the UL Capital Development Plan see the UL Links feature on page 22.

UL Hosts Riverdance for Limerick City of Culture

As a significant part of Limerick's year as Ireland's National City of Culture 2014, UL is hosting Riverdance 20 Years and some very special events to enhance the cultural experience that citizens and visitors can enjoy as part of this important milestone for Limerick. The hosting of the internationally-acclaimed Riverdance as it embarks on its 20th Anniversary tour involved seven, sell-out performances in front of a total audience of 17,500 at the University Arena and a special homecoming for Limerick-born composer, Bill Whelan who serves on the UL Foundation board.

UL Hosts All-Ireland Scholarship Awards

Michael O'Leary Commends Third Level Scholarship Winners as 125 All Ireland Scholarships are awarded North and South.

Winners of the 2013 All Ireland Scholarships were congratulated by the CEO of Ryanair, Michael O'Leary and Minister for Finance Michael Noonan TD, at an awards ceremony at the University of Limerick. Minister Noonan and the Minister for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland, Dr Stephen Farry presented 125 highly talented students from the North and South with a third level scholarship certificate.

Sponsored by JP McManus, the educational scheme provides financial assistance to many high achieving students who completed their Leaving Certificate/A Level examinations who might otherwise have not had the option available to them. The scholarships have been set at €6,750 per annum in Ireland and Stg£5,500 in Northern Ireland and will continue for the duration of the undergraduate programmes chosen by the scholarship winners.

Congratulating this year's recipients, Michael O'Leary said, "Your hard work and dedication has paid off in huge measures, and you are now part of a privileged group of young men and women who have been honoured and rewarded today. I wish you all every success in the future."

JP McManus, presented Niall McCoy from Armagh with a surprise commemorative gift to mark the 850th winner of a JP McManus 3rd level scholarship. Combining the two educational scholarships; CBS Sexton Street, Limerick and the All Ireland Scholarships, there are now a total of 882 scholars throughout the 32 counties.

JP McManus has contributed a total of €32 million in support of third level education initiatives in recognition of the 32 counties of Ireland.

JP McManus, Sponsor, scholarship recipient, Donia Arafa, Roscommon and Michael O'Leary, CEO Ryanair at the University of Limerick.

Stuart Mangan Scholarship Launched

The Stuart Mangan Scholarship has been established at UL to honour the life and memory of this young athlete by making it possible for those who suffered paralysis while competing in sport to participate in educational programmes at the University of Limerick for periods of up to four years. Officially launched by Keith Wood and the Mangan family, the Stuart Mangan Scholarship includes not only financial assistance but the support of a number of mentors including Keith Wood, Denis O'Brien and Stuart's brother Keith Mangan. These mentors will take a personal interest in the welfare, education and subsequent career progress of the awardee.

On 5th April 2008, while playing rugby for Hammersmith and Fulham RFC, Stuart Mangan, aged 25, was accidentally injured and as a result he was paralysed from his neck down. He relied on a ventilator to breathe and his carers for all his physical needs 24 hours a day. Stuart showed incredible courage and determination in dealing with the monumental challenge of his injury and facing the circumstances ahead of him. In August 2009, Stuart developed respiratory problems and he passed away peacefully on Friday, 7th August in the presence of his parents Brian and Una and his three brothers Keith, John and Barry.

The scholarship is part funded by the W2 Fund established by Keith Wood to support sport-related projects for young people. Keith Wood visited Stuart shortly after his injury and supported the Mangan family through his W2 Fund.

Speaking from the launch, Keith Wood said "I got to know Stuart's family in the weeks following his accident and recognised that Stuart's strength was a trait that ran through them all. W2 was able to make a contribution immediately with a view to staving off some of the panic that ensues when the financial reality of paralysis sinks in. When Stuart passed away just a year later his family asked the trustees of Stuart's Trust to repay the funds so that they could be applied for the benefit of others."

The Stuart Mangan Scholarship will be administered by the University of Limerick Foundation and the Disability Support Services Office at the University of Limerick.

Pictured at the launch of the Stuart Mangan Scholarship were Keith Wood and Keith Mangan.

The Awards, which are jointly hosted by Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and the Irish Medical Devices Association, a business sector within IBEC, are now in their seventh year and recognise and reward best practice in the medical technology sector in Ireland.

The award winning project involved an innovative partnership between UL's Materials and Surface Science Institute

Kevin O'Sullivan, Editor of the Irish Times was recently on campus to present UL Journalism Student, Ruth O'Shaughnessy with The Irish Times Best Journalism Award at an event held at Plassey House. A native of Limerick, Ruth received the award for her work on the implementation of the European Globalisation Fund programme at Dell. During his visit, Mr O'Sullivan gave a talk to Journalism and Business Students on 'The Journalist in the Multimedia Era".

UL Wins Gold at the Medical Technology Industry Excellence Awards

Sinead Keogh, Director, IMDA, Dr Seamus Browne, Technology Transfer Officer, UL, Dr Tofail Syed, Receiving the Gold Award for the Academic/Emerging Technology Company, Dr Mary Shire, Vice President Research, UL and Bill Doherty, Chairman, IMDA and Cook Medical's Europe, Middle East and Africa Vice President.

(MSSI) and international medical devices company COOK Medical, which was supported through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Programme. The project resulted in scientists and engineers from the University of Limerick and COOK Medical inventing a new metal that will make medical devices inside the body more visible under X-ray. See page 47 in Research and Innovation news for further details on this new product.

Innovative medical devices company, Aerogen – who also have a long-standing research partnership with the University of Limerick received the Medical Devices Company of the Year Award.

Irish Times Editor Presents Journalism Award

Central Bank Commission Visits University of Limerick

The University of Limerick (UL) was delighted to welcome the Central Bank of Ireland Commission on campus recently. The members of the Commission were greeted by President, Professor Don Barry who welcomed the opportunity for the University to facilitate the board meeting of the Commission.

Governor Professor Patrick Honohan said; "I would like to thank President Barry for inviting the Central Bank Commission to hold our meeting here today. The Central Bank is a national institution and, while headquartered in Dublin, we regard it as important to visit other parts of the country on a regular basis. This is one such opportunity that we have been very happy to take up. In addition to our Central Bank Commission meeting, we are involved in other meetings and events this week both in the heart of the City and here in Plassey, which will serve, we hope, to strengthen our ties and links with Limerick."

During the visit, Professor Patrick Honohan delivered an address at the launch of the book 'Macroeconomics: An Irish and European Perspective' by UL academic Dr Anthony Leddin and Professor Brendan Walsh.

Professor Patrick Honohan presents a commemorative coin to President Don Barry on behalf of the Central Bank.

KBS now a Global Champion of Responsible Education

The Kemmy Business School (KBS) was recently invited by the United Nations to join a small leadership group of Business Schools worldwide working to unlock the next level of responsible management and leadership education. This is part of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative, to which KBS became the first Irish signatory in 2008. The PRME initiative outlines six principles which act as a guiding framework for corporate responsibility and sustainability in business education, drawing on the values in the UN Global Compact.

The KBS has now joined the "PRME Champions" cohort, comprising only 28 schools worldwide. Initially, the PRME Champions group will work to refine what leadership means in the space of responsible management education, identify criteria for recognition of progress and lay out a roadmap for continuous improvement by all in the PRME community. The group also intends to engage PRME more actively with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the more than 7,000 participant companies of the UN Global Compact.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Philip O'Regan, Dean of the KBS said "Membership of PRME Champions engages KBS with some of the world's leading business schools, and chimes with our mission. It offers great opportunities to our staff, students and our network of local stakeholders."

Dean of UL's Kemmy Business School Dr Philip O' Regan.

More detail on the PRME Champions group can be found at **www.unprme.org/working-groups/champions.php**

Mr. Harry E. McKillop Receives Honorary Doctorate

At a ceremony in The Perot Museum of Nature & Science in Texas, long-time UL friend Mr. Harry E. McKillop was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Economic Science. Of strong Irish heritage, Harry McKillop was born and raised in the U.S. His family originally came from Ballycastle on the north-eastern coast of Ireland and went to US in the 1890's.

Mr McKillop's humanitarian initiatives include the management of a high-profile trip by wives of American POWs to Vietnam and subsequent trips to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the 1970's and 1980's to continue the search for and return of missing POWs. President George W. Bush honoured Mr. McKillop for more than 40 years of unselfish service to Americans in need around the world and he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

Mr McKillop has maintained a strong interest in Irish affairs and has also been very active over a long period assisting a wide range of voluntary bodies focused on bridging the community divides in Northern Ireland.

Loretta Brennan Glucksman Announced as New Chairman of the University of Limerick Foundation

The University of Limerick Foundation has announced the appointment of Irish-American philanthropist, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, as its new Chairman of the Board. Mrs Brennan Glucksman and her late husband, Lewis L Glucksman, have been generous supporters of the University of Limerick for over 20 years, helping to fund many key projects, including the Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing; Brennan Court Residence; the Glucksman Library; the Glucksman Chair in Contemporary Writing; the Glucksman Reading Room and the University Concert Hall. Lew Glucksman was also a former Director of the UL Foundation and held the position of Chairman from 1993 to 1999.

Speaking about the announcement, UL President, Professor Don Barry said: "As we look forward to the many exciting opportunities ahead for UL, we are honoured that Loretta has agreed to become Chair of the UL Foundation. She and her late husband, Lew Glucksman, along with their close friend, Chuck Feeney have helped to shape the University from its early days and continue to be a hugely important part of the UL success story."

David Cronin, Chief Executive of the UL Foundation added: "Loretta is a shining light in global philanthropy and has led the Ireland Funds to international acclaim. We are hugely appreciative that she will chair the Foundation in the coming years as we continue to play a leading role as a model for successful philanthropic investment."

Mrs Brennan Glucksman said: "My late husband Lew and I have a long history with the University of Limerick spanning over 20 years and I am delighted to be able to take on this challenge as we build on the University's successes to date and the new opportunities that lie ahead".

Over the past two decades, the Glucksmans have made many significant contributions to Ireland and played a key role in philanthropic efforts to spread peace throughout the island of Ireland. In 1993, they established Glucksman Ireland House at New York University and Mrs Brennan Glucksman is Co-Chair on Ireland House's advisory board. Mrs Brennan Glucksman is Chairman Emeritus of the American Ireland Fund, a position which she stepped down from at the end of 2013 after 18 years.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UL Lecturer Awarded Commendation for Contribution to Relations between Japan and Ireland

Mr Chihiro Atsumi, Ambassador of Japan to Ireland, recently presented the Ambassador's Commendation to Barbara Geraghty, Lecturer, School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication, University of Limerick, for her outstanding contribution to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Ireland.

Since 2000, Ms Geraghty has been a lecturer in Japanese at the University of Limerick, as well as being involved in a wide range of activities aimed at expanding Japanese-language education in Ireland.

The Ambassador's Commendation is awarded by Ambassadors of Japan to individuals and/or groups who have made a distinguished contribution to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and their own countries.

UL and the University of Massachusetts Boston sign Formal Memorandum of Understanding

Recently UL signed a formal memorandum of understanding with the University of Massachusetts Boston, an educational hub with 53 institutions of higher education. It is the only public research university in Boston. UMass is 50 years old and serves 16,000 students. During the 2-day visit the delegation consisting of UL's Executive Team met with senior members of the UMass team including Dr Keith Motley, Chancellor of UMass Boston, Ira Jackson, Dean, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies and Kathleen O'Toole, former Chief Inspector of the Garda Inspectorate and former Boston Police Commissioner and life Trustee of UL Foundation, who initiated the introductions. Discussions are on-going with regard to future collaborative ventures between the institutions.

Pictured at the Memorandum of Understanding signing between the two institutions are (L-R) Dr. Schuyler S. Korban, Vice Provost for International Affairs (UMass); Seamus Dolan, Manager, The Office of the President (UL); Dr Winston Langley, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (UMass); Dr Emily McDermott, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; UL President, Don Barry; Dr J. Keith Motley, Chancellor (UMass); Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar (UL); Ira Jackson, Dean, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies (UMass); and Tommy Foy, HR Director UL.

UL Welcomes George J. Mitchell Scholar

University of Limerick International student, Mark Brennan has been awarded a George J. Mitchell Scholarship and was officially welcomed to Ireland at a reception held in Dublin recently. Mark, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, USA, who is currently studying for an MSc in Mathematical Modelling at UL, was joined by fellow Mitchell Scholars and welcomed to Ireland by Senator George J. Mitchell and US-Ireland Alliance president, Trina Vargo.

The reception was hosted at Google's new European headquarters by Dr John Herlihy, Head of Google Ireland, and an Honorary Doctorate Awardee of the University of Limerick.

Speaking after the reception, Mark said: 'It was an incredible honour to be selected as a George J. Mitchell scholar. I spent the previous year as a researcher in quantitative public policy, and it was clear I needed to broaden and deepen my technical toolbox and this Scholarship is allowing me to do just that. The University of Limerick was a natural choice for me. UL has an MSc in Mathematical Modelling in its Department of Mathematics and Statistics that is unique among American and European universities in its coursework, with broad applications ranging from geoscience to biology. So far it has been a wonderful experience being in such a research-focused yet far-reaching university and programme, and I'm looking forward to eventually translating my experiences here to American academia. I'm excited about the incredible potential for transatlantic STEM cooperation.'

Josephine Page, Director of International Education at UL and Senator Mitchell pictured with Mark Brennan, UL's Mitchell Scholar for 2013/2014.

UL Announces Expansion of Partnership with Top US University - Georgia Institute of Technology

The University of Limerick has announced a major expansion of its partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology (GT), USA by welcoming seven aerospace engineering students from Georgia Tech to the Department of Mechanical, Aeronautical and Biomedical Engineering for a 10-week, Semester Abroad programme. Georgia Tech has the second leading Aerospace Engineering (AE) programme in the US.

Professor Tim McGloughlin, outgoing Head of the Department of Mechanical, Aeronautical and Biomedical Engineering said;"UL has a very successful relationship with Georgia Tech through Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering student exchanges and research activity. This expansion to include a Georgia Tech Semester Abroad at the MABE Department at UL supports what is a vital sector for the Shannon region."

The programme will be delivered by faculty from Georgia Tech and includes modules on wind engineering; aeroelasticity, vehicle performance, structural analysis, high speed aerodynamics and research.

The Aeronautical Engineering programme at UL is one of the most respected in Europe and is supported by outstanding facilities, including wind tunnels and composites manufacturing equipment. More than 70% of UL's aeronautical engineering graduates work in the Aerospace industry and 63% live in the Republic of Ireland.

UL's Capital Development Plan...

investment in UL, Limerick

k and Ireland's Future

It's been 30 years since the European Investment Bank supported a development project for a university level institution for the first time ...that institution was UL. In 1984 the University had exciting plans for the future but limited funds. Then known as the National Institute for Higher Education (NIHE), the institution faced financial challenges throughout the 1980's, as did all third-level institutions, as Government funding contracted in the face of economic recession. Through fierce determination funds were sought from the EIB among other sources, including philanthropic support, which allowed the Plassey Campus to grow and expand.

30 years later and the UL campus has expanded from its beginnings in Plassey House to spectacular grounds spanning two counties and is now regarded as one of the most impressive campuses in Europe, now embracing 133 hectares and world-class facilities designed to enhance the learning of all students, researchers and faculty.

An annual enrolment of over 12,000 students from across Ireland and 95 countries ensures the Campus enjoys the constant vibrancy of creative and innovative ideas. The Campus also employs more than 5,000 people making it the largest employer in the region. UL is, however, far from finished with its development plans, even in the face of austerity, and has once again ambitiously, and with much determination, outlined a new Capital Development Plan 2014-2018.

> "**50,000 square metres** of state-of-the-art research, student, sports and academic facilities...

The Plan outlines UL's vision for the future development and expansion of the University of Limerick covering **50,000 square metres of state-of-the-art research, student, sports and academic facilities.** It provides a guiding vision for a €224 million investment framework which aims to deliver 12 major capital investment projects covering R&D, student supports and teaching, sports and facilities development. It will also enable UL to invest in major projects in off-campus locations in Limerick City and at University Hospital Limerick. Though the funding for the Capital Development Plan will be secured from a number of sources, including philanthropic donors, state grants, commercial activities, student levies and University funding, the European Investment Bank has again shown confidence in UL's ambitious and innovative plans by approving a €100 million loan facility – its second major investment in UL. The official signing of the loan facility took place in December 2013.

Welcoming Vice-President of the EIB Jonathan Taylor to the signing of the loan agreement at UL, President Don Barry said "The signing of this €100million loan facility with the EIB is a very clear signal that UL and the City of Limerick represent a solid investment. By supporting the University and believing in our Plan as much as we do, the EIB is allowing us the scope to grow now and spread our repayments over a manageable period of time". He continued "We look forward to working closely with the EIB to optimise the benefits which this will deliver for UL, for Limerick and for Ireland and the EU as we extend UL's role as a dynamic agent of economic, social and cultural development. UL is committed to making a major contribution to the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan which will allow us all to work in partnership to deliver a true renaissance of Limerick."

The off-campus developments, which include **a Clinical Research and Teaching Facility at University Hospital Limerick** and a City Centre Campus, are valued at €62million and represent 30% of the overall investment. The City Campus will include a student residential facility of at least 400 student-bedroom units. This may however rise in scale to a 1,000 bed facility in partnership with other Higher Education institutions in the City, subject to feasibility and funding.

Pictured opposite above: The Bernal Building
Pictured right: Clinical Education Research Building.

€224 million investment framework which aims to deliver **12 major capital investment projects** covering R&D, student supports and teaching, sports and facilities development. “

The University is also committed to developing **a significant academic facility in the City Centre** area which is projected to involve teaching and related infrastructure for a student population of approximately 500, with associated staff and support services.

The construction of a Clinical Education Research Building on the site of the University Hospital Limerick will support collaboration, knowledge exchange and active engagement with the clinicians and the hospital administration and the University. The Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) now has over 80 students on Clinical Placement at University Hospital Limerick. This development will enhance the delivery of the medical programme and the implementation of the University's health research strategy which aims to inform an equitable, safe, sustainable and patient-centred healthcare system.

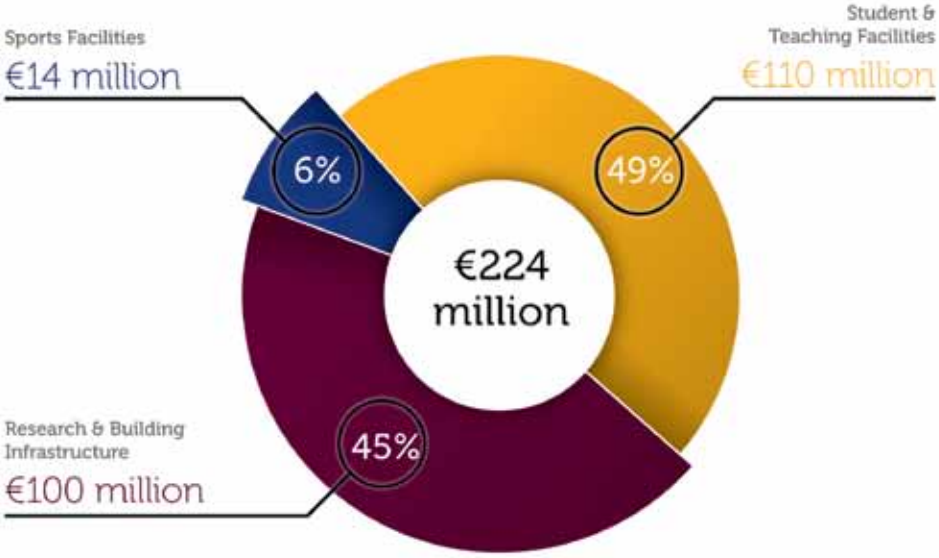
Speaking about the investment Professor Niall O' Higgins, Chairman of the UL Hospitals Board said “The development of a dedicated Clinical Education and Research Building on the hospital campus indicates the serious intent of both partners to place the hospital and medical school on a par with the best, and to do so within a short time. This exciting programme provides a powerful boost to the ambitious strategic plan for UL Hospitals and the medical school. It is warmly welcomed and deserves to be supported strongly by everyone. It will be a source of pride, scholarship and innovation for the region and the nation”.

On Campus it is planned to **expand the Glucksman Library,** doubling the size of the facility and including a dedicated, climate-controlled Special Collections Unit, Reader Stations and an Exhibition Area, to name but a few features. The University of Limerick Arena will be extended to include a 25m swimming pool with a diving facility, additional studio classrooms, a climbing wall and **a dedicated facility for Munster Rugby Team Training.** It is also planned to redevelop a number of pitches. Planning permission has been received for both facilities.

Other developments will include a proposed new student centre and phase two of the Materials and Surface Science Institute which will include an extension of 2750m² to the existing building with accommodation for 60 postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers together with 11 academic and support staff. With 12 laboratories, including two highly-specialised equipment laboratories to house nationally unique instruments: solid state nuclear magnetic resonance and time of flight secondary ion mass spectrometers, this investment will provide incentives to multinational companies to locate research and development capacity in Ireland and UL. The MSSI Phase 2 building is currantly under construction in the University's Science Zone.

Funds will also be assigned to the Bernal Project. Launched in 2013, the project is a **€52 million science and engineering initiative** involving the recruitment of 10 world-leading professors, a start-up seed fund to support their teaching and research activity and the construction of a building. A full UL Links feature on the Bernal project can be found on pages 2-13.

In summary the UL Capital Development Plan includes a €14 million investment in sports facilities, a €100 million investment in Research and Building Infrastructure and a €110 million in Student and Teaching Facilities.



> **"€52 million** science and engineering initiative...

Speaking at the official signing held in Plassey House, EIB Vice President, Jonathan Taylor said.

"Expansion of the University of Limerick's research and academic facilities, as well as a new library and student facilities will transform education and student life for future generations, whilst the new City Centre campus will provide an economic boost and new living accommodation in Limerick. The European Investment Bank is pleased to continue its support for university investment in Ireland and help implement the University of Limerick's Capital Development Plan, an ambitious framework for transforming education opportunities over the coming years."

1,000 jobs in the local economy will be generated over the 5 years of the plan, including 290 full-time, academic, teaching and administrative roles and a further 710 construction positions. Minister Michael Noonan, who also attended the signing, stated: "This is very positive news for the University of Limerick and indeed for Limerick and the wider region as a whole. This is a great boost for the City and I look forward to work commencing in the new year."

He continued "The Irish economy is recovering and I see great opportunities for future EIB-funded projects in Ireland. I know that this view is shared by the European Investment Bank. Both the Bank and my Department have redoubled their efforts in recent years to enhance engagement and increase lending for crucial investment in a range of sectors in Ireland. It has been

Pictured are Proposed Arthur's Quay Park - Limerick 2030 - An Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick, and Vice-President of the EIB Jonathan Taylor, President Don Barry and Minister for Finance Michael Noonan, TD at the official signing and launch.

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nearly 30 years since UL first borrowed from the EIB and today's announcement is an excellent example of the type of flagship project that collaboration with the EIB can deliver for Ireland."

Concluding the official signing at UL in December, President Barry added "There is still a way to go but this loan facility provides almost 50% of the investment we are seeking to deliver a very exciting programme of capital development for UL.

This Development Plan will impact our research future, our spin-out future and help build Ireland's smart economy – all contributing to building the reputation that Limerick is a good place to do business. I believe that UL is the ultimate example of the power of philanthropy and investment matched with a comprehensive vision and plan.

We are very proud of what has been achieved here in such a short time and, together with Limerick City and its vision for 2030, we will be part of an exciting future for Limerick in the years ahead."

Pictured are the Arena Extension and the MSSI Extension.

UL FOUNDATION NEWS

A Message from the CEO

UL Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary and €200million Fundraising Milestone

2014 marks a very special year for the UL Foundation as we celebrate 25 years of supporting the University.

We have had many fundraising highlights since our doors first opened in 1989, including the Glucksman Library, the Foundation Building, the Kemmy Business School, the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, the Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing, the UL Venture Fund, the opening of the Tierney Building, and the announcement of UL as the main home for Munster Rugby, to name but a few.

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant projects in the history of the Foundation has been the €52million Bernal Project in science & engineering, which was launched in October 2013. The Foundation has committed to providing €36million in philanthropic gifts to fund the Project, which involves the recruitment of 10 world leading professors, a start-up seed fund to support their teaching and research activity and the construction of a new advanced research building on campus. The Foundation is greatly appreciative of the support given by its many donors to the Project, in particular The Atlantic Philanthropies, who have been the project's main sponsor to date with a commitment of €26.3million. You can read more detail on the Project on pages 2-13 of this edition of UL Links.

> *"We have had many fundraising highlights since our doors first opened in 1989..."*

Our congratulations to UL Foundation Director Bill Whelan, on his 7 sell-out shows of Riverdance, which were performed at the University Arena on campus in January. In the year that Limerick is City of Culture, what stronger message than for Bill to bring Riverdance to his home city of Limerick. UL Foundation looks forward to building on this great start and supporting the wonderful programme of cultural activities and events during the forthcoming year.

As we look forward to the many exciting opportunities ahead, the Foundation is honoured to announce that Dr Loretta Brennan-Glucksman has recently become Chair of the UL Foundation. Loretta and her late husband, Lew Glucksman, along with their close friend, Chuck Feeney continue to be a hugely important part of the UL success story. Loretta is a shining light in global philanthropy and has led the Ireland Funds to international acclaim. We are hugely appreciative that she will chair the Foundation in the coming years as we continue to play a leading role as a model for successful philanthropic investment. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends, alumni and supporters a very successful year ahead and send sincere thanks to each of you for past and continued support.

Best wishes,

David Cronin

Foundation, Chief Executive

Our Foundation Friends

Meet Renowned Composer, Producer and UL Foundation Director, Dr Bill Whelan

Dr Bill Whelan has worked extensively in theatre, film and television as a composer, producer and arranger, collaborating with some of the most important music artists in Ireland and across the globe, including U2, Van Morrison, Kate Bush, Richard Harris, The Dubliners, Planxty, Andy Irvine, Patrick Street, Stockton's Wing and Davy Spillane.

He is well known for his composition of Riverdance which was originally performed as the interval act at the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest. As a single, Riverdance spent 18 weeks at No.1 in the Irish charts and Bill's Grammy winning album of music for Riverdance The Show is certified Platinum in the US, Ireland and Australia. His own compositional work in film includes Lamb starring Liam Neeson, the award-winning At the Cinema Palace, the emotive score for the film Some Mother's Son and Dancing at Lughnasa starring Meryl Streep.

He continues as one of the foremost and busiest of Irish composers, arrangers and producers, straddling the worlds of classical music, traditional music, dance and theatre.

Bill is a Freeman of Limerick, has an honorary doctorate from UL and is a Director of the UL Foundation since 2004. UL Foundation's Sarah Hartnett spoke to Bill about the University, Limerick City of Culture and the long-awaited arrival of the Riverdance Show to his home city.

Bill, I know it's a good many years since you left your birthplace of Limerick. Did your interest in music blossom during those formative years in the City and what kind of memories do you have from that time?

I grew up in a home where music occupied a central position. My mother was an excellent pianist and my father, while being musically unschooled, had a massive interest and played harmonica. His record collection was very large and wide-ranging from jazz, to rock n' roll to classical and opera. My earliest musical memories are filled with images and sounds of musical evenings in the house. My father would often take me to hear the Limerick Pipe Band in rehearsal on Edward Street, or I would go to listen to the Boherboy Brass and Reed Band in the People's Park. When I reached my teens, I spent hours mooning around Jackie Glynn's music shop, trying out guitars or drums, and finally set up a small recording studio in the attic of our house in Barrington Street. My earliest music teachers were Miss Dillon and Charlie Sciascia. Afterwards I went to the Limerick School of Music in Mulgraves Street where I was taught piano by Margaret McKenzie and violin by John McKenzie and Miss Hudson. There was a lively music scene in the City in the 60s, I recall many concerts in the Savoy and various other venues where bands like Granny's Intentions and Reform were creating a stir both nationally and internationally.

How important is the City to you now and will you always be a Limerick man at heart?

There is always a tug at the heart when one thinks of home. It is important to realise though, that things inevitably change, and it can be painful if you expect them not to. When I visit Limerick now, I realise despite all the changes, there are constant things about the City. The particularly wry sense of humour that characterises the City is still there, and the unique use of spoken language will always set it apart. Despite the famed curse of St. Munchin, there is a unique pride amongst Limerick people at the success of "one of our own". Nowhere is that more visible than in Thomond Park, and I am very proud as a Limerickman to be finally bringing the full production of Riverdance to my home City.

I know you are a member of the governing body for Limerick City of Culture 2014. Can you tell us some of the highlights for the year ahead? Also, how can we maximise the opportunities that City of Culture will bring for impact in the long-term?

The challenge that faced those of us involved in planning the City of Culture was to present a programme that would not only mount new and exciting events of international importance, but also to stimulate local creativity. We were acutely aware that the City of Culture should present an opportunity to engage the local creative community. So we built on what was already part of the cultural fabric of the City rather than to simply import non-local talent. We also encouraged those artists who were coming for the festival to creatively engage with the people of Limerick. So as the year progresses we will see that process very evident in many of the events that are staged. We were also very conscious of the youthful energy that is available in Limerick and many of the programme's events will give expression to that edgy and forward-looking attitude. It was our fervent hope that the first National City of Culture would not pass through Limerick without leaving a legacy behind.

There has been a lot of discussion around the University's role in the development of the City. What are your thoughts on this and do you think the UL Foundation has a role to play?

I have been acutely aware of the vital role that the University of Limerick must play in the life of the City. There is no doubt that the presence of a University in the City can have the potential to invigorate and stimulate the local artistic, intellectual and economic environment. I must confess that I have often felt that the connection to the people of Limerick was tenuous and needed to be stronger. Some of that was inevitable. As the University of Limerick worked to establish itself as a new educational institution in the region, there was good reason for it to focus on its own immediate and urgent needs. There is no doubt that UL is now a superb University and the time for the college and the City to embrace each other has arrived. The Foundation at UL has a very important role to play in stimulating this union.

Back in May 2012, you brought the Riverdance Flying Squad to Limerick especially for the UL President's Dinner and in January this year, for the first time ever, the full Riverdance Show performed at the University Arena for 7 sell-out shows. How did it feel to bring Riverdance home to Limerick?

It was a very proud moment for me to firstly bring the smaller version of Riverdance home for the President's Dinner. I remember marching on the streets of Dublin in the 1960s for the LSUPC (Limerick Students University Project Committee). Our goal was to see a university in Limerick. To see that goal realised in our lifetime was something we hardly dreamed of, and for me personally to be bringing Riverdance onto the actual campus of that dream is, as you can imagine, quite extraordinary and very special.

When you think back to the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest and that world-famous performance of Riverdance, what was it like witnessing the reception that it received and did you have any idea of what lay ahead in terms of the global impact of the Riverdance Show?

I can safely say that no one involved in Riverdance anticipated what it was to become. On the other hand, we always believed that we were doing something that was unique, but it wasn't until we saw the reaction in the Point Theatre on that night in 1994, that the full impact of what we were dealing with was brought home to us. After that, it developed its own momentum, as I went on to write the full two-hour show and the production went on to London, New York and all over the world. It was a very exciting time and one that realistically could never be repeated. It was a joy and an exhilaration to be part of it.

As I'm sure you'll agree, it's notoriously difficult to "make it big" in your line of work. Do you have any advice for our students in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, as they venture out into the music world?

There is very little that one can say that does not sound like a cliché when it comes to advising young music students about their careers. "Making it Big" should never be the motivation for a career in music and is certain to disappoint. The one thing I would say is that it is very important to realise now what you have in UL. There was nothing like this when I was leaving school in 1968. It was unimaginable that there would be a third level institution focused on World Music and Irish Traditional Music and Dance. The notion that one could make a career in music was only for the very few, and at that, it was mostly in the teaching profession. Now, a career in music is a realistic option for a young person in a way that it never was then. On a cautionary note, there is much that has happened in recent years to completely re-define how one can make a living from music. The Internet and its use of Intellectual Property has revolutionised the economics of the music industry, and new ways will have to be found to replace the old models. That said, like the unique Limerick wit I referred to earlier, music will always be with us, whatever the social or economic changes. The importance of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is that it places our native cultural expression right at the heart of our academic life and our creativity, and for that we should be proud and grateful. ■

News & Events

Inaugural Chancellor's Concert for the Hon Mr Justice John L Murray

On 28th November, UL's newly appointed Chancellor, the Hon Mr Justice John L Murray, hosted his inaugural Chancellor's Concert on campus.

Approximately 150 businesses, local organisations and friends of the University turned out to support the sell-out black tie fundraising event which featured Irish legendary group, The Chieftains.

Speaking at the event, UL Chancellor, Judge Murray said: "It is wonderful to see so many friends and supporters here tonight for what is a wonderful opportunity to showcase UL's magnificent campus and the fantastic work of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance".

David Cronin, Chief Executive of the UL Foundation added: "The Foundation is very appreciative of the support given by those here tonight, in particular The Chieftains who have helped to spearhead tonight's fundraising project".

Proceeds from this year's Chancellor's Concert will benefit Ionad na Cruite, a new Irish harp research centre at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, UL. Ionad na Cruite is an initiative of The Chieftains Fund which was set up in 2003 in memory of the late Derek Bell, former harper with the Chieftains. The Fund supports research and performance programmes in Irish traditional music and dance. Ionad na Cruite recently launched the Derek Bell Harp Research Fellowships which will place it as a global leader in Irish harp research. →


Theatre 2

Speaking at the event, Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Founding Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance said: "The harp is the national symbol of Ireland and is a potent source of Irish musical identity across the globe. The generosity of The Chieftains Fund will allow the Academy to build on its already established record in Irish harp research, and to provide a fertile ground for the future celebration of the Irish harp and its music".

Guests dined in the Pavilion building on the North Campus before attending an intimate concert in the Irish World Academy Building where students of the Academy joined The Chieftains on stage.


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1. Dr Veronica O'Regan, Dr Philip O'Regan, Joan Houlihan, Michael Houlihan, Dr Dan Tierney. 2. UL Chancellor, The Hon Mr Justice John L Murray, addressing guests at dinner. 3. Brian Murray, Leonora Murray, Hugh Murray. 4. The Chieftains. 5. UL Vice-President Research Dr Mary Shire, Mary Harney, Linda Stevens. 6. UL Chancellor, The Hon Mr Justice John L Murray and UL President, Professor Don Barry. 7. Niall Murphy, Breda Deedigan, Paddy O'Donnell, Neasa O'Donnell. 8. President Emeritus, Dr Edward Walsh and Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin chatting to students of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.


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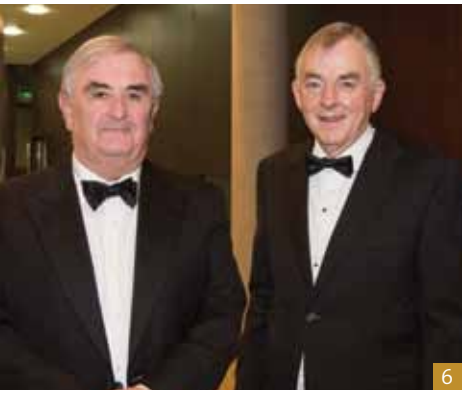
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Foundation Launches 2013 Alumni Annual Fund Appeal

In October, the Foundation launched its 2013 Alumni Annual Fund Appeal. The Appeal is an opportunity for UL graduates to give something back to their *alma mater* and its students by supporting any of the projects on offer. This year's projects include: the Alumni Circle Scholarships; the Student Financial Aid Fund; Community Engagement Initiatives with Disadvantaged Groups and Sport Scholarships. To support the 2013 Alumni Annual Fund Appeal, please go to **www.ulfoundation.com/graduates/**.

UL Foundation Director, Dr Dermot Smurfit, brings Harvard Business School Reunion Group to UL Campus

On 25th September, a group of alumni from Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Programme (class of '97) were brought on campus for a class reunion by their fellow graduate, UL Foundation Director, Dr Dermot Smurfit. The visitors were given a tour of the UL campus and attended a special performance in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance by students of the Academy, after which they attended talks by UL lecturer, Dr Stephen Kinsella, the creator of Cobra Beer, Lord Karan Bilimoria and economics expert, Professor Andrea Boltho.

HSBC Award Scholarships for Access Students in the KBS

Dr Martin Mullins, Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance, UL with Fred Byrne from HSBC presenting the cheque to Deirdre O' Connor, UL Access Office.

In October, HSBC presented a cheque for €5,000 to the University which will be used to support undergraduate Access students in the Kemmy Business School at UL. Two scholarships will be awarded to first year students for the academic year 2013/'14 valued at €2,500 each.

HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations and has had a presence in Ireland for over thirty years.

Hank Krabbe Medal and Analog Scholarships

Pictured (from left) are Dr John Nelson, Head of Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, UL; Ivano Indino, Hank Krabbe Medal recipient; Carolyn O'Callaghan, European College Recruitment Manager, Analog; Damien O'Brien, Analog Scholarship recipient; Ivor Downey, HR Business Partner, Analog.

UL students recently received awards for their outstanding academic achievement in the area of electronic and computer Engineering. Ivano Indino who graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic Engineering was awarded the Hank Krabbe Medal as a result of his outstanding final year exam results. The Medal was established by Analog Devices in memory of the late Hank Krabbe, the founding Managing Director of Analog Devices in Limerick. Ivano also received a cheque for €5,000.

UL student, Damien O'Brien, B.Eng. in Electronic and Computer Engineering, was awarded the Analog Devices Scholarship. He received €7,000 for achieving the best exam results in his year.

2014 UL President's Dinner

Save the Date!

The 2014 UL President's Dinner

is scheduled for

Friday 16th May 2014 in Adare Manor.

As the Foundation

celebrates 25 years

since its establishment, this year's Dinner promises to be a very special event.

Proceeds will benefit the Special Olympians who will participate in the Ireland Special Olympics on campus in June.

Tickets cost €250 each *or* €2,500 for a table of 10.

For bookings and queries, please contact

Sarah Hartnett
T: 061-234240
E: sarah.hartnett@ul.ie

Paul Brady Performs at UL's 10th Annual President's Gala Dinner

In excess of 200 guests turned out in support of the 10th Annua of Limerick President's Gala Dinner which was held in Adare M

A special performance was given by renowned singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Paul Brady at the event, which raised funds to support the Paul Brady Scholarships for the Blas summer school in UL.

First launched in March 2010, the Paul Brady Blas Scholarships at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance provide places for deserving musicians who benefit from master classes and tuition from some of Ireland's most respected traditional musicians and dancers.

Speaking at the event, UL President Don Barry said: "It is very gratifying that one of Ireland's biggest music legends, Paul Brady, has chosen UL to host his very own music scholarships - and that he has chosen to perform at this UL event during UL's 40th anniversary, makes it all the more special".

UL Foundation CEO, David Cronin, added: "We are very grateful to Paul Brady for his support in helping to fund these scholarships. The fact that professional, established musicians like Paul see the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in UL as a world-class hub of music and dance excellence makes us very proud."

Organised by the University of Limerick Foundation, the President's Dinner is an annual fundraising event which supports a different project each year. Sponsoring this year's event were Ulster Bank and Noonan Services.

Ulster Bank has close links with the University of Limerick following the opening of a branch on campus in September 2005. "We are delighted to continue supporting the University of Limerick and the Foundation through our sponsorships and in particular through the establishment of the Ulster Bank Enablement Fund in 2005. This fund supports the University's clubs and societies, student development, its alumni activities and other worthy on-campus projects" said Stephen Masterson, Director of Corporate Institutional Banking at Ulster Bank

John O'Donoghue, CEO of Noonan said: "NOONAN is very proud of our long association with the University of Limerick, which spans over 20 years, and we are delighted to act as main sponsor of the President's Dinner for the 4th year running".

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1. Paul Brady and UL President Don Barry. 2. Desmond Kinney, Esmeralda Kinney, Maura Tierney, Verena Tarpey, Dr Dan Tierney and UL Vice-President Academic and Registrar, Professor Paul McCutcheon. 3. Sinead Teefy and Tadhg Kearney. 4. Ralph Parkes, Maureen McCarron and Dr Jim McCarron. 5. John O'Donoghue from NOONAN who were main sponsors of the event, Joyce O'Donoghue and President Don Barry. 6. Dave Mahedy with Declan Kidney. 7. UL Vice-President Research Dr Mary Shire with Jon O' Halloran. 8. Dr Philip O'Regan, Dr Veronica O'Regan, Minister Jan O'Sullivan and Dr Paul O'Sullivan. 9. David Cronin, Professor Mícheál O'Súilleabháin and President Don Barry with Paul Brady.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION NEWS

€40 million National Pharmaceutical Research Centre Launched at UL

The future of world-class pharmaceutical research in Ireland was furthered with the establishment of a €40 million National Pharmaceutical Research Centre, at UL. The announcement was made by Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Seán Sherlock TD, Minister for Research and Innovation, with €30 million funding coming from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation for the Synthesis & Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC). This exchequer funding is leveraging a further investment of €10 million from industry partners to the SSPC. The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD and the Minister for Housing & Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD were also present at the announcement. The SSPC is dedicated to supporting the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland which is responsible for over 60,000 Irish jobs and exports over €50 billion annually.

Announcing the funding, Minister Bruton stated: "The importance of continued investment in excellent science to Ireland's on-going and future economic development cannot be understated. A central part of this Government's Action Plan for Jobs is to ensure that scientific research is better targeted at turning the good ideas of our talented researchers into good products and high quality jobs. Investments in science, like today's commitment to the SSPC, are key to supporting dynamic Irish companies, attracting and developing multinational investment, and ultimately creating the jobs we need".

UL 's Professor Kieran Hodnett, Gerry Collins, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Seán Sherlock TD, Minister for Research and Innovation and Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

UL Vice-President Research, Dr Mary Shire, Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, President Don Barry and the Minister for Housing & Planning, Jan O'Sullivan TD at the launch.

Speaking at the announcement Minister Sherlock added: "The commitment to fund the SSPC directly supports one of the key areas of growth and focus as identified by this government in the National Research Prioritisation Exercise, namely therapeutics - synthesis formulation, processing and drug delivery."

The Synthesis & Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) is a unique collaboration between 17 companies and 8 academic institutions and will position Ireland as a global hub for pharmaceutical process innovation and advanced manufacturing. A key theme of the research is its focus on process efficiencies and 'greener' chemistry, which will have a positive impact on the environment by reducing and in some cases eliminating the use of environmentally hazardous materials.

Ireland is home to 8 out of the world's top 10 pharmaceutical companies and 6 of the top 10 blockbuster drugs are manufactured in the country.

EU Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn Visits UL

Commissioner Maire Geoghegan- Quinn with UL's Vice President Research Dr Mary Shire and Professor Mike Hinchy Director of Lero.

During the last semester EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation & Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn visited UL as the keynote speaker for the Lero Industry Research Day where she spoke about 'Horizon 2020' - the EU's new programme for research and innovation. The Commissioner said "Institutions and companies here in Co. Limerick are on track to receive over €21.5 million in funding from the EU's 7th Framework Programme. This money has supported 63 projects in total of which the University of Limerick is involved in 47, bringing in some €17.3 million of EU funding to its labs and research facilities."

Lero, the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre (www.lero.ie), is a global leader in software engineering research. It brings together researchers in the University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, NUI Galway, and Dundalk Institute

Health Research Board Funding Supports Innovation in Patient Care

UL Researchers Awarded €1.2 million in Health Research Funding


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University of Limerick researchers have been awarded over €1.2 million funding by Ireland's Health Research Board to support a number of projects aimed at improving patient care and health outcomes, they include health research focused on primary care reform in Ireland; avoidance of adverse outcomes in vascular surgery; dealing with the progression of chronic kidney disease and enhancing physical activity for multiple sclerosis patients.

Dr Mary Shire, Vice President Research, UL said; "Health research at the University of Limerick has the patient at its centre. We are working in partnership with health service providers, community organisations and industry to enhance the health of Irish people and support the adoption of innovative approaches to health services delivery. This HRB funding is an important validation of the significance this research has for patient care and healthcare reform in Ireland."


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The funding has been allocated to four Principal Investigators at UL:

Professor Austin Stack, Chair of Medicine, Graduate Entry Medical School and Consultant Nephrologist, University Hospital Limerick: *'Assessing the burden and progression of chronic kidney disease in the Irish Health System'.*

Dr Susan Coote, Lecturer in Physiotherapy, Department of Clinical Therapies, *'Enhancing Physical Activity Behaviour in People with Multiple Sclerosis'.*

Professor Anne MacFarlane, Chair of Primary Health Care Research, Graduate Entry Medical School,: *'Primary Care reform in Ireland – an analysis of 'top down' and 'bottom up' innovation'.*

Professor Stewart Walsh, Professor of Vascular Surgery, Graduate Entry Medical School and Consultant Vascular Surgeon, University Hospital Limerick: *'Preconditioning shields against vascular events in surgery (Preconditioning-SAVES): A multi-centre feasibility trial of preconditioning against adverse events in major vascular surgery'.*


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1 Dr Susan Coote. 2. Professor Austin Stack.
3. Professor Anne MacFarlane. 4. Professor Stewart Walsh.

UL Study Aims to Improve Diagnosis and Treatment of Terminal Patients Experiencing Delirium

A UL study which aims to improve diagnosis and management of delirium, dementia and depression among palliative care patients was recently awarded €175,000 by the Health Research Board and the All Ireland Institute of Hospice & Palliative Care (AIIHPC).

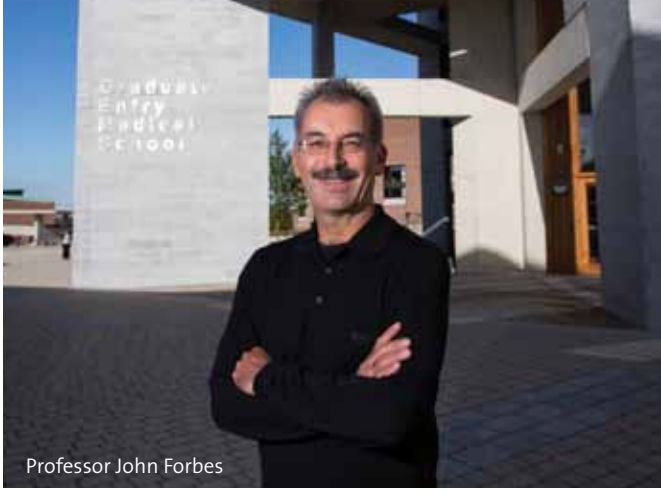
Principal Investigator and Professor of Psychiatry, David Meagher explains the significance of the research; "Previous research has found that 85% of patients experience delirium during the terminal phases of illness. Unfortunately, many of these cases go undiagnosed and we know that particularly among elderly patients, the risk of mortality increases by 11% for each additional 48 hours of delirium experienced."

"This has been an underestimated problem for some time and denies patients and their families of precious final 'real' contact during their illness. Medicine has largely focused on treating the problem of terminal pain but there is a need to focus on the impact delirium and other causes of cognitive impairment have for palliative care patients."

Through the Cognitive Impairment Research Group (CIRG) based at the Centre for Interventions in Inflammation, Infection & Immunity (4i), UL, Professor Meagher and his team will focus on identifying early indicators of emerging delirium using technology to develop tools which will allow more consistent detection of delirium.

The study involves significant collaboration with Dr Karen Ryan, of Mater Misericordiae Hospital & St Francis Hospice, and forms a part of the wider multidisciplinary Palliative Care Research Network supported by funding provided by the Irish HRB, Northern Ireland Public Health Agency, Irish Cancer Society and the Atlantic Philanthropies.

Professor David Meagher



Professor John Forbes

UL Professor of Health Economics Leading €1.5 million Personalised Health Research Programme

Leading Health Economist, John Forbes, has been appointed as Professor of Health Economics at UL. Professor Forbes becomes one of the first HRB Research Leaders and will lead a €1.5 million programme of research into the economics of personalised health.

Professor Forbes explains the significance of an economic perspective on personalised health; "Advances in science have increased the prospect of diagnosing, treating and preventing illness in a more personal way. Improved understanding of how individuals may benefit from tailored therapies will permit a better match and more informed choice by users and health care professionals. Opportunities to design and deliver better services that are sensitive to the needs of particular groups are widespread."

"This research programme will develop and apply better ways of assessing the health and economic consequences of new and existing health technologies where personalised care is feasible and desirable. The economic and health issues are genuine and deserve the application of modern methods used by economists to determine ways of improving health and welfare in Ireland. This research will aim to strengthen public interest in personalised health so that the positive effects of investing in these innovative approaches will be shared more wisely and fairly for everyone."

Dr David Hoey

UL Researcher Awarded €1.5 million to Investigate Innovative Therapies for Osteoporosis

UL researcher, Dr David Hoey was one of only three Irish researchers to receive a highly prestigious European Research Council (ERC) starting grants. Dr Hoey was awarded €1.5 million to pursue cutting-edge fundamental research into developing innovative treatments for bone-loss diseases such as osteoporosis. Every 30 seconds a person suffers an osteoporosis-related hip fracture in the EU. This devastating injury can lead to years of costly treatment and in some cases it is fatal.

In his research, Dr Hoey focuses on determining how physical loading, such as walking and running around, helps to maintain a healthy skeleton. Current treatments for osteoporosis attempt to stop bone loss but have been linked to severe side effects.

Dr Hoey explains; "The human skeleton contains stem cells, residing within our bones. My research will focus on the stem cell primary cilium, which is an antennae-like structure that extends from the surface of these cells. This 'antenna' is required for stem cells to sense a physical load enabling the cell to change into a bone-forming cell and replace the lost bone. Understanding how this process works will enable us to mimic the beneficial effect of physical loading using newly developed drugs and therapeutics and will lead to innovative treatments for bone-loss diseases, such as osteoporosis."

UL Researcher Wins Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Award

Dr Mark Southern, a Senior Research Fellow at the Enterprise Research Centre(ERC) UL, recently won the Enterprise Ireland Manufacturing, Engineering & Energy Commercialisation award. The award was presented by Seán Sherlock T.D Minister for Research & Innovation at the Enterprise Ireland Big Ideas Technology Showcase. Presenting Dr Southern with his award, the Minister said; "Mark is receiving this award in recognition of his outstanding record in raising the core productivity of Irish manufacturers – thus enabling them to go further in their new product development, sales and exports".

Mark and his research team at ERC assist companies by matching their technical issues and challenges to state-of-the-art solutions in manufacturing measurement, simulation, software and statistical know how. Ireland's growing medical device and engineering sectors currently top the ERC Client list – for the vital support that the Centre gives them - in productivity, quality systems and product innovation.

Seán Sherlock T.D., Minister for Research & Innovation and Gearoid Mooney, Enterprise Ireland, Director of Research & Innovation (right) present the Enterprise Ireland Manufacturing, Engineering & Energy Commercialisation Award 2013 to Dr Mark Southern.

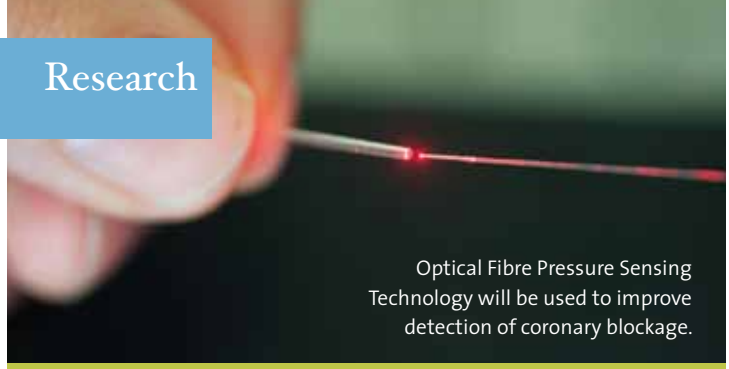
Dr Sinéad O'Keeffe

Sensor Technology to Improve Patient Safety in Radiotherapy Treatment Developed at UL

Researchers at the Optical Fibre Sensors Research Centre, have developed a technology to ensure improved safety and more effective treatment for patients undergoing radiotherapy. The research team is led by Dr Sinéad O'Keeffe, an internationally recognised sensor technology researcher who has been working on the development of optical fibre sensors for the past 9 years. Dr O'Keeffe explains; "The sensors are smaller than current technology and so it can be placed at critical organs, e.g. lens of the eye, to ensure it is not exposed to high levels of radiation. Ensuring only the tumour, and not healthy tissue, is exposed to radiation will make the radiation treatment more effective. Many current technologies do not allow for real-time monitoring and so this technology will provide immediate information on the amount of radiation a patient has received and so improves patient safety."

Dr O' Keeffe was awarded a Marie Curie Research Fellowship to develop radiation dosimeters for monitoring patient doses received during radiotherapy for cancer treatment. The project, in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles and the Galway Clinic in Ireland, has made significant advances in the area of real-time patient monitoring during radiation treatment and a patent is currently being prepared in the area.

A graduate of the BEng in Electronic Engineering and PhD at UL, Dr O'Keeffe was recently awarded the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Sensors Council Early Career (GOLD) Award. The award was presented to Dr O'Keeffe at the recent IEEE Sensors Conference in Taiwan.



Optical Fibre Pressure Sensing Technology will be used to improve detection of coronary blockage.

UL Licenses Optical Fibre Pressure Sensing Technology used to Improve Detection of Coronary Blockage

The University of Limerick (UL) recently licensed a ground- breaking new technology based on optical fibres to the Galway based medical devices company, Pointec Medical Ltd. The technology can be used to better inform physicians on the appropriate intervention for vascular disorders such as coronary artery stenosis (narrowing of the arteries). Developed by UL researchers, the optical fibre technology is thin enough to be threaded through the arteries of the human body and can take pressure and temperature readings within the arteries themselves.

Somewhat similar devices are currently used to perform a procedure called Fractional Flow Reserve diagnostics, in order to assess whether it is appropriate to implant a stent or to treat arterial blockages through other means. However, many of the currently available technologies, which are used in this procedure, have potential limitations in terms of their accuracy and stability. The patent-pending technology has already undergone significant evaluation testing at labs in Ireland and North America. The estimated market value for this pressure wire technology is €200 million a year and growing at a rate of 40% per year.

Co-inventor, Dr Gabriel Leen said; "The fibre-optic-based temperature and pressure sensor technology has the potential to significantly improve the quality of coronary diagnostics and provide cardiac surgeons with a powerful tool to accurately assess the level of arterial blockages in order to determine the most appropriate treatment for patients."

The optical fibre pressure and temperature sensor technology was developed at the Optical Fibre Sensor Research Centre, University of Limerick by a research team led by Professor Elfed Lewis in collaboration with Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

Lero Announces Research Programme to Boost Software QC in Hospitals

Lero, the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre based at UL has announced a collaboration between practicing hospital staff and academia designed to boost the quality of patient care through improved use of software. Louise Reid, Clinical Audit Development Officer within the HSE Mid-West and a current PhD student at the University of Limerick, is conducting research with Lero in a number of hospitals in Limerick on the development of a Hospital Quality Assurance Programme, H-QAP.

This programme ensures the use and implementation of quality IT systems and could be used across the Irish hospital sector to ensure that clinicians receive timely and accurate data. Louise has received funding of €20,000 from the European Union project through the TRANSFoRm project.

"Software is increasingly been used across hospitals globally but in many cases the necessary quality control systems are not yet in place," commented Dr Ita Richardson, Principal Investigator of Lero and Senior Lecturer at the University of Limerick (UL). We intend that results from these research programmes involving clinicians practicing in real time health environments will boost Ireland's capabilities in the implementation and use of quality controlled software applications in hospitals." Lero's Hospital Quality Assurance Program (H-QAP) has been implemented across a number of departments in hospitals in the Mid West.

Research Team: Marie Travers, PhD student, UL, Dr. Padraig O'Leary, Research Fellow, Dr. Patrick Buckley, Academic Researcher, Dr. Ita Richardson, Principal Investigator of Lero and Senior Lecturer at the University of Limerick and Louise Reid, Clinical Audit Development Officer.

UL Researcher to Lead International Economic Research Projects into Global Financial Crisis

A series of international research projects led by Dr Stephen Kinsella, Senior Lecturer, Kemmy Business School, have received in the region of €650,000 funding.

As part of the research, Dr Kinsella will collaborate with Nobel Laureate, Professor Joseph Stiglitz through the Institute for New Economic Thinking, New York. This three year research project will study the evolution of debt and demography in European periphery, will develop new models to understand the European economy, and make a direct contribution to policy making in Iceland, where a new model for the country will be developed, funded by Rannis, the Icelandic statistics agency.

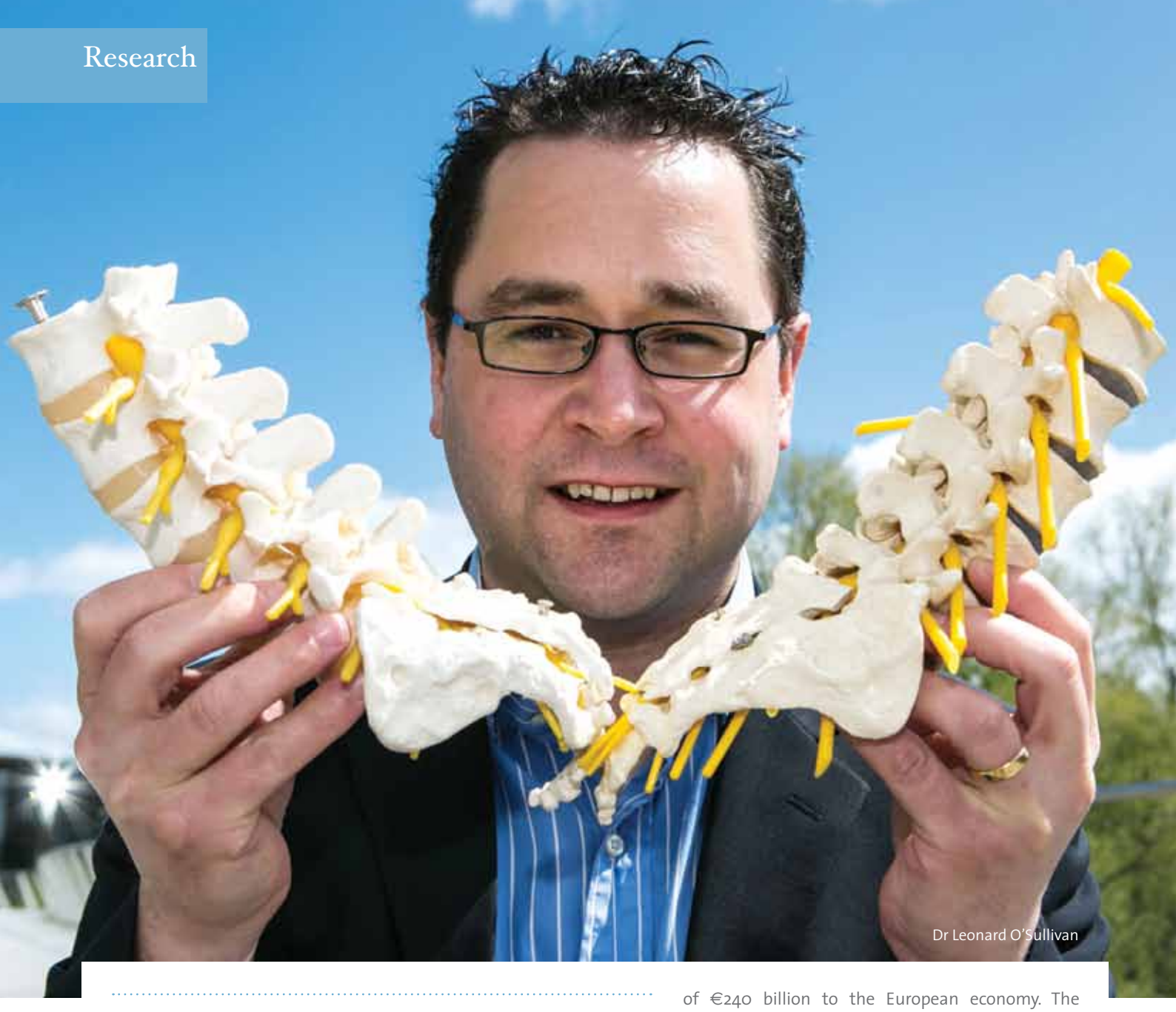
Dr Kinsella said; "These grants will create an international network of researchers working in the same area with the same tools. As a consequence of this funding, the University of Limerick will become the world's largest centre for stock flow consistent modeling."

Dr Stephen Kinsella is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Kemmy Business School, and a Research Fellow at the Geary Institute at UCD. He studies the Irish and European economies, is a weekly columnist for the Irish Independent and regularly briefs the Irish and international print, radio, and TV media on Irisheconomy.ie.

UL Spin-Out Launches Technology on the Irish Market

The UL spin-out company Votechnik is launching the "Trumaster-ALRTM" automated patented LCD recycling machine on the Irish Marketplace. This state-of-the-art technology addresses the inefficiency problems associated with the manual disassembly method currently employed to recycling LCD displays. The patented automated intelligent system can process on average 80 LCDs per hour in a safe, controlled environment where the hazardous materials are safely separated into three distinct waste streams, the LCD shell, the CCFL's (Cold Cathode Fluorescent Tubes) and Liquid Crystal panel in isolation from the machine operator.

This unique technology emerged from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded research project at UL. The research involved collaboration with industry to understand the needs of the sector players including recyclers, mercury handling specialists, the EPA and the Department of the Environment. CEO Dr Lisa O' Donoghue said "The scaled up Trumaster-ALR is now being deployed in Ireland where it will recycle the majority of Ireland Waste LCDs by removing the hazardous materials from these displays in a fast, efficient and environmentally friendly automated process". The technology was recently launched at the Waste Resource Management Conference in the UK and has received interest from International markets including UK, France, Germany, USA, Canada and Japan. The Trumaster-ALR which just fits inside a 40 ft container and weights approximately 10 tonnes can process LCD screens as small as 10" up to as large 70".



Dr Leonard O'Sullivan

UL Researchers Receive Funding to Develop Exoskeleton for Industrial Use

A UL research team leading an EU-funded project 'Robomate' will develop an exoskeleton for industrial applications. The €480,000 funding will support their study on human-robot interaction for high-frequency manual handling to minimise the risk of lower back injury in industry.

Lead researcher, Dr Leonard O'Sullivan, explains the significance of this study; "About 44 million EU workers are affected by work-related musculoskeletal disorders every year, with an annual cost in excess of €240 billion to the European economy. The 'Robomate' project aims to develop an exoskeleton for use in the workplace and in turn reduce back injury. Our team has extensive expertise in ergonomics and occupational health research, which, combined with our expanding research expertise in product design, will determine key technology advances for the exoskeleton.

The UL research team is a collaboration between the Human Factors and Product Design Research Group and the Centre for Physical Activity and Health Research. Dr Leonard O'Sullivan is Co-Director of the Enterprise Research Centre and Lecturer at the Department of Design and Manufacturing Technology, University of Limerick.

Professor Noel O' Dowd MSSI, President Don Barry, Bill Doherty, Executive Vice-President of Cook Group Europe and Dr Syed Tofail, Lead Scientist of the UL research team.

UL Researchers Design New Medical Alloy with Higher X-ray Visibility

Scientists and engineers from the Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) UL have invented a new metal that will make medical devices inside the body more visible under X-ray. The revolutionary metal alloy, from which medical devices can be constructed, is fully visible under x-ray significantly positively affecting patient outcomes and recovery times. The research was conducted through an award-winning Innovation Partnership between the University of Limerick and the international medical devices company COOK Medical, which was supported through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Programme.

Many medical devices, such as stents and valves which are placed in the body through minimally invasive surgical procedures significantly reduce patient trauma and hospitalisation time. These procedures are usually carried out with the help of some kind of medical imaging such as X-ray fluoroscopy so that a surgeon has clear visibility of where the device is placed. A fundamental problem with current materials used for making these devices is that they do not show up very well under X-ray. The problem becomes even more acute when the size of the medical device becomes smaller. Using X-ray visible markers is a less than optimal solution.

'An ideal solution is a device that is fully visible under the X-ray' said Dr Syed Tofail, Lead Scientist of the UL research team 'but the alloy would have to be developed based on the currently approved alloys for medical devices. Up to now many companies have used gold or platinum to modify existing alloys, which improve X-ray visibility but are very expensive. We have identified a number of alloying elements that will make these devices as visible as those where platinum has been added to enhance the visibility, but at a significantly reduced cost'.

'Tests on a prototype wire of the newly developed alloy have shown its potential for use in a number of COOK products' said Mr Shay Lavelle, the Lead Investigator from COOK Medical. The global market for minimally invasive surgical devices is estimated to reach the level of €17 to €26 billion in 2015/2016. 'The fact that the raw materials are more viable than the platinum added solutions also means that the commercialisation potential of this newly developed alloy is very high' he added.

COOK Medical is the largest privately owned medical device manufacturer in the world and employs 800 people in Limerick. Bill Doherty, Executive Vice President of COOK Medical for Europe, Middle East and Africa said; "This project is a good example of the strength of UL in translational research where research strongly impacts the industrial community. Building on Enterprise Ireland's support, UL and COOK's ability to work closely together, will be extremely helpful in implementing this breakthrough technology into commercial products that benefit patients worldwide".

Outcomes for Dialysis Patients Improving Despite Increases in Coronary Artery Disease

A new study led by researchers at the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) has found that deaths among dialysis patients are falling despite a rise in coronary artery disease. Better cardiovascular care in the general population prior to dialysis could explain, in part, the decline in mortality, researchers speculate. This international study was led by Professor Austin Stack, Professor of Medicine at GEMS. The research evaluated changes in the patterns of coronary artery disease and associated mortality in over 800,000 dialysis patients in the US. The study found that the prevalence of coronary artery disease among dialysis patients is increasing for men and women and across almost all race groups.

Professor Stack explained "Most dialysis patients will die from a cardiovascular-related condition and this study helps us to better understand their long-term outlook and the effectiveness of conventional treatment practices. The study has shown improvements in the survival of dialysis patients with coronary artery disease, albeit modest, despite advancing age and an increasing burden of medical conditions which they experience. If the fall in death rates is also replicated in Ireland, this indeed would be very welcome news."

"While we all welcome these findings, we should not get too complacent and take our foot off the pedal" cautioned Professor Stack. "The mortality rates for patients with coronary disease who reach end stage kidney disease remain unacceptably high and much work needs to be done. Highlighting the importance of cardiovascular and kidney health remains an important goal for all health professionals who care for these patients in order to achieve better outcomes."

The Graduate Entry Medical School is leading a number of national and international projects to evaluate the health status and clinical outcomes for patients with chronic disease in order to improve patient outcomes. The study was performed at the Graduate Entry Medical School in collaboration with the Departments of Medicine and Nephrology, University Hospital Limerick.

UL Research Challenges Global Car Crash Extrication Protocols

An award winning study aimed at examining the techniques used by emergency services the world over to extricate a trapped car crash victim, while minimising the potential for spinal injury, is underway in a collaborative research project involving the University of Limerick, University College Dublin and Emergency Services in the Mid-West. It is estimated that up to 20, 000 cases of spinal cord injuries occur annually in Northern Europe and the USA with road traffic collisions (RTCs) the main cause of cervical spine injuries in most countries. The collaborative research project between the Centre for Prehospital Research (CPR) located within the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS), the Biomechanics Research Unit within the Physical Education and Sport Sciences (PESS) Department at the University of Limerick and the Centre for Emergency Medical Science (CEMS, UCD) won the award for Best Scientific Presentation at the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians (NAEMSP) Annual Meeting in Bonita Springs, Florida this year. The project entitled "Biomechanical Analysis of Spinal Immobilisation during Prehospital Extrication: A Proof of Concept Study" was presented by Mark Dixon at the conference.

Global emergency services use a variety of techniques to enable onsite extrication of an entrapped patient from an RTC. The pilot research project found that existing protocols in relation to spinal immobilisation are based on custom and practice only, rather than on robust scientific evidence, therefore the research team set out to challenge some of the conventional wisdom around caring for patients of road traffic collisions. The results show that conventional

extrication techniques may be improved for certain categories of patients. The evidence suggests that for certain groups of stable patients verbal extrication instructions provided by qualified paramedics may be more effective than utilising complicated extrication equipment and uncomfortable rescue hardware. The preliminary findings demonstrate that while seriously injured patients will still require the conventional technical approach certain groups of patients may have potential neck injuries reduced by following simple orchestrated steps narrated by suitably trained rescue personnel.

The researchers stated "If the findings of the preliminary trial are confirmed on a larger scale then this could have implications in the future for more comfortable, less complicated extrications of stable patients in road traffic collisions"

The research was conducted in collaboration with National Ambulance Service paramedics and Limerick Corporation fire-fighters. A male volunteer (weight 80 kg, height 180cm) was fitted with a cervical collar and underwent controlled extrications from a prepared motor vehicle with roof removed and standard safety procedures in place. A rescue crew consisting of four firefighter first responders and two paramedics performed eight different extrication techniques and cervical spine movement was measured throughout using 12 infrared motion analysis cameras for biomechanical analysis. Control measurements were taken from the patient during self-extrication under verbal instruction and a total movement of 6.6 degrees was recorded. In comparison, techniques using a long spinal board with or without an extrication device resulted in total movement ranging from 11.7 degrees minimum to 26.1 degrees maximum.

The findings of the research have been so compelling that a second phase of testing has now been funded by the Pre-hospital Emergency Care Council in Ireland and the European Falck Foundation with a view towards changing the current national and European extrication protocols.

The research has also recently been published in the Emergency Medicine Journal. Phase 2 of the Project is currently in development and will commence in early 2014. The research team is comprised of Niamh Cummins (CPR, UL), Mark Dixon (CEMS, UCD), and Joseph O'Halloran (PESS, UL).

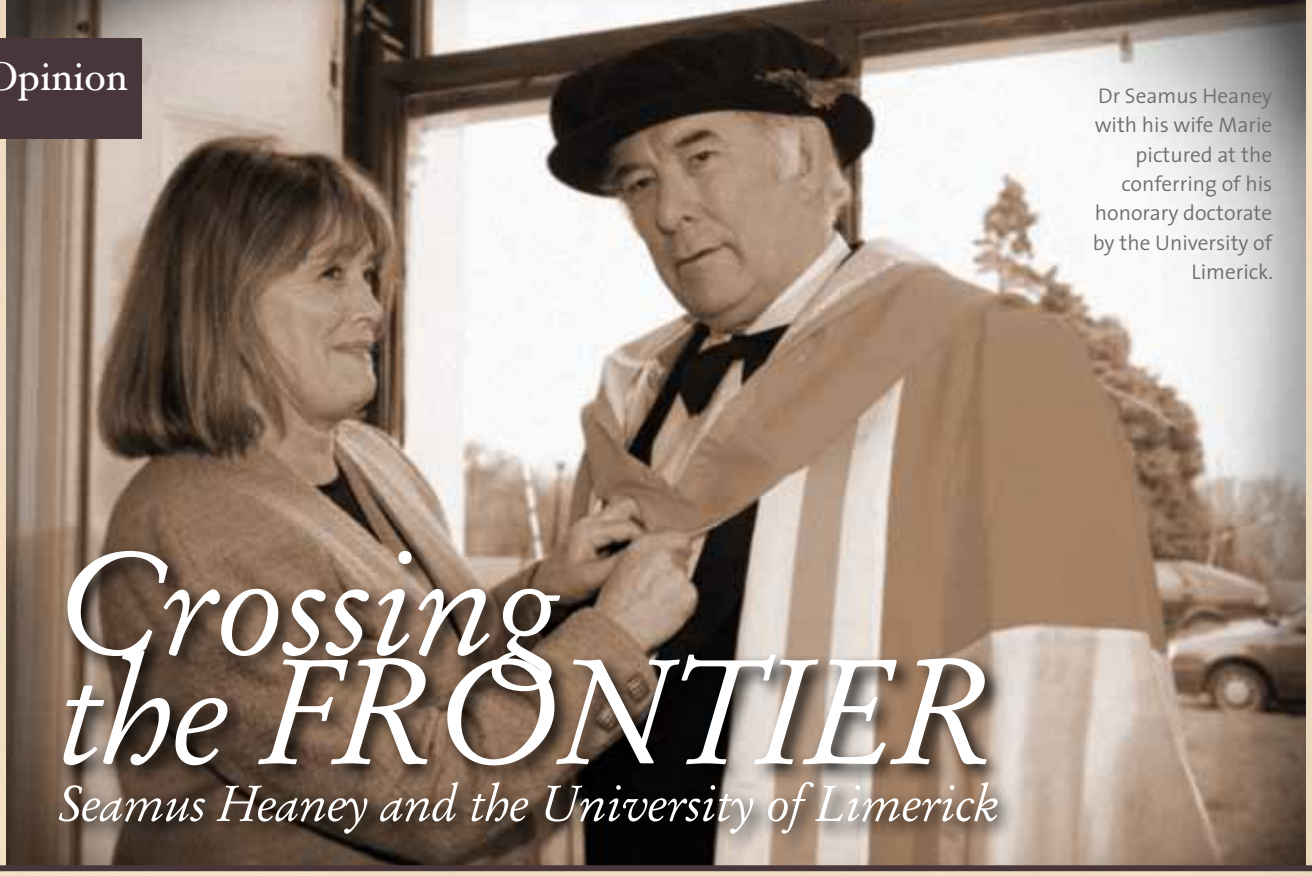
Crash victims are less likely to suffer neck and spinal injury by extracting themselves from their crashed vehicle finds UL research.

The Hen Project Empowering Patients

Dr Judi Pettigrew, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Clinical Therapies in a research partnership with occupational therapists Fiona Mulholland and Brendan Rooney of the National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) has devised a programme which has empowered the residents of the Central Mental Hospital (CMH), Dundrum, Co Dublin.

"The Hen Project: Introducing Vocational Opportunity into a High Secure Forensic Unit" was initially aimed at the residents of a six-bedded high secure unit in CMH, called the Selective Adaptive Behavioural Unit (SABU) which caters for individuals deemed to be at significant risk to themselves or others. The occupational therapy-led project introduced hens into the yard of the unit to provide the residents with vocational opportunities. "The residents who had previously little or no daily responsibilities, and were minimally engaged in meaningful occupation, now care for the hens, cook meals for themselves with the eggs and self-report feelings of enjoyment, pride and satisfaction. Notably the use of seclusion and restraint on the unit has decreased. The project has had other knock on effects such as the residents becoming engaged in making the yard more homely by painting garden seats, benches and boxes for herbs and flowers" said Dr Pettigrew.

The project recently won the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland's prestigious Ann Beckett Award, which is awarded annually to a practical and creative occupational therapy intervention which empowers clients and demonstrates the core principals of occupational therapy practice.



Dr Seamus Heaney with his wife Marie pictured at the conferring of his honorary doctorate by the University of Limerick.

Crossing the FRONTIER

Seamus Heaney and the University of Limerick

The University of Limerick was extremely saddened by the passing of one of Ireland's greatest sons, Dr Seamus Heaney in 2013. UL President Don Barry said "No words can convey the mark Seamus Heaney has left on our country and our collective consciousness. The University of Limerick was honoured to be associated with Seamus's extraordinary contribution to Irish life and Ireland's cultural evolution when he accepted an Honorary Doctorate in Letters in 1996, shortly after he had received the Nobel Prize for Literature".

Here, Founding Director of the Irish World Academy Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin offers a personal recollection.

Immediately following his Nobel award on 7 December 1995, Seamus Heaney accepted the offer of an honorary D.Litt. from the University of Limerick. His visit to the campus on 8 February 1996 is vivid in my memory. Having been given the honour of reading the citation at the award ceremony, I was assigned to the great poet as his guide and contact while he was with us.

We had met before on a number of occasions, most notably in 1982 when I produced a concert at the Abbey Theatre for The Crane Bag - a journal of Irish studies. The central feature of the evening's event was the juxtaposition of the great Aran Island poet Máirtín Ó Direáin with Heaney himself. The Chieftains provided the music that bonded the various elements together. At the time, Heaney was obviously working on the sequence 'Station Island' which he included as part of his reading. The concert was recorded by Gael Linn, and I have his onstage words quoting the final ten lines or so of the poem. As he had it on the night (my lineation):

'The way to cement community is the dolphin's way.
Swim out on your own and fill the element
with signatures on your own frequency,
echo soundings, searches, probes, allurements,
elver-gleams in the dark of the whole sea.'

I loved 'the dolphin's way' reference and I wrote to him afterwards asking permission to use it as the title of a solo piano CD recording I was making. The permission came – as his notes so often did – from a man on the move: cards written from airport transit lounges, or from university campuses around the world. This was a card, which asked that the words "the way to cement community" be dropped in

favour of simply "the way to swim".
In 1987 my album The Dolphin's Way, proudly containing the relevant lines from the poem, was issued by Venture/ Virgin Records. But Seamus had already once again changed the lines and in his published poem the dolphin had disappeared!: "When they make the circle wide, it's time to swim/out on your own...".
When I think of him now I find myself thinking of that solo run by the missing dolphin "filling the element with signatures on your own frequency".
Indeed the very word 'dolphin' comes from the Greek word delphis (with an associated meaning of 'womb') and gives its name to the oracle town of Delphi where the god Apollo assumed the form of a dolphin to found his shrine there. He chose the site for his temple because it was regarded as the omphalos or navel of the world. This was a sacred site of divine utterances.
Heaney picks up on it when he writes:
'I would begin with the Greek word, omphalos, meaning the navel, and hence the stone that marked the centre of the world, and repeat it, omphalos, omphalos, omphalos, until its blunt and falling music becomes the music of somebody pumping water at the pump outside the back door. It is Co. Derry in the 1940s'.
The pump famously appears in one of his most beautiful poems, 'Sunlight', which begins:
'There was a sunlit absence.
The helmeted pump in the yard
heated its iron,
water honeyed
in the slung bucket
and the sun stoodlike
a griddle cooling
against the wall
of each long afternoon.'

In the introduction to his collection of essays, The Redress of Poetry, he refers to the space between the 'farmhouse' and the 'playhouse', between what he terms elsewhere the practical and the poetic. 'Moreover it is in the space between the farmhouse and the playhouse that one discovers what I've called 'the frontier of writing', the line that divides the actual condition of our daily lives from the imaginative representation of those conditions in literature, and divides also the world of social speech from the world of poetic language'.

> *"The philosophical basis of Heaney's poetry had a profound effect on the growth of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance on the UL campus."*

The philosophical basis of Heaney's poetry had a profound effect on the growth of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance on the UL campus.
When he visited the campus in 1996, the Academy was only starting to make its way from "the playhouse" to the "house in earnest" as he would have put it. We were starting into a hard-edged five-year plan that would introduce the first suite of nine taught MA programmes across various genres of music and dance, and they all contained an invitation to walk freely across the frontier between the practical and the poetic, between the scientific surety of proven ground and the poetic inspiration of the imagined heavens. Indeed the very architecture of our beautiful Academy building reflects this frontier with the Academy Research Centre literally 'across the street' from the Academy Theatre. Our students move freely between the 'black box' of the Theater to the enlightenment of the Research Centre and back again as often as is needed to redress the balance between the two "orders of knowledge".
Heaney's lovely words come back to me: 'We must lift up our eyes so that nothing is beyond us, and we must keep our feet on the ground so that nothing is beneath us'.
When Van Morrison sings his lyric 'from the dark side of the street to the bright side of the road", he is adjusting the lighting rig around our knowledge in a way redolent of Heaney's insight: that the resultant empowerment from knowing both sides is "there for the crossing".
Seamus Heaney as wise dolphin has bequeathed us a life map where we may find "signatures on our own frequency", where any labyrinth can be reimagined and our own individual voices sprung free. He has gone where no one has gone before and mapped the territory. He has firmly and softly set us down at the axis between the poetic and the practical, between the earth and the heavens, and in attesting that "the frontier between them is there for the crossing", he has articulated the crux of the matter.

Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin is Founding-Director of the Irish World Academy and Founding Chair of Music at the University of Limerick. His most recent album is Elver Gleams: New and Selected Recordings (EMI 2010) named from the Heaney poem, 'Station Island'.

SPORTS NEWS

16 Honoured for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Sport

As the University set about closing its 40 year celebrations, there was one much anticipated event yet to proceed. It looked like the best celebration was saved until last and that was truly the case. September was the month in which Ireland's Sporting Campus would honour its sporting stars. Over 300 people attended the UL Sports Hall of Fame event to celebrate the achievements of 16 of UL's sporting family particularly for their contribution to Irish Sport regionally, nationally and internationally but also for their role in cementing and growing our reputation as 'Ireland's Sporting Campus'.

University of Limerick President Professor Don Barry officially inaugurated the first 16 members of the new UL Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in the sporting heart of UL , the Arena. As each person was inaugurated their portrait was unveiled along the Arena running track for all aspiring athletes to see. The inaugural University of Limerick Sports Hall of Fame inductees are:

Sarahjane Belton	*Rugby*
Brian Mullins	*Gaelic Football*
Eimear Cregan	*Hockey*
Seán O'Grady	*Paralympic Athletics*
Jimmy Deenihan	*Gaelic Football*
Eddie O'Sullivan	*Rugby*
Gerard Hartmann	*Triathlon*
Ciara Peelo	*Sailing*
Liam Hennessy	*Athletics*
Ray Silke	*Gaelic Football*
Eddie Keher	*Hurling*
Pat Spillane	*Gaelic Football*
Seán McMahon	*Hurling*
Carmel Vekins	*Kayak & Canoe Polo*
Sinéad Millea	*Camogie*
Tony Ward	*Rugby*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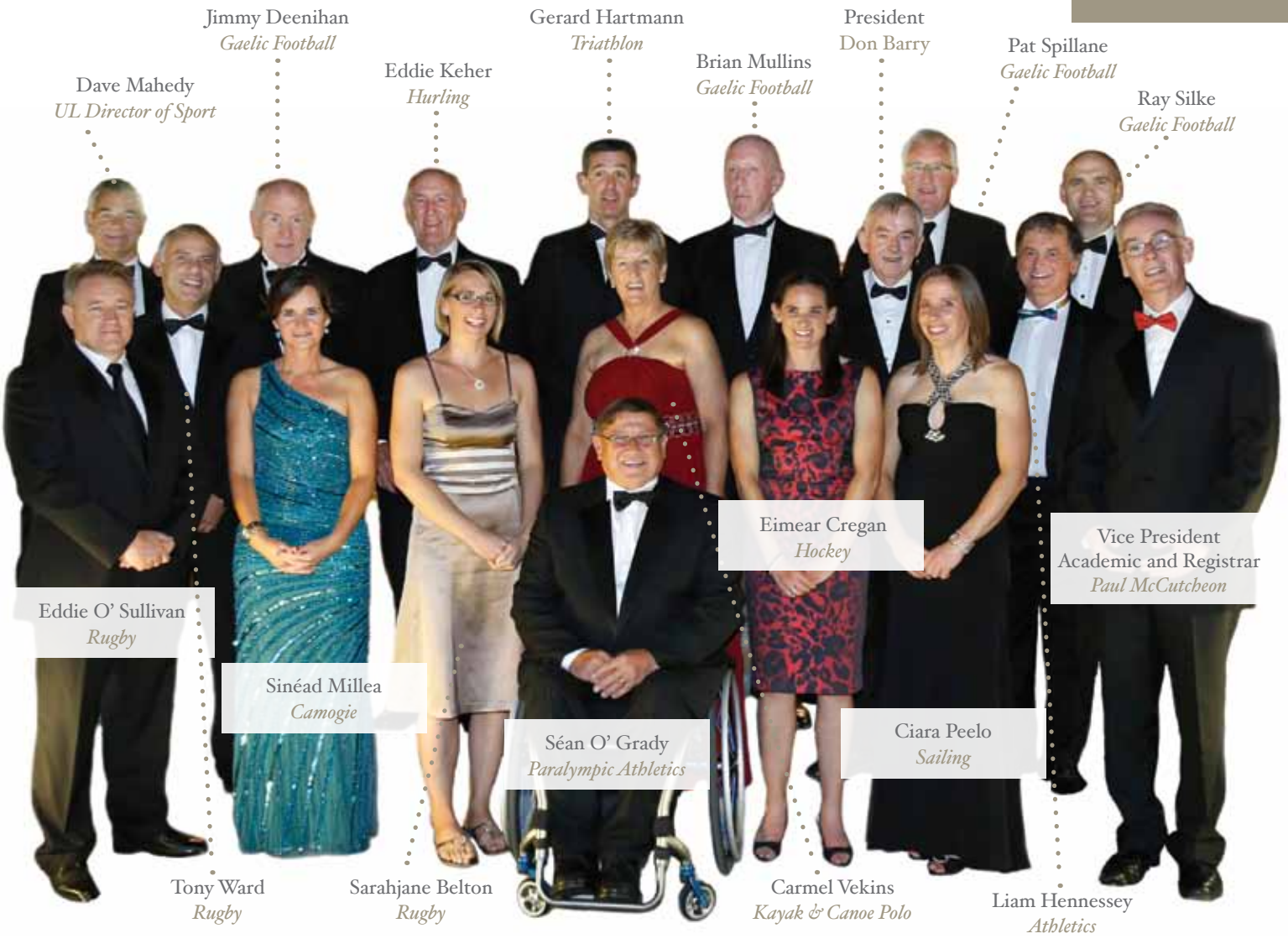
1. Minister Jimmy Deenihan with his portrait. 2. Sarahjane Belton with her portrait. 3. Eddie Keher with his award. 4. Sinéad Millea. 5. Ciara Peelo. 6. Seán O' Grady. 7. The Rugby Crew! Sports Hall of Fame inductees Eddie O'Sullivan, Sarah Jane Belton, Declan Kidney, UCC Director of Sport and Tony Ward. 8. Pat Spillane , Brian Mullins and Jimmy Deenihan at the Sports Hall of Fame Gala Dinner.



*missing is Sean McMahon who was unable to attend.

The Sports Hall of Fame will serve as a permanent tribute to sporting leaders in recognition of their excellence in achievement and service to sport. The sixteen retired athletes chosen as inaugural inductees have been selected from the four decades of sporting excellence in UL's history and new members will be added to the UL Sports Hall of Fame each year. According to Professor Don Barry, President, University of Limerick "These sixteen individuals will be remembered for their achievements, their commitment to excellence and the inspiration they provide to our next generations of athletes. They have reached the pinnacle of their sporting careers and have earned our highest esteem and gratitude for their contribution to UL Sport and I would like to give my congratulations to all the inductees."

The ceremony was followed that evening by a Gala Dinner at the UL Pavilion where all gathered to celebrate.

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UL Welcomes Ivy League Athletic Teams

The combined Ivy League Athletics Team of Brown and Dartmouth competed against the UL athletics team at the University Arena Bowl. The visit to UL is the fifth such tour which has been held every four years since 1999 and was the climax of a very successful UL Athletic Club season.

UL Gears up for the Special Olympics Ireland Games 2014

The University of Limerick is set to welcome the 2014 Special Olympics Ireland Games back to Limerick in June 2014. The University will host the games, which were officially launched at UL in December, over four days from Thursday 12th June to Sunday 15th June. In what will be one of the largest and most prestigious sporting events to take place in Ireland next year, 1,500 Special Olympics athletes from throughout the island of Ireland will travel to Limerick. They will be accompanied by 500 coaches and official delegates as well as a contingent of over 3,000 family members. The Games will be supported by a team of 3,000 volunteers who have been, and will continue to be, recruited from the Midwest region over the next number of months.

UL President, Prof Don Barry welcomed the announcement in saying "The University of Limerick is delighted to have the Special Olympics Ireland Games back in Limerick in 2014. Almost four years ago during the 2010 Games the University of Limerick, our campus and our community buzzed with an excitement that has been unparalleled since and we very much look forward to it all again. We know the 2014 Special Olympics Ireland games will be bigger, better and an even greater success drawing on the huge volunteer base in Mid West region." As well as being the main residential center, the University of Limerick will host the athletics, aquatics, basketball, football, bocce, gymnastics and kayaking competitions.

Special Olympics Munster Ambassador, David Wallace, Munster and Ireland rugby legend with Special Olympics athletes, Anna Kehoe, Sarah Doyle, Amy Perrot and Roisin Fitzgerald.

Richie with 2fm Presenter Hector

Breakfast with Hector leads Ireland's Biggest Simultaneous Aerobics Class at UL

The University of Limerick was buzzing with fitness fanatics for the 2fm Breakfast with Hector show which came to visit during last Summer. Hector, accompanied by UL's Richie Clifford, led over 600 gym goers in Ireland's Biggest Simultaneous Aerobics Class. The class was joined by listeners in gyms all around the country for the hour-long simultaneous exercise session.

Richie and his daughter Joanna put the crowd through their paces live on 2fm with music mixed by 2fm DJ and local limerick lad JJ Hartigan. Members of the Six Nations winning Irish women's rugby team, players from Limerick FC, Mayor of Limerick Gerry McLoughlin and Paralympic Rower Shane Ryan also took part.

Hector's Soldiers of the Dawn have been gearing up for months for 'Keep Her Fit' a nationwide exercise event. Listeners to the show were invited to come along to UL and experience a Richie Clifford aerobics class first hand or to register their gym to hold a simultaneous class from 8am to 9am.

This is the first time 'Breakfast with Hector' has held an Aerobicathon and it all came about the day Hector met Richie. Richie was interviewed on Breakfast with Hector when he featured in RTÉ's Reality Bites documentary 'The Gym'. His passion for aerobics and physical fitness had a big impact on the team and sowed the seed of an idea for the first Ireland's Biggest Simultaneous Aerobics Class.

Hector: "What better time to get up and get fit than first thing in the morning. I'm delighted to be leading Ireland's Biggest Simultaneous Aerobics Class live on 2fm. Exercise is a great way to get the nation moving and to get all my soldiers of the dawn pumped and ready for the day ahead. When I met Richie Clifford a few months ago, he had such energy and enthusiasm for aerobics I knew the show had to get the people of Ireland involved. Seeing hundreds of people in University of Limerick, working out together and hearing from gym's around the country doing the same, has been a great start to my day."

ALL ABOUT RICHIE!

Richie, how did it all happen?

I actually did my training at the National Centre for Exercise and Fitness (NCEF) at the University of Limerick , level 1 and 2 and was years as a personal trainer. I taught fitness classes all over Ireland while achieving my own sporting ambitions. I ran international for about 3 years and I was National Champion 25k on the road. I'm a Limerick man and still live here in Castleconell with my wife. Yes my hair is real and 100% natural!I don't dye it you know. I ended up here in UL thanks to two people, Jacinta O' Brien and Dave Mahedy. Twenty-three years ago they convinced me to come and work at UL, to design and teach fitness classes at the PESS building. They promised me a free hand to do what I wanted with the classes and go in the direction I wanted to go. It was a good opportunity so I took it. I purchased some equipment, introduced some dance music and jazzed it up a bit. We used the gym and also the outside all-weather pitches for our circuit classes.

This page: Ruben Clifford was there to help out his granddad Richie.
Opposite: Richie, Hector, Kitty Quinn, Cratloe Co. Clare and Carmel Clifford look back at a picture from one of Richie's first classes in 1996 where Kitty was participant and has been ever since.

> *"I give everyone time, everyone is acknowledged..."*

How did the classes evolve and develop?

I'm the luckiest guy in the world ! Things just went right for me, from day one the classes were packed. I think it's because I give everyone time, everyone is acknowledged, it makes a difference and as the classes got bigger and bigger it got more important. I'm a relaxed person, not too serious and I always say to people you need to enjoy the class, if you enjoy it then three times a week is plenty. The classes have changed in that we used to do circuits but now it's a total body workout, two classes a night , five nights a week. Dave Mahedy has been an exceptional boss, never once have we had a bad word between us. He's open to ideas and he's really encouraged me which gave me the opportunity to fine tune these classes to what I wanted.

What impact did the new Arena have on your work when it opened?

There is no doubt that the Arena had a huge impact, I originally thought the area allotted to me would be much smaller , when they told me I was getting two floors and the running track I was delighted. We bought all new equipment, a music system second to none and started up the classes at the UL Arena. While we still enjoyed the company of our old members the classes just grew and grew. Looking at the class in the Arena, I think it looks impressive and we find that people just want to be a part of it, there's a good buzz.

The numbers just keep growing at the Arena , what is it about UL?

I think the great thing about UL is you don't have to be a member to enjoy the Arena and the classes, you're better off if you do become one but there's no pressure. People might come along and try a few things and may not join for four months or so but when they do you know they've found the right fit for them. I think the atmosphere and space has a big impact, it's an open space with plenty of instructors who are super encouraging and there's a great variety of classes which keeps it interesting.

Is there still room for aerobics, especially with the arrival of new fitness classes including Zumba and Strictly Come Dancing?

I believe there is. Every exercise is good and if you enjoy it you'll train hard, you have to try everything , see what you like, that's the good thing about the Arena, it offers choice. The one good thing about our aerobics class is it is suitable for all, within the one class you have beginners, intermediates and advanced. And the instructors at the classes encourage everyone and bring them along, particularly beginners. They're really encouraging and a good group to work with and motivating to class members.

What motivates you ?

I love life , I love being around people, I enjoy what I do. I also love being out in nature , I like a bit of Opera and Art.

What's your own fitness regime?

Well , the classes keep me going but I also enjoy cycling , mountain biking and hill walking.

Have you worked out with any famous celebs at UL (apart from Hector!)?

well I've met lots , not all of them have worked-out here but we've had quite a few high profile visitors at UL whom I've met.

Who is your fitness idol?

I have a few, cyclists Greg Lamond and Alberto Contrador, but at a local level it has got to be Paul O' Connell and the Munster team , who are now based at UL. They are so professional at what they do but they have plenty of time for everyone at the Arena , stopping and shaking hands with people who want to meet them and signing autographs for the kids. People respect them so much around here and apart from the coming and going they are left to get on with their training. I have great admiration for them.

What's next on your to-do list?

I'd love to do a six-week holiday in Spain or France cycling with my wife and we're definitely going to do it..... eventually.

> *"I think the great thing about UL is you don't have to be a member to enjoy the Arena and the classes..."*

UL STUDENT ACTIVITIES

UL Students Win Major Journalism Awards

Four final-year BA Journalism and New Media students were recently honoured with journalism awards.

Liam Corcoran from Dunmore in Co Galway was this year's winner of the 'Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism', while Niamh Drohan from Dungarvan, Co Waterford was runner-up. The 'Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism', which is supported by Independent News and Media and the Doyle family, is presented annually to a student who has achieved excellence in the field of investigative journalism. The award was introduced in 2012 to honour the memory of the late Irish Independent editor Vincent (Vinny) Doyle. This is the second year that a student from the University of Limerick has won the award.

Also on the winner list was Enda Dowling from Rathdowney, Co Laois who was named the inaugural winner of the 'Irish Examiner Award for Sports Journalism'. The prize recognises excellence in the field of sports writing and is judged by a team from the Irish Examiner's award winning sports desk, chaired by the newspaper's deputy editor Tony Leen.

Fionnuala Corbett from Gurteen in Co Galway was awarded the 'Live95FM Award for Broadcasting'. The prize is awarded to the student who produces a radio documentary of a truly excellent standard on an issue of social importance. Fionnuala's documentary examined the plight of people living with Parkinson's Disease.

The Awards were presented by chairman of the National Newspapers of Ireland (NNI) National Media Awards, Michael Brophy at a ceremony at UL with students receiving specially commissioned glass statuettes from Kemmy Stonecraft of Limerick.

The University of Limerick launched its journalism programmes in 2008. The BA Journalism and New Media programme is now one of the most popular places in the country to study journalism according to CAO figures.

University of Limerick Journalism award-winners from left: Enda Dowling, Irish Examiner Award for Sports Journalism, Niamh Drohan, runner-up, Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism, Fionnuala Corbett, Live95FM Award for Broadcasting and Liam Corcoran, Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism.

UL Student Expo Unveils Designs for the Future

The design innovations of 120 University of Limerick students was showcased at the annual 'Design @ UL' expo held at the former Franciscan Church, Limerick City this past academic year. The expo, titled Design@UL, brought together the diversity of design skills of the students from the School of Architecture UL (SAUL); Civil Engineering; Digital and Interactive Media; Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering; Product Design; Materials and Architectural Technology; and Materials and Engineering Technology. Professor Merritt Bucholz, Head of the School of Architecture, said of the event; "This is STEM thinking in action where Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are augmented, and improved by Art and Design thinking (STEAM), UL is the natural home for STEAM thinking, but more importantly, for STEAM doing."


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1. Materials and Engineering Technology student Colin Trent with his 4th year project "Buddy the Elk". 2. Clare O'Callaghan, School of Architecture, UL pictured with her project. 3. Ronan Ryan pictured alongside his project, "Tree Huggers Camping".

What's the future for Limerick? UL Think Tank Launches Ideas Showcase for the New Limerick

University of Limerick think tank, 'The Intelligence Unit (IU)' recently showcased a series of ideas for the future of Limerick at an exhibition which ran at the Limerick City Gallery of Art. The IU was created in 2009 to act as an independent 'Think –Tank' to look and show Limerick in a way that hadn't been done before. Working in effective parallel with the Limerick Economic and Spatial Plan 2030's comprehensive set of ambitions and goals graduates and faculty brought together their collective ideas and experiences to consider future directions for Limerick, over an 8-week programme.

Joining forces for the 2013 project The School of Architecture, UL (SAUL) and the Kemmy Business School designed and showcased a series of ideas for the future of Limerick through four topics which would show how with minimum investment, a number of feasible and attractive proposals for the City could begin. Four important themes emerged from the researchers' analysis including: food – harnessing the demand for local produce; Park City – focusing on the promotion and development of Limerick's Special Areas of Conservation; Operation Education – aimed at up-skilling people from all strata of society and Innovation Campus which focussed on creating affordable workspaces for start-up micro-business.

Merritt Bucholz, Professor of Architecture said "This is one opportunity to really change the City. It's time to get new, fresh, design- led thinking. The University of Limerick has a contribution to make to the City. The School of Architecture has been producing IU workshops for several years, and it's from this basis that the current project has emerged. This year has been a new departure for us. The collaboration with Stephen Kinsella and his colleagues at the KBS is helping to make our ideas realisable. This is only the beginning."

Each project is original, fully articulated as an idea, but also as a policy. Policy makers and business people can take these ideas and implement them. One of the projects on food networks has already resulted in a new business being created; ArtFoodNet, which will launch later this year, with two of the IU researchers as company directors.

Senior Lecturer in Economics, Dr Stephen Kinsella said "IU has the potential to change how we do policy design in this country, and now we've proven the concept I think we need to make this model more widespread."

Intelligence Unit Limerick: Designing Policies is kindly supported by Limerick City Gallery

UL Architecture Grads and Intelligence Unit researchers: Jack Byrne, Jane Kissane, Darren Monahan and Jenny Hogan pictured at the exhibition, Limerick City Gallery.

UL Student Wins RIA Award

The Royal Irish Academy recently presented awards to outstanding students of Mathematics in nine of the Higher Education Institutions in Ireland. Amongst the winners was University of Limerick student Kevin Brosnan pictured with Fergus Monaghan, Arup; Sir Roger Penrose; and Professor Luke Drury, RIA.

Faculty of Science and Engineering Encourage Future Research Talent

The recipients of the Summer Research Bursary Scheme with the Faculty of Science and Engineering staff, the Dean, Professor Kieran Hodnett, Dr Conor McCarthy and Eileen Madden.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering at UL recently celebrated the success of their Summer Research Bursary Scheme. The Scheme aims to expose undergraduate students to research and the research environment and ultimately to encourage them to apply for postgraduate research funding, so that they can continue their studies to Masters or PhD levels. Given the heavy load of coursework over the semester, it was decided to run the Scheme over the summer months to ensure students would have the time to explore research opportunities fully, while also offering them the opportunity to support academics investigating new areas of research and to work on research funding grant proposals. The scheme, which represented a €78,000 investment over the 10 weeks summer semester, was co-funded by the Faculty with financial support also coming from individual science and engineering Departments and research projects.

39 students committed themselves to research projects over the summer months and were awarded bursaries to do so. At the end of the 10 weeks each student was awarded with an individual certificate, which will form the seed of their research portfolio.

Real Courses for Real Crises - Sanju Thapa Talks Civil Engineering at UL

Recent graduate Sanju Thapa came to Ireland from Nepal as a young teenager. She studied Civil Engineering at the University of Limerick. The CIVIL @ UL course is built around learning-by-doing and includes many hands-on projects complemented by an 8 month Cooperative Education Placement. Sanju spent her placement in her native Nepal where she saw first-hand the tragic consequences of inadequate design and poor construction of housing on those living in that mountainous country.

My name is Sanju Thapa and I did my Bachelors in Civil Engineering at University of Limerick. The Civil @ UL course is built around learning-by doing and includes many hands-on projects. From my personal experience this way of teaching is very effective and leaves a clear understanding of the subjects in one's mind. I have enjoyed every second of my time in UL. We had the most amazing teaching staff and their constant help and support helped me a lot to get through the four years at UL.

During my third year I went to Nepal for my Cooperative Education Placement. In Nepal I worked for The Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust. The Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) was founded in 1991 with the mission to safeguard the extraordinary and threatened architectural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal. Over the past two decades, KVPT has saved more than 50 historic buildings including temples, step-wells, monasteries and palaces, and has launched three major campaigns for urban preservation. KVPT collaborates with community groups, local and international specialists, educational institutions, and the Government of Nepal, Department of Archaeology.

During my placement I was exposed to the fact that there are still so many people out there who are unaware of how vulnerable their homes are to earthquakes. They have no idea that the place they call home could be the reason for their death. This particular fact made a lasting impact on my mind. For my final year dissertation I undertook a study on seismic performance of buildings in developed/ developing countries. This study further aroused my interest in the area of seismic engineering. I felt as if I should further my knowledge so that I can give something back to the community. I returned for

my final year determined to focus on design of low-rise construction for damage prevention in earthquakes. I first researched the physics of earthquakes and the response of buildings to seismic shock. Then I focussed on the analysis of forces and stresses induced by earthquakes in concrete and masonry.

I researched earthquake damage to low-rise buildings in six countries spread across four continents and identified a number of key defects that occur again and again. I noticed that often the Western experts who compile the damage reports pay little attention to traditional small dwellings where many fatalities often occur. Instead they often concentrate on larger steel and concrete frame buildings for which Western technology has provided design solutions. Among many other interesting discoveries, I identified how poor farmers in Peru are using light polymer (plastic) mesh to reinforce their adobe (mud) dwellings against earthquake damage. Such low-technology solutions can prevent damage in earthquakes up to force 7 on the Richter scale.

I believe that the undergraduate course in UL has equipped me with vast knowledge in the field of civil engineering. The programme is a problem- based learning course. We are given a project that relates to an actual case with a member of staff acting as a client. We operate in small teams, regular meetings are held and we are required to produce an agenda for each meeting. At the end of the project each group presents their project to the "client", students from the class and also the staff members. This process has taught me a great deal about working in a group, information gathering, assessing real life problems, planning and managing time for various activities involved within a project etc.

Since I was a child I always wanted to do something that involved maths and physics and choosing the civil engineering course at UL was definitely the right decision.

Civil Engineering at UL:

UL graduates continue to buck the trend in employability – with very encouraging figures among disciplines which would have been impacted by the downturn. For example, 88% of the 2012 graduates of UL's Civil Engineering programme were found to have secured employment including paid research or further study within weeks of graduation.

Congratulations to UL graduates, from left, Aongus Hegarty BBS '89, Dolores Halpin Bachmann BCS '76 and Dr Edmond Harty BEng (Mechanical Engineering) '97, recipients of the 2013 UL Alumni Awards.

UL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UL Alumni *Awards*

For the eighth 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.

Three University of Limerick graduates were recently honoured with the UL Alumni Association's highest honour, Dr Edmond Harty, Dolores Halpin-Bachmann and Aongus Hegarty. The 2013 Awards celebration was made possible through the generous support of event partners: GE Capital Aviation Services, Hays Recruitment and Stryker Ireland.

Dr Edmond Harty graduated from UL with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1997. Just a year later, in 1998, Edmond joined Dairymaster, a company founded by his father, Ned in 1968 in Causeway, Co Kerry. Today, Dairymaster is one of Ireland's most successful indigenous technology companies. Through Edmond's leadership as CEO and Technical Director, Dairymaster is regarded as the world leader in the development and manufacture of labour saving automated devices for the global dairy industry. Dairymaster employs 300 people in the areas of R&D and high-end manufacturing providing innovative equipment for the agricultural sector across 40 countries including USA, Germany, UK, Japan, New Zealand and Russia. Edmond's concentration is always on future possibilities, scientifically developed and proven. The level of patent applications (over 45 so far) speaks to his commitment to innovation. In 2012, Edmond was named the international and overall Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

1. Tom O'Connor and Lorraine O'Connor.
2. Mary Finucane, Catherine Prendergast, Eoghan Prendergast, Beatrice Heneghan, John Heneghan.
3. Carl Widger, Yvonne Widger, Siobhán Buckley.
4. Fergal McNamara and Nicky McMahon.
5. (Back Row) Colin Kelly, Cathal Ronan, Paddy Rockett, (front Row) Avril Hogan, Callista Bennis, Aileen Galvin. 6. Kate Shannon, Donal Creaton, Mary Creaton. 7. Tara Kelly and Shane Kelly.

Dolores Halpin-Bachmann graduated from UL with a BCS Degree in European Studies in 1976 as a member of the first graduation class of the fledgling NIHE. After six years in Brussels, the Tipperary native re-located to her Danish husband's home country and while there, her practical knowledge of EU systems, procedures and mechanisms and her languages skills eventually led to a career shift during the early 90's. Thus began the start of a long career within the international aid agency, Caritas, working with disaster-affected communities across the globe. Throughout her career, Dolores has spearheaded and developed Caritas Denmark's humanitarian response programmes, pro-actively contributed to strengthening the global Caritas humanitarian agenda while regularly visiting and working with colleagues in disaster-affected countries bringing hope, solace, comfort and tonnes of relief supplies to address humanitarian needs and aid recovery in countries such Bosnia, Kosovo, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Eritrea and Niger.

Aongus Hegarty graduated from UL with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Studies in 1989. Limerick-born and raised, he joined Dell in 1999 and today serves as President for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). In that role, he is responsible for the company's business across the region, leading teams to deliver innovative, efficient and practical technology solutions to its customers. In addition, Aongus is also the executive sponsor for Dell's Global Giving Council in the region, overseeing the investment of significant funding to not for profit organisations. He also co-leads Dell's EMEA Women's Network, and is a member of the Dell Global Diversity Council chaired by Michael Dell.

Aongus trained as an Accountant and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. He is also a member of the Executive Council for the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union. In November 2012, Aongus returned to his alma mater as a guest of the UL Alumni Association to deliver the 5th UL Alumni Lecture to an audience of alumni, students, faculty, staff and business colleagues.

Gradua

Dr Peter Tiernan BEng (Production) 1996, PhD 1999

Following his role as Chair of Engineers Ireland for the Thomond (Limerick) region during 2012/13, Peter has been awarded the prestigious Engineers Ireland Excellence Award. Originally from Co Roscommon, he is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, senior lecturer at UL and a researcher at the University's Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI).

Mark Cronin BBS 2008

As Bid Manager at specialist interior contractor Ardmac, Mark is responsible for the coordination of bids across the group, focusing on Ireland, UK and Western Europe. Originally from Innishannon, Co. Cork, Mark is also a Trustee and Communications Officer for the Mark Heffernan Trust, a charity he helped to establish in 2010 to fight Sudden Adult Death Syndrome through the provision of defibrillators nationwide.

Mark Kennelly B.A. Public Administration 1990

Originally from Killarney, Co Kerry, Mark is Chief of Staff to Taoiseach Enda Kenny. After graduating from UL, he worked as a parliamentary assistant in the European Parliament before serving as a policy advisor to Fine Gael, becoming Chef-de-Cabinet to the party leader in 2001.

James Long B.Ed Civil Engineering 2012

Following his graduation from UL, James, who is originally from Parteen, Co Clare, became the beneficiary of an MIT presidential scholarship which allowed him to take up a coveted place at the world-renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology where his is now pursuing a Masters of Science.

Diarmaid Mulholland B.Eng (Mechanical) 1993

Limerick native, Diarmaid is Managing Director, Global Key Accounts at General Electric. Based in Brussels, he is responsible for key client strategies, cultivating new business opportunities and partnerships with GE's largest customers. Married to Hannah, whom he met while working in Hong Kong, they have three children. An avid sportsman, he is an overseas ambassador for the Lifting Limerick hurling initiative and has recently taken up triathlons.

Helen Normoyle BBS 1991

As Chief Marketing Officer at DFS, Britain's leading upholstered furniture retailer, Helen is responsible for overseeing the company's marketing activities, brand building campaigns and consumer research while supporting the company's stores throughout the UK and Ireland and its online sales. Originally from Adare, Co Limerick, Helen's previous role was Director of Marketing & Audiences at the BBC.

Diarmaid Mulholland

Mark Cronin

Dr Peter Tiernan Mark Kennelly James Long Helen Normoyle

te *Lives*

Jerry Flannery MSc Sports Performance 2013

Following his retirement from professional Rugby in 2012 after a decade playing for Munster and Ireland, Jerry returned to studies at UL where he completed a Masters in Sports Performance. In July 2013, he joined Premier League Football Club, Arsenal on a work placement as a Strength and Conditioning Coach while he also remains involved in running the family's pub business in Limerick City.

Matthew Byrne BA Liberal Arts 1997

Limerick native, Matthew is currently in Jordan working as a field officer for UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, as part of the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis response in Zaatari refugee camp. Prior to this, Matt was based in South Sudan and he has also worked in Colombia with human rights defenders who had received death threats.

John Keane BBS 2011

Since his graduation, John has embarked on an Accounting and Finance Graduate programme with Kerry Group in Latin America, taking him from Mexico to Brazil, where he currently lives. During the last two years, he has worked in Supply Chain, Operations Accounting and Commercial Finance while learning both Spanish and Portuguese. Originally from Rathluirc, Co Cork, he previously won a scholarship to Pukyong National University in South Korea while an undergraduate at UL.

Ann Marie McCourt BA in Public Administration 2005

As a Political Advisor in the European Parliament, Ann Marie's role focuses on two policy areas - the Employment and Social Affairs Committee and the Budgets Committee. Originally from Athlone, County Westmeath, she lives in Brussels with her husband, Nick whom she met while working in the Parliament.

Paddy Meskell BA European Studies 1977

After 25 years living and working in Washington DC as a senior executive in the financial services and hospitality industries, Paddy is now an independent consultant and coach to entrepreneurial leaders focusing on the areas of organisational culture and effectiveness. His passion is serving as Chairman of the Board of Solas Nua whose mission is to introduce and present the best new contemporary artists from Ireland to audiences in America.

Aisling Meehan BA Law & Accounting 2004

A solicitor and tax consultant specialising in agricultural law and taxation, Aisling operates her own practice from her award-winning family farm in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co Clare. A qualified farmer, she is a regular contributor to national radio and print media, a columnist with the Irish Farmer's Journal and a member of the Law Society Gazette Editorial Board. Aisling was also awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship which promotes future leaders in the agricultural industry.

Matthew Byrne | John Keane | Ann Marie McCourt | Aisling Meehan

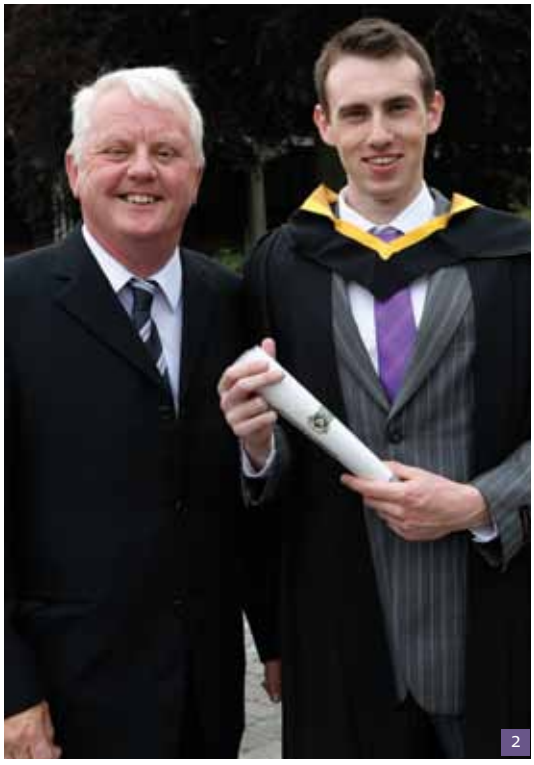
UL GRADUATIONS

Graduation Days ... Congratulations!

1

UL Celebrates Conferring of 141 Students of Medicine & Clinical Therapies

The University of Limerick recently celebrated the graduation of 141 students from the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) and Clinical Therapies Department. Among the graduates were 88 doctors conferred with their medical degrees as they became the third graduating class of GEMS and 53 Clinical Therapies graduates who received their awards –29 from the MSc in Occupational Therapy and 24 from the BSc in Physiotherapy.



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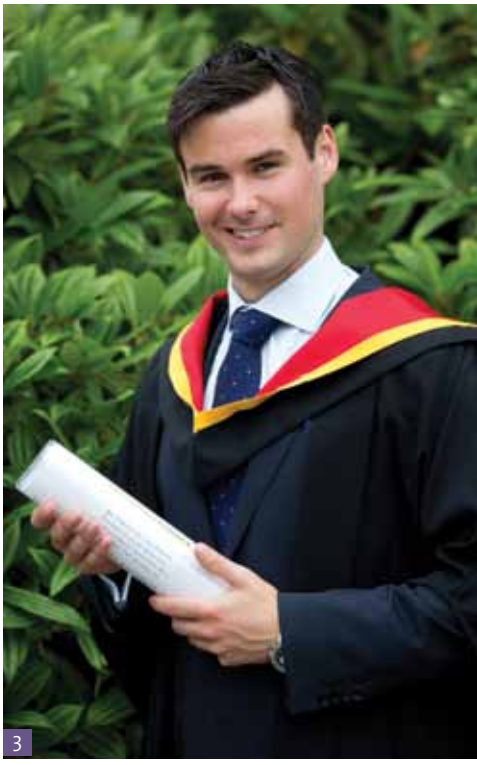

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1. Dr Jeane Viljoen, Canada - who graduated with Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery, shelters from the rain. 2. Paul Fitzgerald, Ballybrown who was conferred with an MSc Occupational Therapy with his dad and UL staff member, Michael Fitzgerald. 3. Dr Leon Walsh (Ennis, Co. Clare) who graduated with Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery.

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4. Graduate Entry Medical School Medal Winners (L-R) Dr Ruth Boylan, First Place in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr Els Gillis, First Place for Overall Performance in the Bachelor of Medicine, Discipline of Medicine and Surgery, Dr John O'Connor, First Place in the Discipline of Paediatrics, Dr Cara Weldrick, First Place in the Discipline of Psychiatry and Dr Wendy MacKerricher, First Place in the Discipline of General Practice.
5. Dr Pat Owens, from Carlow who will complete his internship at U.C.H.G. was conferred with a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery.
6. Patricia Pond (centre), with her sisters Aoibhin and Laura, who was conferred with a Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy.
7. Dr Jonathan Johnson (Canada), Professor Michael Larvin, Head of GEMS and Dr Niamh Gordon (Dublin).
8. Dr Jane McGauran will begin her internship as a Junior Doctor at St James's Hospital, Dublin.

Graduations

9. Sinead Heelan from Boherbue, Co Cork, BSc Physical Education is pictured here with her daughter Aoidin O'Sullivan aged 3.
10. Paralympic rower Shane Ryan, Ballybricken, Co. Limerick who was conferred with a Certificate in Exercise and Health Fitness with President Don Barry and Maura O'Sullivan Ryan, Director, NCEF.
11. Katherine O'Brien, Dingle, Ciara Wright, Killarney, Lauren Prendeville, Castleisland, Danielle McLoughlin, Castleisland and Emer Healy Buttevent , Co Cork who graduated from the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences.
12. Cpl Adrian Fitzpatrick, Boyle, Co. Roscommon who was conferred with a Certificate in Exercise and Health Fitness, Lt. Chloe Breheny, Tipperary town who was conferred with a BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences and Cpt. Kevin Doherty, Letterkenny conferred with a Certificate in Exercise and Health Fitness,


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This year's Autumn Conferrings saw the Graduation of over 2,600 students, including 44 PhD graduates, over 4 days.

13. Ciaran Phllips, Foxford, Co. Mayo who was conferred with a BSc in Music, Media and Performance Technology was also the recipient of the Cooperative Education Award 2013. Also in the photograph are, from left, Professor Kieran Hodnett, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Patrice Twomey, Director of Cooperative Education and Careers, and Dr Colm Cunniffe. Cooperative Education Manager.
14. Aoife Dunphy, Clonmel, Carol Houlihan, Birdhill, Aine Brislane, Toomevara, Becky Hand, Bruree, and Ailbhe Carroll, Roscrea who graduated from the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences.
15. Vice President Academic and Registrar Professor Paul McCutcheon with UL Chancellor The Hon. Mr Justice John Murray who was enjoying his first conferring ceremonies as Chancellor of UL.
16. Dr Susan Dwane, Dooradoyle, Limerick, Dr Orla Power, Castletroy, Limerick and Dr Emily Barrett, Paulstown, Kilkenny who were conferred with Research Degrees, Master of Science.
17. Richard Murphy, Raheen who was conferred with a BSc in Health and Safety.
18. Hilary Barrett, Castletroy who was conferred with a BEng in Biomedical Engineering with First Class Honours.


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19. Daniel Murphy and PJ Fitzsimons from Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan and Melvin Buttimer, Carrigaline, Co. Cork who received BEd Materials.
20. Dr Philip O'Regan, Dean, Kemmy Business School, Professor Roy Hayhurst, Founding Dean, College of Business and recipient of President's Medal and President Don Barry.
21. Vice President Research Dr Mary Shire with Professor Patrick Gunnigle who received the Excellence in Research Award.
22. Dr Christophe Silien with Dr Aisyah M. Sharif following the conferring of her PhD.


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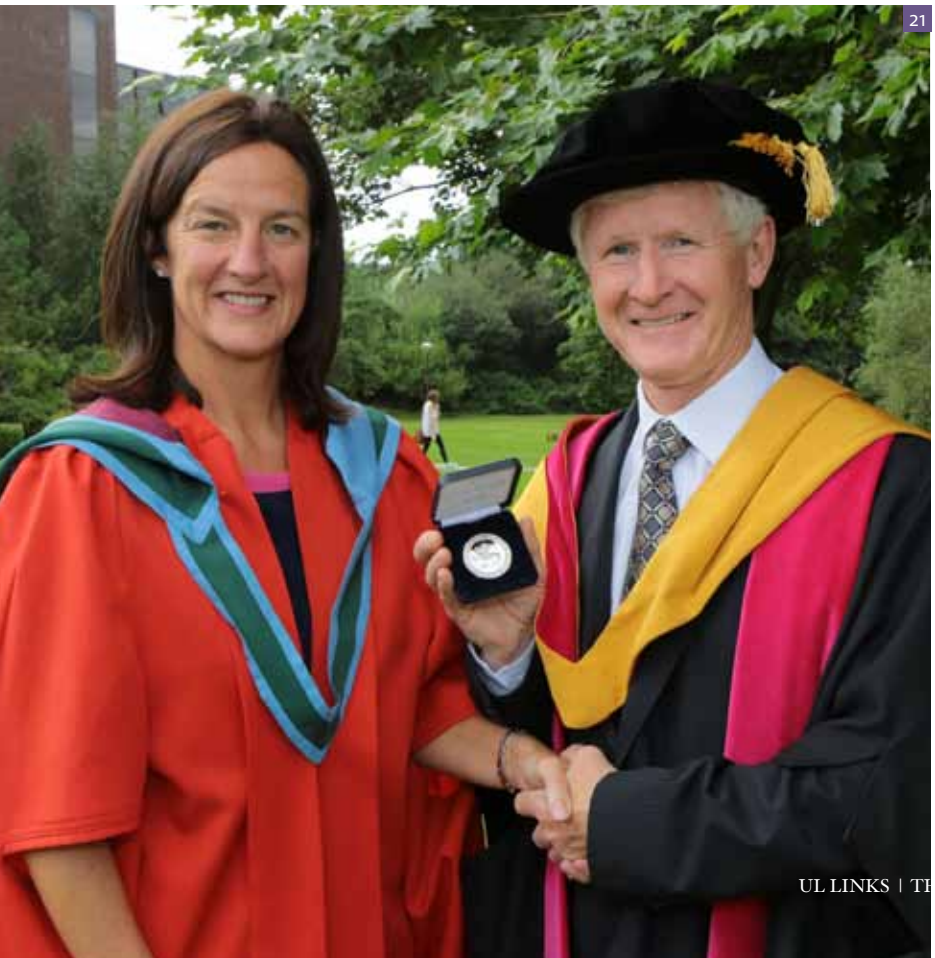
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MindMap Creator visits UL

Pictured is John Fahy (left), Professor of Marketing at UL with Professor Tony Buzan, the legendary founder of the MindMaps concept, who delivered a stimulating address to young and old at the Kemmy Business School.

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of
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OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Ollscoil Luimnigh, Luimneach, Éire
University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland

Guthán / Telephone: +353 61 202700
Facs / Facsimile: +353 61 330 316

Gréasán / Web: www.ul.ie