

# UL LINKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK MAGAZINE

Summer 2014 / Vol 7 / Issue 1

## Secrets *of* Success

*UL's award-winning Students,  
Spin-outs and more.*



*Features | Interviews | Events | Updates | News*



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

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Front Cover Picture: Just some of UL's award-winning students: Ava Mahoney, winner 'gradireland National Student Challenge Champion'; Eoin Cahill, winner 'Student Marketer of the Year'; Triona O'Sullivan, winner 'Best Society Individual in Ireland'; and Ross Mullane, joint winner 'The Advocate' National Law Challenge.

Back Cover Picture: Niamh O Hanlon, Masters in Business Administration, with her daughter Aoileann.

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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](mailto:ullinks@ul.ie)

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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer 2014 edition of UL Links in which we focus on the life-blood of our university – our students – and highlight some of their outstanding successes.

In our previous edition we focused on the success and growth of UL, detailing our €224 million capital expansion plans and revealing our newest research initiative – the €52 million Bernal Project. Our infrastructure is an important part of the UL success story, consistently ranked as '5-stars' by independent assessors. Our campus was recently named among the Top 30 Green Universities in the world. And our outstanding sports facilities have undeniably made us 'Ireland's Sports Campus'.

But our students are at the heart of the University. It is their energy and passion which inspire us; their desire for learning which motivates us; and their successes which we cherish the most. And this year we have seen some remarkable successes. Our students and graduates have laid claim to titles such as 'Graduate Employee of the Year', 'Journalist of the Year' and 'Best Society Individual in Ireland'. Our students have won national-level competitions, beating out strong challenges from other institutions to be awarded, for example, 'Gradireland National Student Challenge' Winner, 'The Advocate' National Law Challenge Winners and 'National Robocode Programming' Winners. And their achievements range across all disciplines and facets of university life, including recent sporting accolades such as the Ashbourne Cup in camogie. UL students are showing their peers how it is done.

We are immensely proud of our students and their achievements. Their dedication and ambition and their resulting success, combined with UL's unique student experience, mean that UL consistently has Ireland's highest graduate employment rate. This year, for instance, the employment rate of UL graduates, one year after graduation, is 13% higher than the corresponding figure for the other 6 universities combined.

I am also truly proud of the UL staff who have contributed

to these successes. In particular I would like to acknowledge the excellent work being undertaken in the Cooperative Education and Careers Division. UL pioneered the concept of Cooperative Education in Ireland and today has the largest work placement programme in Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. It is these early workplace learning experiences and the invaluable relationships formed with business and industry partners that ensure UL graduates remain in high demand. And also why UL was the only Irish university selected as a finalist in the 2014 'Best University Placement Service' international award. I extend my congratulations to the students, staff and employer partners who are involved in this highly successful programme.

In 2012 we marked 40 years of learning and innovation on the Plassey campus. This year we have reached another historic milestone, celebrating 25 years since the University of Limerick was formally established as the first university created by the Irish State. That vital recognition was based on a foundation of creativity, commitment, ambition and achievement that spanned the previous 17 years during which the National Institute of Higher Education had broken the mould of higher education in Ireland.

Since then we have seen many pioneering achievements. In this edition we also share some of the successes experienced by our spin-out companies, contributing to the local and national economy and creating hundreds of new jobs. We also feature the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance as they celebrate their 20-year anniversary.

We thank all those who stood behind a fledgling university many years ago and gave their all to help it thrive - to help us build an unrivalled learning environment and a community of students and graduates who consistently exceed our every expectation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Barry".

Professor Don Barry

*President, University of Limerick*



## UL NEWS

## Irish World Academy Celebrates 20th Anniversary

To mark the start of the year-long celebrations of their 20th anniversary, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance hosted a dawn procession at the University of Limerick. The event involved performances by students of the Irish World Academy together with Mel Mercier, Simon O'Dwyer, Maria Cullen O'Dwyer, Tommy Hayes and the acclaimed Donegal sean-nós singer and incoming artist-in-residence Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill.

Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill is an internationally acclaimed Donegal sean-nós singer and her appointment marks the 20th year of the artist-in-residence initiative at the Academy. Residencies in that time have ranged from composers and choreographers to sean-nós singers and dancers through contemporary dance companies, classical and traditional music

ensembles and, most recently, aerial dance company Fidget Feet. The Chieftains and the Irish Chamber Orchestra also continue their well-established associations with the University through the Academy.

The Academy 20 celebrations will include a major convocation, bringing together musicians, singers and dancers from across the world to celebrate and reflect on the past contribution and future direction of the Academy, as well as a documentary film by acclaimed director Alan Gilson and an artistic commission, featuring three artists responding to the archives and presence of the Academy at UL.

Aidan Phelan from Realta Entertainment leads the torch-lit procession ritual across the Living Bridge at the University of Limerick.



## Irish American Partnership Establishes Scholarships



**T**he Irish American Partnership (IAP) has established five new Access Scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, at the University of Limerick. The scholarships will be available to students entering under the university's Access Programme which supports and encourages young people who traditionally would be under-represented in higher education.

Speaking about the new IAP Scholarships Professor Barry said, "The grant from the Irish American Partnership will do great good among the under-privileged communities in and around Limerick."

The Scholarships allow students to access opportunities and experiences which might otherwise have been beyond their reach such as a Co-Operative Education work placement away from home or even internationally.

Kathleen O'Toole, former Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate and member of the UL Foundation Board; UL President, Professor Don Barry and Mary Sugrue McAleer, Executive Director, The Irish American Partnership.

**T** Professor Don Barry, President of the University of Limerick and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) Winston E. Langley signed a Memorandum of Understanding on St. Patrick's Day, Monday 17th March, to launch collaborative programmes between UMass Boston and the University of Limerick.

The purpose of the MOU is to develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between the two universities. The partnership will facilitate mobility of students, faculty, and staff; development of joint scholarly and research projects; and active engagement and interaction with both public and private sectors in both Boston and Limerick.

## Boston and Limerick Twin their Universities on St Patrick's Day

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston, Winston E. Langley and UL President, Professor Don Barry.



## President of Ireland Talks 'Building a Republic of Creativity'

The University of Limerick hosted the 2014 Irish Technology Leadership Group Forum, where President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins told delegates that Ireland is the world's "Republic of Creativity" and that science, technology and innovation are the centre of Ireland's future.

**T**More than 2,000 delegates attended the two-day forum led by Craig Barrett, Chairman ITLG and Limerick-born John Hartnett, President ITLG. The technology and business forum delivered a series of global leadership panels covering the topics of Future of Digital Content Distribution, Heroes and Villains – the Truth about VCs, Growing Million-Dollar companies among others. Serial entrepreneurs including Ingrid Vandervelt, Dell's Entrepreneur in Residence; John Ryan, Founder of Macrovision; and Sean Cunningham of Intel Capital provided their unique insights to innovation and entrepreneurship, while business leaders Anne Heraty of CPL; Rich Moran, Accretive

Solutions; Caroline Dowling of Flextronics and Rosaleen Blair of Alexander Mann participated on industry panels.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Shannon Airport, Limerick Chamber of Commerce and the Irish Technology and Leadership Group (ITLG) was signed to establish stronger commercial ties between Limerick and the Mid-West with Silicon Valley, California. It is anticipated that the Region will benefit from this agreement in terms of fostering investment, job creation, collaboration on innovation and specialist facilities and strengthening education linkages.



Above: UL President Don Barry; Craig Barrett, Chairman ITLG; and John Hartnett, President ITLG

Below: Organisers and guests at the ITLG Forum







“

*...Ireland is the  
world's “Republic  
of Creativity”...  
science, technology  
and innovation are  
the centre of Ireland's  
future.*

”



## Joseph O'Connor New Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing

**R**enowned, award-winning author Joseph O'Connor has been announced as the inaugural Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. Professor O'Connor will officially join the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to teach students of the new UL Masters in Creative Writing programme set to commence in September 2014. He will also present a number of public literary events in the Limerick area.

The Frank McCourt Chair was established at UL as an acknowledgement of the close ties between the late Frank McCourt and the University of Limerick, reflected not only in his work at the University as a creative writer but, more latterly, in his involvement with the University of Limerick Foundation.

Speaking about his new appointment Professor O'Connor said, "I am thrilled, grateful and deeply honoured to be entrusted with this new position at the University of Limerick. Frank McCourt was a writer of immense gifts and extraordinary achievements. But he was a teacher first and last. He knew teaching can change lives. With my colleagues I look forward to building a first-rate Creative Writing department at UL, a programme that is fit for 21st century purpose, and working hard for all lovers of literature and storytelling in Limerick."



Award-winning author Joseph O'Connor



Professor Roger Downer

## Roger Downer Elected to Royal Irish Academy

**A**UL President Emeritus, Professor Roger Downer, was recently elected to join an elite group of Irish academics as Senior Vice President of the Royal Irish Academy. Election to membership of the Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland. Members of the Academy have included William Rowan Hamilton, Ernest Walton and Erwin Schrodinger.

The Royal Irish Academy/Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann, founded in 1785, is Ireland's academy for the sciences, humanities and social sciences. The Academy provides expert advice, manages research projects, publishes books and journals and maintains a scholarly library.

## Middle Names Are Good For You



**A** study undertaken at the University of Limerick by the researchers Dr Wijnand A. P. van Tilburg (University of Southampton) and Dr Eric R. Igou (University of Limerick) documents that people can benefit from displaying their middle name initials.

Dr Igou of the Department of Psychology at UL explains, "Names have a tremendous impact on person perception and on life in general. Middle initials are often displayed in contexts in which intellectual achievements matter. We thus predicted that the display of middle initials would increase perception of intellectual capacities and performance, and this is exactly what we found."

The authors document this effect in a series of studies with more than 500 participants. For example, an essay of an author named David Clark was evaluated less positively than the same essay written by an author named David F. P. R. Clark. Importantly, however, these person perceptions are limited to contexts where intellectual achievements are central. Dr Igou highlighted, "These findings strongly suggest that people benefit from displaying their middle name initials in situations in which intellectual performance matters."



## New Alliance for Limerick Institutes

**L**imerick Institute of Technology (LIT), Mary Immaculate College (MIC) and the University of Limerick (UL) have committed to a new strategic alliance involving a detailed programme of enhanced collaboration, co-operation and development between the three higher education institutions. The strategic alliance - Mid-West Regional Cluster – was created to enhance the provision of higher education in the region (Limerick, Clare, Tipperary), and create new opportunities for current and future learners which will benefit industry and the wider community. The Presidents of the three institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in LIT today marking the culmination of several months of intensive discussions. The MOU will allow the three Institutes to develop a deeper, formalised alliance which will span across a range of core areas.

Professor Michael A Hayes, President of MIC; Dr Maria Hinfelaar, President of LIT; and Professor Don Barry, UL President.



## UL and Revenue Extend Partnership

**T**he University of Limerick and Revenue signed a new Service Level Agreement which will see UL continue to deliver and accredit the BA (Hons) in Applied Taxation programme over the next five years. The service level agreement for the accreditation of the Diploma in Applied Taxation is expected to be signed shortly. Combined, the two contracts will result in funding of in excess of €5m over the duration of the contract.

The unique partnership between UL and Revenue, the first of its kind for the Irish Civil Service, is managed by UL's National Centre for Taxation Studies within the Department of Accounting and Finance at the Kemmy Business School. To date, 532 Revenue Commissioner employees have graduated with a Diploma in Applied Taxation, and 212 with a BA (Hons) in Applied Taxation.

The Revenue Chairman, Josephine Feehily noted the need for having a well-trained, qualified and professional staff. She noted that as an organisation Revenue must be able and willing to explore new ways of working and to be flexible in responding to changes in the business environment.

Revenue Chairman, Josephine Feehily with UL President Don Barry and Director of UL's National Centre for Taxation Studies, Tom Collins.

## New Professional Orchestral Academy Established



**A**CADEMOS Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy, an innovative partnership in classical strings education, has been launched at the University of Limerick. The Academy focuses on a full time two-year Masters in Classical String Performance which is operated jointly by the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Irish World Academy, UL. The programme gives students of classical string performance the opportunity to study, rehearse and perform with some of the world's best musicians, composers, conductors with classes taught by ICO leaders.

Professor Don Barry, President, University of Limerick welcomed the announcement, "Students of ACADEMOS will benefit from the best of both worlds – recognised, accredited study and access to some of the best musicians in Europe and internationally. Individual classes will be taught by ICO leaders and students will engage in ensemble work with orchestral members and have access to a host of visiting international performers, conductors and directors."

Professor Mícheál O Súilleabháin, Founding Director of the Irish World Academy said, "ACADEMOS Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy seeks to build on the shared achievements of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Irish World Academy across their first twenty years in the inspired environment of the University of Limerick."

Gábor Takács-Nagy (Principal Artistic Partner) and the Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO) at the announcement of the Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy.



## Cuireann Dámh Chruinne Éireann Ollscoil Luimnigh fáilte roimh amhránaí clúiteach ar an sean-nós

**A**g ceiliúradh 20 bliain, ba mhór le Dámh Chruinne Éireann Ollscoil Luimnigh an t-amhránaí sean-nóis mór le rá, Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill, as Dún na nGall, a fhógairt mar Ealaíontóir Cónaitheach 2014.

Tá Dámh Chruinne Éireann ag ceiliúradh scór bliain ar an bhfód i mbliana agus i rith an ama sin bhí Ealaíontóir Cónaitheach againn, ar a n-áirítear ealaíontóirí cosúil le Colin Dunne, Jean Butler, James Keane agus na Chieftains.

Sa tréimhse 20 bliain sin, bhí idir chumadóirí agus chóragrafaithe, amhránaithe agus damhsóirí ar an sean-nós, compántais damhsa comhaimseartha, grúpaí ceoil clasaicigh agus traidisiúnta, agus le deireanas an compántas damhsa nua-aimseartha, Fidget Feet. Tá nasc le fada an lá ag na Chieftains agus ag Ceolfhoireann Aireagail na hÉireann leis an Ollscoil tríd an Dámh.

Tá cáil idirnáisiúnta ar Mhaighread mar amhránaí ar an sean-nós agus ar a cuid oibre le Skara Brae, Donal Lunny, West Ocean String Quartet agus, le gairid, le Moya Brennan (Clannad) agus Mairéad Ní Mhaonigh (Altan) in T with the Maggies. Tá Gaeilge líofa aici chomh maith agus tá ceangal láidir ag a teaghlach le Dún na nGall. Chun tús a chur lena téarma mar ealaíontóir cónaitheach i nDámh Chruinne Éireann Rince agus Ceol, thug Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill taispeántas a bhí ina chuid de sheoladh 20 Bliain na Dámhe Dé Céadaoin, an 5 Feabhra. Thosaigh an ócáid ag Plaza na hOllscoile, le mórshiúl ceoil agus damhsa agus iteoirí tine ina measc.

Tugadh na cuairteoirí trasna an Droichid Bheo agus chríochnaigh an mórshiúl ag foirgneamh Dhámh Chruinne Éireann. Bhí mic léinn Dhámh Chruinne Éireann ar an ardán ag an ócáid mar aon le Mel Mercier, Simon O'Dwyer, Maria Cullen O'Dwyer agus Tommy Hayes.

I measc na n-imeachtaí a bheidh ar siúl in 2014 chun 20 bliain na Dámhe a cheiliúradh beidh comhghairm mhór, le ceoltóirí, amhránaithe agus damhsóirí as gach cearn den domhan chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an méid atá bainte amach ag an Dámh go dtí seo agus chun breathnú ar threo na Dámhe amach anseo, mar aon le scannán faisnéise leis an stiúrthóir mór le rá, Alan Gilsenan, agus coimisiún ealaíonta, le triúr ealaíontóirí ag eascairt as na cartlanna agus as cúla na Dámhe san Ollscoil.

Comhphairtíocht atá i gceapachán Mhaighread Ní Dhomhnaill idir Dámh Chruinne Éireann agus Aonad na Gaeilge san Ollscoil.

Le haghaidh breis eolais, déan teagmháil le Jennifer Brown, ag [jennifer.brown@ul.ie](mailto:jennifer.brown@ul.ie)

Tá liosta iomlán na n-imeachtaí, na gceolchoirmeacha agus na gcainteanna i nDámh Chruinne Éireann a bheidh ar siúl sa chéad sé mhí de 2014, le feiceáil sa bhróisiúr Comhaimseartha: [www.irishworldacademy.ie](http://www.irishworldacademy.ie)

Newest artist-in-residence at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill.



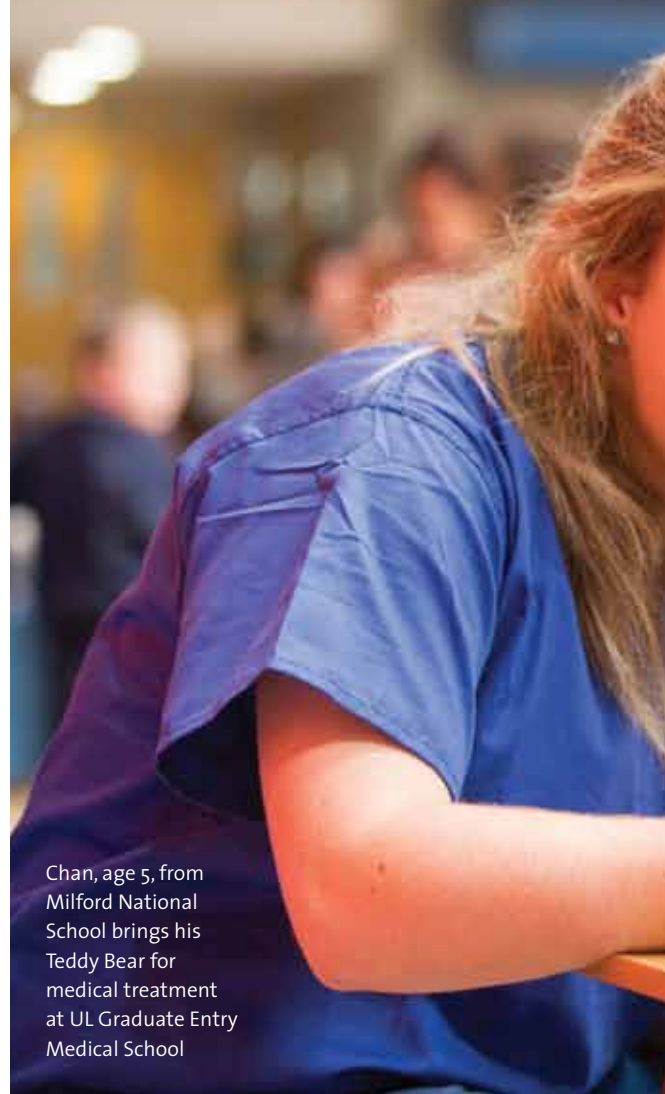
Professor Don Barry, UL President  
with Minister for European Affairs ,  
Paschal Donohoe TD

## Minister for European Affairs Launches EU Jobs Recruitment Campaign

**M**inister for European Affairs, Paschal Donohoe TD visited UL to launch the EU Jobs campaign to promote awareness among Irish people of the career opportunities available in the EU institutions.

The Minister said, "Ireland is currently very well represented in the staffing of the EU institutions, with almost double our relative share of the EU's total population. However, as a considerable number of the Irish staff approach retirement, it is vital that we encourage today's graduates to consider a career at EU level. This will help to ensure that people who understand Irish concerns and interests remain in strategic roles within Europe and that the EU also benefits from diverse representation from across all Member States."

Speaking at the event, Patrice Twomey, Director, Cooperative Education & Careers Division, UL said, "UL students are well placed to benefit from this initiative as this University's European credentials speak for themselves. UL has the biggest undergraduate work placement programme in Europe and the largest Erasmus work placement programme of all the Irish universities. UL also have the largest Erasmus study exchange programme in Ireland, involving over 600 students every year."



Chan, age 5, from  
Milford National  
School brings his  
Teddy Bear for  
medical treatment  
at UL Graduate Entry  
Medical School

## Gerry Conlon and Paddy Hill Address UL Law Students

**T**he Cluster for Understanding Emotions in Society (CUES) at the University of Limerick recently welcomed Gerry Conlon of the Guildford Four and Paddy Hill of the Birmingham Six to speak to a large audience of staff and students. Conlon and Hill spoke about their experiences as victims of miscarriages of justice and the emotional impact of wrongful conviction.





## Medical Treatment for Sick Teddy Bears

**M**edical School students at the University of Limerick hosted the University's annual Teddy Bear Hospital with over 400 Limerick primary school children and their teddy bears. The aim of the event, which was organised by five current Graduate Entry Medical School students with a particular interest in childhood medicine, is to alleviate childhood anxiety about the medical environment, its procedures and the professionals that work within it.

Over 100, 1st and 2nd year medical students took part in the event which saw 10 medical stations set up in the University Arena focusing on activities including: Triage; Stethoscopes; Vital Signs; X-ray; Exercise; Surgery/Gowning; Asthma; Safety; First Aid, Ear Nose and Throat and Healthy Eating.



Paddy Hill and Gerry Conlon





## Access Campus Celebrates 10 Years

**T**he University of Limerick AccessCampus recently celebrated 10 years of “bringing the University to the community and the community to the University”. Based in Roxboro, AccessCampus is a unique partnership initiative between the University of Limerick and the local community through the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) which is kindly supported by Dell and the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. AccessCampus is a mini-campus which offers a range of outreach educational opportunities including the very successful Study Club and other outreach activities.

UL student and past member of AccessCampus study club, Andrew Cunneen, spoke at the launch event. “For me, I’d have never made it this far without the confidence boost I got from the great social dynamics on display at AccessCampus, as well as the obvious academic improvements I made while I was there. Access played a key part in my development - not only as a student, but as a person.”

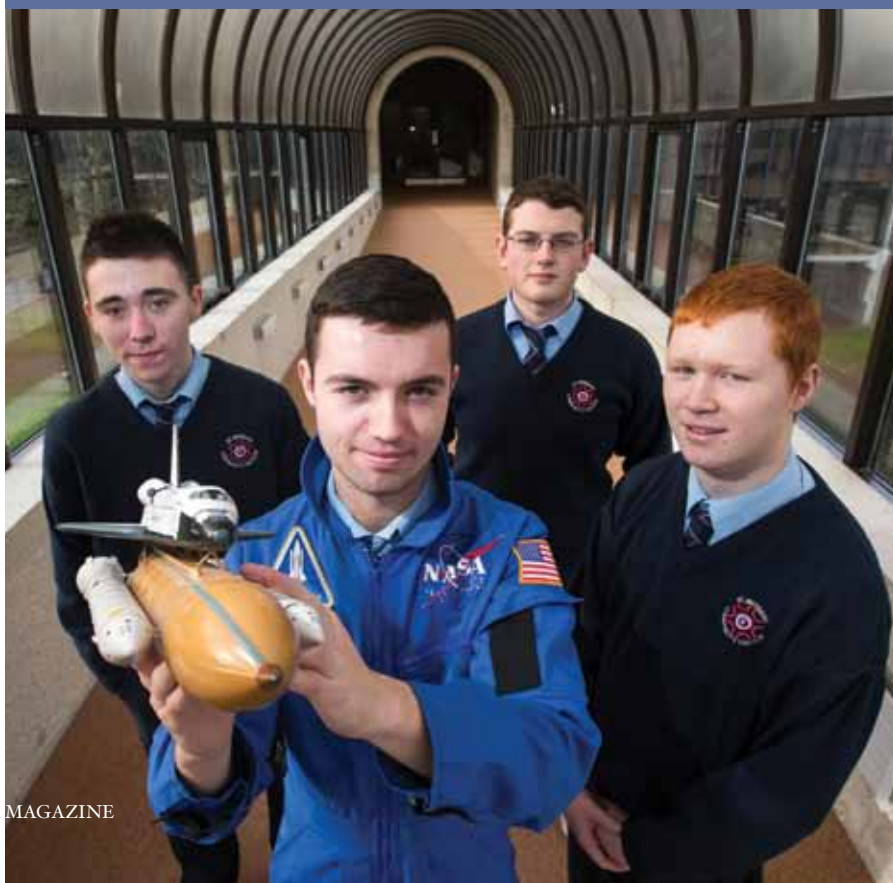
The AccessCampus Study Club benefits from the support of over 130 volunteers on an annual basis, mainly drawn from the UL student body. There are over 100 adult learners attending various programmes at AccessCampus on a weekly basis.

Gerard Boland, LEDP Board Member; Andrew Cunneen, past student; Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar UL; and Angela O’Flynn, AccessCampus.

## First Irish Students to Launch Experiment into Space!

**A** group of four secondary school students from Limerick are set to be the first Irish teenagers to launch their science experiment to be conducted in space. The lucky transition year students from St Nesson’s Community College in Co. Limerick were announced as winners of ‘The Only Way is Up’ competition run by The Irish Centre for Composites Research (IComp) at the University of Limerick, through its partnership with NanoRacks LLC. The competition, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, gave students across the country the opportunity to submit experiments to be flown to, and carried out on, the International Space Station. The winning project will investigate the effects that microgravity has on the solidification of reinforced concrete and will spend 30 days orbiting the Earth. The experiment will then be returned to the students post spaceflight and allow them to compare the results directly to a ground controlled experiment.

Jamie O’Connell, Jonathon Roche, Kevin Hanley and Jason Hannon, St Nesson’s Community College, Limerick.





## Nexus Start-up Companies Among 100 High Potential Enterprises

**F**our start-up companies based at the Nexus Innovation Centre, University of Limerick were commended at the 'Start-up Class of 2013' event held at Dublin Castle in February. Organised by Enterprise Ireland, the event commended high potential companies who received Enterprise Ireland Assistance during 2013 and was hosted by Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Julie Sinnamon, CEO of Enterprise Ireland.

The Nexus start-ups included: BlueChief - Solutions, ConceptWorx, Tamm (Technology Aided Marketing Management), and Yellowschedule.

BlueChief is a Web-Based Software solution provider that offers business to business products/services by integrating available and easy to use technologies with business operations. Bluechief creates and sells web-based platforms to businesses tackling various industries to solve a wide range of operational inefficiencies and provide simple tools to aid business development and cost reduction.

Conceptworx Ltd is a software development company which

has developed FolioFourOne - an online magazine platform that combines digital publications with e-commerce. Products can now be sold directly from the pages of an online magazine without the need to go to a third-party e-commerce site.

Tamm (Technology Aided Marketing Management) is an intuitive and affordable marketing management system which merges social media with traditional marketing tools and techniques to allow sophisticated campaigns to be easily created, managed and reused, quickly turning marketing plans and ideas into measurable actions.

Yellowschedule is a cloud-based live appointment management and client CRM for small appointment-based businesses. Yellowschedule streamlines the entire appointments process from scheduling, to self-serve online appointments, automated appointment reminders, client CRM and business analytics.

Nexus Start-Up companies pictured at the Enterprise Ireland 'Class of 2013' event, (L-R) Jane Forrest, Conceptworx; Jerry Moloney, Enterprise Ireland; Martina Skelly, Yellow Schedule; Michael Byrne, Conceptworx; and Theresa Mulvihill, Tamm Technologies.



## Pilot Healthcare Clinic for Homeless Patients

A new pilot primary healthcare service for marginalised groups has opened in Limerick. The aim of the project is to improve access to primary healthcare for groups such as the homeless, drug users, travellers, migrants and others who have difficulties in accessing and availing of primary care services.

This project is being undertaken by the Partnership for Health Equity (PHE) which is a unique collaboration of clinicians, medical educators, social scientists and healthcare policy makers and planners. The PHE is co-funded by University of Limerick, the North Dublin City GP Training Programme and the HSE Social Inclusion and Primary Care Services. It is anticipated that the research and educational outputs of this project will have regional, national and international application and relevance. Professor Anne MacFarlane, Chair of the Partnership for Health Equity and Professor of Primary Healthcare Research at UL Graduate Entry Medical School said, "It is important that Primary Care services in the community are organised so that the needs of people who need them most, and who have challenges accessing existing services, are taken into account. This is an important pilot project in Limerick city which will provide valuable data about access to health care and health equity."

Dr Patrick O'Donnell, UL Graduate Entry Medical School; Prof Anne MacFarlane, UL Graduate Entry Medical School; Councillor Kathleen Leddin, Mayor of Limerick; Rachel Conway, Ana Liffey Drug Project.

## UL Spin Out Gathers 5,000 Language Volunteers

A University of Limerick spin-off has mobilized 5,000 language volunteers world-wide on its innovative 'Translation Commons' platform, delivering free translation services in 88 languages to 120 non-profit organisations in 27 countries.

The Translation Commons platform ([www.trommons.org](http://www.trommons.org)) matches non-profit translation projects and organisations with the skills and interests of volunteer translators worldwide. It was launched less than a year ago by the award-winning Rosetta Foundation, a non-profit spin-off from the University of Limerick, which works to provide equal access to information and knowledge across the languages of the world. The Translation Commons allow large-scale online collaboration between language volunteers and non-profit organisations, helping thousands of communities virtually anywhere in the world. UL's Reinhard Schäler, CEO and Founder of The Rosetta Foundation said, "Language volunteers have shown that there are no language barriers. The real barrier is access to costly language services which the Translation Commons have brought into the reach of communities that need them most."



Reinhard Schäler, CEO and Founder of The Rosetta Foundation.





Jimmy Doherty and Dr William Lee  
discussing the maths behind a perfect pint.

## MACSI Research Featured on Channel 4's Food Unwrapped

**T**he UL Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) was delighted to welcome television host Jimmy Doherty and the Channel 4 'Food Unwrapped' team to Limerick to film an upcoming episode. Food Unwrapped explores the clever, ingenious or high-tech production methods used to make some of our favourite food products. Series 4 will feature MACSI's Dr William Lee explaining the maths behind a perfect pint with the help of marshmallows, balloons, grapes and, of course, a few cans of beer! The series is due to air on Channel 4 this summer.

## First Irish President of ECMI

**I**n recognition of his contribution to industrial mathematics, UL researcher and Director of MACSI, Professor Stephen O'Brien, has been elected the first Irish President of ECMI, the European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry. Founded in 1987, ECMI is a consortium of 85 universities from 23 EU countries who work together to promote industrial mathematics - using mathematical techniques to solve real problems.

ECMI also acts as the umbrella organisation for the European Study Group with Industry programme which is Europe's leading problem solving forum for knowledge exchange between mathematicians and industry. UL's Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) is a network of mathematical modellers and scientific computational analysts which fosters new collaborative research focussing on problems that arise in industry.



## Exhibition of Leading Limerick Artists

**A**s part of Limerick City of Culture 2014 a UL exhibition of work by prominent artists with a strong link to Limerick was recently launched by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan TD at the Bourn Vincent Gallery, University of Limerick. 'Synergy – Connections to Limerick' includes work by Ailbhe Barrett, Ester Barrett, Jack Donovan, Tom Fitzgerald, James Hanley RHA, Charles Harper RHA, Gavin Hogg, Gillian Kenny, David Lilburn, Tim Morris, Jane Murtagh, Mick O'Dea RHA, Paul O'Reilly, Suzannah O'Reilly, Jim

Savage, John Shinnors, Richard Slade, Donald Teskey RHA and Samuel Walsh. Speaking at the launch, Minister Deenihan said, "This exhibition highlights the strong tradition of the visual arts here in Limerick and the influences this has had on the careers and works of these artists. It gives visitors to the Bourn Vincent Gallery an opportunity to appreciate the work of some of the most prominent contemporary painters, sculptors and printmakers in the country today, and will certainly add to Limerick's reputation as a cultural destination."

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan receiving a guided tour of the Synergy Exhibition by Dr Dominique Bouchard, Curator of the exhibit.



## UL Academic Chosen for UN Advisory Committee





## A Rare View of Island Life

A photographic exhibition celebrating the rich history of Scattery Island and Killimer – Tarbert has been launched at the University of Limerick. The exhibition entitled 'Inhabiting the Shannon Estuary: Scattery Island and Killimer-Tarbert' was developed from the activities of the Scattery Island Heritage and Tourism Forum which won the 'Community Gathering of the Year' award for their Island Gathering in July 2013. The Scattery Island exhibition was created by a voluntary group whose long-term aim is to preserve the physical and built environment on the island, working with the Office of Public Works and Clare County Council. The photographs are drawn from the Limerick City Museum Collection, the National Monuments Service, the Lawrence Collection in the National Library of Ireland and personal perspectives provided by the Forum members.

Professor Bernadette Whelan, Head of the History Department at UL; Professor Don Barry, UL President and Rita McCarthy, Chairperson of the Scattery Island Heritage Forum.



Dr Sheila Killian, a lecturer in Corporate Social Responsibility and Finance at UL's Kemmy Business School has been invited to join the worldwide PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education) Advisory Committee by the United Nations.

Dr Killian is one of only 15 academics worldwide who will provide strategic advice and guidance to the PRME Secretariat and Steering Committee and will be a channel for the PRME community to raise ideas, concerns and solutions.

The United Nations PRME Initiative engages more than 500 University Business Schools around the world to implement 6 principles which act as a guiding framework for corporate responsibility and sustainability in business education, drawing on the values of the UN Global Compact. UL's Kemmy Business School is the only Irish body to have been invited to join the PRME Champions group, a smaller leadership group among those schools, working to unlock the next level of responsible management and leadership education.

## Special Collections Welcomes Jim Kemmy Papers

**S**pecial Collections at the Glucksman Library recently launched the 'Jim Kemmy Papers' comprising of an extensive archive of historically significant material documenting the professional and political career of the late Jim Kemmy. The collection was officially launched by Minister of State for the Department of the Environment, Jan O'Sullivan, TD. The Papers which were donated to the University by the former Mayor of Limerick's family include documents and reports from The Ancient Guild of Incorporated Brick and Stonelayers' Trade Union; the Construction Industry Federation; the ICTU and other trade unions. They include policy statements and speeches from the Democratic Socialist Party and electoral material



President Don Barry with members of Jim Kemmy's family at the launch including Joe Kemmy, Maureen McAteer, Patsy Harrold with Minister Jan O'Sullivan, Mayor Kathleen Leddin and Joan Hartnett.

and correspondence relating to Kemmy's Dail terms and electoral campaigns. The huge archive also includes correspondence, speeches, press releases and minutes relating to Kemmy's activities as Alderman and Mayor of Limerick City (1974-1997) as well as correspondence relating to Kemmy's historical and literary activities and photographs, artwork and a number of other items of personal nature.



## UL Commits to Smarter Travel

**T**he University of Limerick Smarter Travel (ULST) project aims to create a more liveable and lovable campus through the promotion of sustainable means of travel including walking, cycling, car-sharing and taking the bus.

ULST is a part of a Department of Transport and European Regional Development Fund project which aims to foster a strong culture of sustainable travel. Ross Higgins as ULST Coordinator and Sean Collins as ULST Deputy Coordinator are tasked with implementing the smarter travel strategy which focusses on removing barriers to smarter travel and investigating alternatives to single-occupancy car use.

Initiatives include the development of the UL Journey Planner, free bike mechanic services, the Marchathon Student Walking Challenge, Green Week, Safety Week and the Smarter Travel Change Lanes Challenge.

Seán Collins, Ronan Deevy and Ross Higgins at one of the weekly 'Bike Doctor' events on campus.





## Using Maths Principles to Make Music

**D**r Kerry Hagan of UL's Digital Media and Arts Research Centre has composed a unique piece of music by using a random number generator to create rhythms. Using a novel approach, Dr Hagan uses maths and science principles to create stunning musical creations including 'the reimagined history', a piece which was performed by The Hutchins Consort of San Diego and recorded for broadcast on RTÉ Lyric FM.

The Hutchins Consort is a special ensemble consisting entirely of viols designed by Dr Carleen Maley Hutchins. The eight viols are more consistent in timbre and span a wider range than traditional strings. Taking this as inspiration, Dr Hagan modernised 18th century counterpoint and combined 21st century techniques to create the new work. The resulting piece traverses familiar harmonies borrowed from 300 years of classical practice with unfamiliar rhythms and metres generated by random numbers.

During their Irish tour, the Hutchins Consort was joined by a documentary film crew led by Academy Award™ winning director, Cynthia Wade, who will use footage from the performances and recordings of 'the reimagined history' as a central theme in her next film, due to be released in late 2015.

The Hutchins Consort of San Diego ensemble consisting entirely of viols.



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## Kemmy Business School Rewards Budding Business Students

Over 260 students from the mid-west region who received an A in Junior Certificate Higher Level Business Studies in 2013 were recently presented with Certificates of Achievement from the Kemmy Business School. Undertaken in association with the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (BSTAI), the awards are designed to champion excellence in Junior Certificate Business Studies.

Jennie Harrington, President, BSTAI, said, "The BSTAI is delighted to be involved in partnership with the University of Limerick in hosting this ceremony which celebrates and recognises academic excellence in Business Studies at a young age. I'm confident that many of today's award recipients will build successful careers in the business world."

1. (L-R) Dr Philip O'Regan, Dean, Kemmy Business School; Kate Ryan, Kate O'Connor and Sinead O'Dowd from Laurel Hill Secondary School, Limerick.

2. Back Row (L-R) Niamh Graham, Louise McCormack, Róisín Ryan, Caoimhe O Dowd, Claire McCormack, Courtney Conroy. Front Row (L-R) Caitriona Kiely; Jennie Harrington, Business teacher and President of BSTAI; Dr Michele O'Dwyer, Associate Dean, Kemmy Business School; Marie Collins, Principal; Mary B Lanigan Ryan, Deputy Principal. Missing from photo: Niamh Horan and Karen Kennedy, from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.



Aoife Marnane  
and Jennifer  
O'Riordan,  
5th Year SAUL  
Students at  
FabLab with the  
CNC Router.



## Fab Lab Opens in Limerick City Centre

Staff and students from the UL School of Architecture (SAUL), with the support of Limerick City of Culture 2014, have opened Fab Lab in Limerick City Centre to bridge the gap between digital fabrication technologies and inventors from all disciplines.

Fab Labs are a global network of local laboratories which enable invention by providing access to tools for digital fabrication like 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC milling machines, CNC Routers and more.

Now Limerick artists and creatives will be able

to experiment with digital fabrication as part of their own creative projects. Adults will take part in workshops and talks about 3D printing and laser cutting. Children will be invited through school tours and summer camps to learn and play with these new technologies.

Additionally, Fab Lab Limerick will offer its prototyping and digital manufacturing services to local business and entrepreneurs, and will carry out academic research about the potential of digital fabrication technologies in architecture, design and building industries.

Contact [fablab@saul.ie](mailto:fablab@saul.ie)

## NEWS *in Brief*

### Designing Smart Objects for Museums

A team of researchers at the Interaction Design Centre at UL are working as part of an FP7 project to combine the digital aspects of cultural heritage with the physical experience.

The Material Encounters with Digital Cultural Heritage project (meSch) are designing, developing and deploying tools for the creation of tangible interactive experiences that will connect the physical experience of museums and exhibitions with relevant digital cross-media information in novel ways. The project brings together designers, technologists and cultural heritage professionals to develop scenarios of use and to generate requirements for the meSch authoring tool.

The UL team are carrying out co-design activities with participating museums to create meSch interactive artefacts and exhibitions. Partner institutions on the project include Sheffield Hallam University and University of Strathclyde (UK), Museo della Guerra and Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Italy), University Carlos III Madrid (Spain), Waag Society, Museon (Netherlands) and UL.

For more information: [mesch-project.eu](http://mesch-project.eu)

### Civil Engineering Programme Accredited

Ireland's only problem-based learning programme in Civil Engineering has received accreditation by Engineers Ireland for the next five years. The accreditation was awarded after a visit by a panel which included the Registrar of Engineers Ireland along with national and international experts from academia and industry.

The Bachelor of Engineering Civil Engineering programme at UL is unique as students apply problem-based learning and active learning techniques to approach real-world problems while working in small teams mentored by experienced chartered engineers.

The employment rate of graduates in the programme has been very positive, with 90% of the class of 2013 in employment by graduation day.

### UL One Campus, One Book Initiative

'One Campus, One Book' is a University of Limerick initiative, led by the Regional Writing Centre and the Centre for Teaching and Learning. The initiative encourages members of the UL campus community to read the same book and engage in a number of related events throughout the year. The chosen book for this year was UL alumnus Donal Ryan's *The Spinning Heart*, winner of the Bord Gáis Energy Book of the Year 2012 and the Sunday Independent Newcomer of the Year. Donal was also long-listed for the 2013 Man Booker Prize.

In one event participants were treated to a short reading from *The Spinning Heart* by Donal and a rare opportunity to ask the author about the motivation for his creative decisions.

The final event was an interview, conducted by Lawrence Cleary of the Regional Writing Centre, with Donal Ryan introduced by Professor Joseph O'Connor, UL's newly appointed Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing.

Author Donal Ryan pictured with Mayor of Limerick Kathleen Leddin and Professor Sarah Moore, Associate Vice President Academic UL.







## Enrichment Programme Comes to UL

The Centre for Academic Achievement (CAA) programme, which has allowed over 1,200 primary students from socio-economically disadvantaged areas of Dublin to attend free after school enrichment classes, has come to Limerick.

In a collaboration between UL's Kemmy Business School, the Centre for Talented Youth Ireland (CTYI) and UL's AccessCampus and with funding from BDO Limerick, the programme will be offered to high ability students aged 8-12 years old from designated disadvantaged schools and Regeneration areas.

Delivered within UL's state-of-the-art facilities, the programme aims to raise students' educational aspirations by exposing them to subjects ordinarily only available in third level courses. These enrichment activities, coupled with increased social interaction, are intended to generate an early interest in further study.

.....  
Instructor, Elaine Galvin with Jessica Clancy learning about Forensic Science.

## Adobe Provides Free Software to Distance Students

Adobe Systems Inc. have entered into an agreement with the University of Limerick to provide free Adobe Technical Communication Suite (TCS) software to students of the Graduate Certificate in Technical Writing by distance learning.

Adobe TCS enables students to author, manage and publish interactive technical documents using FrameMaker 11, RoboHelp 10, Illustrator CS6, Captivate 6 and Presenter 8, allowing distance students to participate fully in the programme of study and giving them valuable technical skills to enhance their future employability. In addition, Adobe have provided 20 licences of TCS for a postgraduate computer lab, to enable on-campus MA students to access the software.

## FESTA Hosts EU Consortium Meeting

Partner universities from Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Bulgaria, Germany and Turkey were invited to the University of Limerick recently to attend a FESTA consortium meeting.

Female Empowerment in Science and Technology (FESTA) is an EU-FP7, gender-equality project exploring women's under-representation at senior levels in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Research and activities include awareness raising, decision making and communications, meeting cultures, perceptions of excellence and resistance. The results from extensive focus groups and interviews will be analysed to inform a range of project deliverables which include workshops, training programmes and toolkits which will be rolled out over the next two years.



.....  
(L-R), Professor Gabriele Griffin, University of York; Dr Ita Richardson, UL; Professor Pat O'Connor, UL; and Professor Barbara Bagilhole, Loughborough University.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 25 Years of Erasmus Mobility at UL

UL has the largest and most successful Erasmus programme in Ireland. The University sends more students, teachers and staff abroad than any of the 33 Irish higher education institutions participating in the Lifelong Learning Erasmus programme.

**T**his year sees a record 318 UL students studying in 22 different European countries and 485 European students from 28 countries studying at UL as Erasmus students. The University of Limerick sends more students abroad per year than any other Irish tertiary institution, with 318 students on study and 197 on work placements in the 2013/14 academic year. This figure constitutes 23% of undergraduate students in a given year. When all international mobility at UL is included, over one third of undergraduate students spend one semester overseas.

#### *Benefits of Erasmus*

The economic benefits of language learning and cultural awareness skills are well documented. Graduates who possess these skills, in combination with technical, marketing, IT, and entrepreneurial skills, are highly valuable in the workplace. Through active promotion of the Erasmus programme and efforts to internationalise the curriculum, UL is equipping students with skills combinations which will serve them well in the future.

*Clockwise from above:*  
UL Erasmus students (L-R)  
Megan, O'Hara, US; Gearoid  
Mackey, Limerick; Alice Ray,  
France; Samuele Corsalini,  
Italy; Nore de Corte, Belgium;  
Sam Halpin, Ireland and  
France and Martina Heyer,  
Germany.

Irish World Academy students  
Ciara Callanan-Ryan and  
Alisha McMahon take a  
break from their schedule  
of workshops and seminars  
at UL's partner institution,  
Rauland, Telemark in Norway,  
to practice their Irish dancing.

UL graduate, Jessica Gough in  
the EU Parliament as part of  
her 'Erasmus 25 Ambassador'  
appointment.





### *Student Success Stories*

Not only do more UL students participate in the Erasmus programme, more UL students also excel in their placements and have been recognised for their excellence. For two consecutive years (2009, 2010), UL was selected as an 'Erasmus Success Story' by the EU Commission. UL graduate, Jessica Gough, was selected for the role of the 'Erasmus 25 Ambassador' in 2012. Anna Geary, a UL and Erasmus alumnus was selected as 'Youth on the Move Ambassador' in the same year.



But it is the students themselves who are best positioned to vouch for the benefits of the programme. Eoin White, student of the BSc in Product Design and Technology, who undertook his Erasmus study placement at Mikkeli University of Applied Science in Finland said, "Being with a group of culturally diverse, like-minded people opens up opportunities to be yourself and to grow. Everybody embraced their education – education in the broadest sense of the word. Getting out of your comfort zone is often necessary to grow as a person. It was fascinating to see the similarities and the differences in the approach to teaching and learning in another country. After going on Erasmus, we would have absolutely no reservations about going to work in another country."





## UL Celebrates Diwali

**T**he University of Limerick celebrated Diwali - the Festival of Lights – an ancient Hindu festival which signifies the victory of light over darkness. More than 60 Indian students were joined by faculty and staff from the International Education Division to wear traditional Indian dress and enjoy traditional Indian food, music and dance. Guests were invited to light diyas (tea lights) which signify the triumph of good over evil. Commenting on the event, Rama Mogalapu, student and Indian cultural advisor at UL said, 'We celebrated Diwali in UL, just like at home as a family, starting with lighting diyas and sparklers, prayer, delicious Indian food and loads of fun.'

Govindu Manojkumar  
and Hari Kisha at  
Diwali.



## Students with Disabilities Take On Erasmus

**T**homas Keating, a student of the BA Applied Languages, laid the ground work for future students with disabilities at UL to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Erasmus programme.

Thomas, an exceptionally gifted linguist, completed his Erasmus placement with Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany and went on to Dublin City University to obtain an MA in Translation Studies, before returning to UL to embark on PhD work. He is currently in the latter stages of his PhD in International Relations at UL, studying foreign policy decision-making.

Thomas said, "Since my excellent Erasmus experience for which I am very grateful, I have represented UL as a Fulbright-Schuman scholar 2012-2013 where I spent 8 months at American University, Washington DC in the United States conducting interviews with key decision-makers as part of my PhD research. Erasmus has broadened my horizons and has filtered into my current endeavours. I hope to pursue a career in the Irish diplomatic corps or the European institutions."

To date, 8 UL students with disabilities have completed an Erasmus placement in a European Country including Germany, Spain, Hungary and Scotland. These students receive additional funding support from the EU Commission in order to cover additional costs related to travel, accommodation, medical attention and study and/or personal support, such as a scribe, personal assistant and equipment.

UL Graduate Thomas Keating at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC.





## International Students honoured at UL

The International Education Division at the University of Limerick honoured the academic achievements of their international students at a ceremony recently. Over 100 international students, including students from Brazil, Canada, China, India and USA, were honoured at the event and presented with scholarships, including Faculty of Education and Health Sciences scholarships, Kemmy Business School scholarships, Faculty of Science and Engineering scholarships and Study Abroad Progression scholarships.

Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar, pictured with some of the scholarship recipients.

## UL Popular for US Students Studying Abroad

The University of Limerick continues to increase in popularity amongst US students studying abroad, seeing a 15% increase for the academic year 2012/2013.

Emmeline Searson, Study Abroad Manager at UL explains, "The study abroad experience is pivotal to the college experience for US undergraduates. UL's ability to respond to the needs of this student cohort in terms of access to courses across all disciplines, the modular structure of the UL degree, outstanding student support and guaranteed campus housing have significantly contributed to the continuous growth of the study abroad programme at UL."

Growth in the number of US students can be seen across all of UL programmes, with the largest growth seen in

postgraduate programmes which experienced a 70% increase. Commenting on this growth, Josephine Page, Director of International Education at the University of Limerick said, "Ireland is an increasingly attractive destination for graduate students; our one-year taught master's degree, combined with the high cost of education in the US, have resulted in a 70% increase in US taught postgraduate students at UL." According to a recent Open Doors Report, an annual survey on study abroad trends conducted by the Institute of International Education, Ireland saw a 9% increase in the number of US students coming to study in 2011/2012 which places Ireland as the ninth most popular study destination overall for US students.







# THE ENTREPRENEUR FACTORY

INNOVATION

*at the*  
UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
LIMERICK

**“Our aim is to embed entrepreneurship into the UL way of life,”** explains Dr Mary Shire, Vice President

Research at UL. The reputation for translational research or research that ‘makes a difference’ has been part and parcel of the history of the institution since the early days when it pioneered Cooperative Education and academic/industry partnerships in Ireland. ➤

These days, the story has gone global, with the recent induction of UL into the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) - US-based organisation with over 3,000 inventor members and fellows - UL has joined the ranks of Nobel Laureates and some of the world's top universities including Harvard, Yale and MIT.



Dr Shire added, "Our induction into the NAI is an important step in putting Limerick and Ireland on the map for innovation and R&D. Our ethos has always been to focus on knowledge with impact. This aligns well with the strategies at a National and European level, specifically Horizon 2020 – the €80 billion European funding programme for research and innovation. It's all about supporting world-class researchers whose work tackles societal challenges and invokes industrial leadership." And the figures confirm the story, with UL spin-outs having raised in excess of €80 million investment with the generation of over 260 jobs. In recent years, the University has seen growth in top spin-out companies including: Stokes Bio, Crescent Diagnostics, Poly-Pico Technologies, Cauwill Technologies, Powervation, LearnOpt and Biomass Heating Solutions among others.

Paul Dillon, Director, Technology Transfer Office, UL added, "At a time when start-up investment has been challenging, spin-out activity at UL has bucked the trend. Recent announcements include the product launch by Crescent Diagnostics of their ground-breaking osteoporosis screening technology Osentia and UL spinout Poly-Pico unveiled their new desktop open access platform 'Pico Spotter™' at Analytica in Germany in April. Our success in patents and spin-out activity is due to the industry-focused nature of our research."

## *The Ground-Breakers* / CRESCENT DIAGNOSTICS

Over 10 million individuals in the US already have osteoporosis, while an estimated 34 million are at risk of developing it. A screening test which identifies those at risk of fragility fracture by analysing finger or toe-nail clippings was developed at the Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) by Professor Mark Towler, who then went on to establish 'Crescent Diagnostics'. The technology was recently brought to market with the launch of Osentia™.

This technology plays a vital role in prevention and early-detection of osteoporosis, which the US Surgeon General has declared a major public health threat, warning that the disease has reached epidemic proportions.

**30 MILLION  
PEOPLE AT RISK  
OF DEVELOPING  
OSTEOPOROSIS  
IN THE EU**

Professor Noel O'Dowd, Director, Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) said, "The fundamental research behind this success story was carried out at MSSI. This is an excellent example of translational research where fundamental studies have been successfully transformed into a practical application, which will have significant impact on quality of life. MSSI expertise in biomedical engineering, biomaterials and characterisation and our state-of-the-art facilities and equipment has provided the research foundation for the success of Crescent Diagnostics."



*Left:* UL joins National Academy of Inventors: Professor Paul Sanberg, Vice President Research University South Florida and President of NAI; Dr Mary Shire, Vice President Research, UL; and Dr Andrew Faile, United States Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

*Right:* Stokes Bio founders Professor Mark Davies and Dr Tara Dalton receiving the 2014 UL Innovation Special Recognition Award.



## *The Pathfinders /* STOKES BIO



When UL spin-out company, Stokes Bio was sold to Life Technologies for \$44million in 2010 it marked the largest university spin out acquisitions in the history of the Irish State. Stokes Bio was founded by UL researchers, Professor Mark Davies and Dr Tara Dalton of the Stokes Institute, who pioneered micro-fluidic systems for genetic analysis. Through their research, Professor Davies and Dr Dalton developed the technology to produce instrumentation delivering much higher genome data throughput at a lower cost and their work highlighted the strength and diversity of the growing indigenous biotechnology industry in Ireland. The company initially attracted a €1million investment by the Bank of Ireland Kernel Venture Capital Fund as well as being backed by Enterprise Ireland and the University of Limerick. At the recent UL Innovation Awards, Professor Mark Davies and Dr Tara Dalton received the 'Special Recognition Award' for their immense contribution to innovation.



## NEXUS INNOVATION CENTRE

*T*he establishment of the Nexus Innovation Centre in 2011 has enhanced UL's pipeline of innovation. "The Nexus Innovation Centre has been one of the real success stories for us," explains Dr Mary Shire. Since it has opened, Nexus has exceeded all its targets for job creation and spin-out companies. "Nexus is about building a community of practice; our aim was not just to support spin-out activity, but to embed entrepreneurship into the UL way of life. That means that our students have the opportunity to interact with the start-up community. This encourages graduates to realise that starting a company is possible and supports exist to help them on that journey" added Dr Shire.

Find out more at [www.nexusinnovation.ie](http://www.nexusinnovation.ie)

Tierney Building at UL – home to the Nexus Innovation Centre



## The Start-Up /

## YELLOWSCCHEDULE NEXUS INNOVATION CENTRE

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artina Skelly caught a glimpse of her new company, YellowSchedule, when she missed a medical appointment for which she had waited a long time. With a background in technology, Martina joined forces with her brother Michael, a developer with extensive experience in secure backend systems and global SMS integration solutions. Together, they established YellowSchedule in 2010 – a fast and secure online scheduling tool – and launched a beta-version in early 2011. After launching the system online for free, YellowSchedule introduced a charge for their service later in the year; it was working so well that most people happily began to pay. Many early users were counsellors from the United States, so in March 2012 YellowSchedule attended the annual conference of the American Counselling Association. They returned to Ireland with new customers and potential partners, and the sense that they had found their market. Martina says, “Before we began focusing on a particular market, we had driving instructors, tattoo artists, dog walkers, personal trainers and financial consultants – all kinds of users. But there are 25 million appointments made in America every day, so there is a significant opportunity there.”



*Mother of three, Martina Skelly is the CEO of YellowSchedule and winner of Enterprise Ireland's female competitive start fund. YellowSchedule now has customers in 31 countries and has processed over €3 million worth of online appointments to date.*

## The Young Guns / SHADOWMAN SPORTS NEXUS INNOVATION CENTRE



Shadowman Sports started its life as a 4th year Final Year Project of UL Product Design & Technology Student JP Hartigan. For his final year, he had to design and build a product to find out if it was commercially viable. The Limerick native and Garryowen rugby player created and manufactured a tackling system called Shadowman. It's an inflatable human-shaped dummy that fits into a ring, and is filled with water at the bottom to give it a low centre of gravity so it stays put when towed and detaches when tackled. During his final year he decided to patent his product and the following year he joined the Limerick Enterprise Acceleration Programme. This gave him access to Enterprise Ireland Funding which allowed him to continue product and market development. The last 12 months has seen great success for Shadowman, with sales in the American Football market continuing to expand, with a growing number of high profile customers in the US including several US colleges such as Virginia Tech, Nebraska and University of Illinois. There are also exciting possibilities in JP's own sport, Rugby, with partners in New Zealand including a current All Black working on developing the rugby market in the southern hemisphere.

JP Hartigan, UL graduate, rugby player, inventor, CEO.



## UL INNOVATION / *Recent Milestones*

**2010**

The biggest university spin out acquisition in the history of the State was UL spin-out, Stokes Bio, which was sold in excess of **\$44 million**.

**2011**

**NEXUS INNOVATION CENTRE** opens at UL – exceeding all targets for spin-out activity and jobs since its establishment.



**2013**

The establishment of the **€52 million Bernal Project** is attracting leading researchers in the fields of **Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Energy Research and Development** from some of the world's top 100 ranked universities to bring their expertise to Limerick in support of Irish recovery and growth.

**2014**

UL was recently announced as the first Irish University to become a member of the **National Academy of Inventors**, confirming our reputation among our peers across the world. It is an important step in putting Ireland on the map for **innovation and R&D**.



**2014**

Spin-out activity reaches major milestone as UL spin-out funding figures reach in excess of **€80 million investment** with the generation of **over 260 jobs**.



**2013**

UL has launched its **€224 million Capital Development Plan**, outlining investments into **research, sports, student, teaching and advanced research facilities**.



## RESEARCH & INNOVATION NEWS

### Researchers Make Breakthrough in Battery Technology

**R**esearchers at the Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI), University of Limerick have made a significant breakthrough in the area of rechargeable battery technology, developing a technology that more than doubles the capacity of lithium-ion battery anodes and retains this high capacity even after being charged and discharged over 1000 times. There is an ever-increasing demand for portable electronic devices, and improved technology for battery life and stability is a vital factor in device performance. The combined value of the market for rechargeable battery technology is set to grow from \$11.8 billion in 2010 to \$53.7 billion in 2020.

Lead researcher, Dr Kevin Ryan explains, “We have developed a new germanium nanowire-based anode that has the ability to greatly increase the capacity and lifetimes of lithium-ion batteries. This breakthrough is important for mobile computing

and telecoms but also for the emerging electric vehicle market allowing for smaller and lighter batteries that can hold more charge for longer and maintain this performance over the lifetime of the product.”

The research team have also ensured that their nano technology solution was scalable, low-cost and low-energy making the technology both greener and commercially viable. The research was supported by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under the Principal Investigator Programme, awarded to Dr Kevin Ryan and also by EU funding through the GREENLION Project. The GREENLION project is a large scale collaborative project within the FP7 framework with the goal of manufacturing greener and cheaper lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicle applications.

Dr Kevin Ryan, pictured at the Materials and Surface Science Institute.





Professor of Primary Healthcare Research,  
Anne MacFarlane

## Grant to Study Primary Care Reforms

**U**niversity of Limerick Professor of Primary Healthcare Research, Anne MacFarlane has been awarded €330,000 by the Health Research Board (HRB) to investigate the impact of primary care reforms in Ireland.

Professor MacFarlane explains the significance of this research, “We know that the vast majority of illness experiences are treated in the primary care setting. Therefore the organisation of primary care services in the community is extremely important. It is essential that patients can access services when they need them and the professionals working in primary care are connected with each other.”

This grant will support an evaluation of the reform processes relating to the development of Primary Care Teams as outlined in the 2001 Department of Health primary care strategy. The reform process has been underway over the past decade with mixed results. To date, there has been no major analysis of the implementation of primary care teams involving all stakeholders. This study will address these major gaps in knowledge about the reform of our primary care services.

This multidisciplinary project also includes co-applicants Professor Walter Cullen, Graduate Entry Medical School, UL; Dr Norelee Kennedy, Clinical Therapies, UL; Libby Kinneen, HSE; and Professor Carl May, University of Southampton. Collaborators also include the Paul Partnership - a community project in Limerick, regional GPs and practice nurses, HSE primary care clinicians and managers, Department of Health and Children and Professor Colum Dunne, UL.

## SFI Awards €4million to Science and Engineering Projects

**R**esearch projects in the areas of maths, pharmaceuticals and composite materials at the University of Limerick have been awarded over €4million in Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funding. The announcement cements UL's reputation as a center for excellence in translational research, focused on delivering real impact for Irish industry.

"We are delighted with the recent SFI awards which build on UL's expertise in Engineering and Mathematics," said UL Vice President Research, Dr Mary Shire. "The importance of engineering and mathematics in solving real world problems continues to be a focus for UL. We are working in partnership with companies to enhance their competitiveness and deliver graduates with the relevant skills and experience."

The three projects are led by academics within UL's Faculty of Science and Engineering:

### *Professor Gavin Walker: Pharmaceuticals*

Professor Gavin Walker, Bernal Chair of Pharmaceutical Powder Engineering and his team are working to build Ireland's reputation for research excellence in the pharmaceutical sector. This industry accounts for over 50% of Irish exports and is responsible for over 60,000 jobs.

### *Professor Andrew Fowler: Mathematics*

Professor Fowler's research will use applied mathematics to study plant, microbial and fungal biomass growth and its dependence on soil nutrients. This research will provide predictive tools for use in fertiliser application and other areas of agriculture, septic tank installations, and many other situations concerning soil.

### *Dr Conor McCarthy: Composite Materials*

High performance Formula 1 race cars and the latest aeroplanes are made of carbon fibre, a composite material. Composite materials can be stronger, lighter and less expensive than traditional materials. Dr McCarthy's project studies a new approach to join composites to metals which does not require any mechanical fastening. Such an approach would be highly advantageous to manufacturers, allowing them to make cheaper but higher performing products.

SFI funding recipient,  
Professor Gavin Walker,  
Bernal Chair of  
Pharmaceutical Powder  
Engineering.



## Tackling Men's Health

**U**niversity of Limerick researcher, Dr Niall Kelly was awarded in the region of €250,000 by the Health Research Board (HRB) to investigate a condition called Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) which affects 50% of men over the age of 50 and over 70% of men over the age of 70.

A urologist with the Department of Urology, University Hospital Limerick, Dr Kelly is undertaking his PhD research at the University of Limerick. Dr Kelly explains, "BPH is a condition that will affect the majority of all men at some point in their lives, resulting in the enlargement of the prostate gland which affects the ability to pass urine in a normal way."

"Treatment of the condition involves the use of medical therapies and in some cases surgery. The processes which cause this condition are still not fully understood. The management of BPH is of major public health significance and is the source of considerable expenditure and is estimated to cost approximately €1 billion in Europe each year."

"Through this study we hope to get a better understanding of how BPH develops and how it affects men, looking at a number of novel biomarkers that may ultimately be new targets for treatment of BPH, which we would hope will improve the quality of life for the ageing man".

Key to the successful awarding of the fellowship was the formation of a multidisciplinary team, combining clinicians, engineers, bioengineers and biologists. This research is being undertaken at the Centre for Applied Biomedical Engineering Research (CABER), in collaboration with the Material and Surface Sciences Institute (MSSI) and Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) at the University of Limerick (UL) and UL Hospitals.

Dr Niall Kelly, University of Limerick



Dr Susan Coote

## Benefits of Physical Activity for Patients with MS

**U**niversity of Limerick physiotherapist, Dr Susan Coote has been awarded €270,000 by Ireland's Health Research Board to investigate the benefits of physical activity for people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic progressive condition of the central nervous system, characterised by symptoms such as weakness, sensory and vision problems, and fatigue which can ultimately lead to problems with balance and mobility. Fifty percent of people with MS will need a walking aid within 15 years of diagnosis.

Dr Coote explains the significance of this research, "We know that physical activity can have major benefits for MS patients, the key is trying to embed this activity as a core part of their daily life. This project is unique in that it combines a programme of physical activity coupled with behaviour change interventions to enable patients to remain physically active into the future."

Dr Coote added, "Over 10,000 people in Ireland are living with MS. The majority of these patients are treated in primary care settings using exercise and physical activity interventions. This research will be particularly useful in guiding physiotherapists in the best way to deliver exercise interventions in the primary care setting."





## Could Milk Proteins Improve Sports Performance & Healthy Ageing?

**T**he University of Limerick will take the lead in Phase 2 of Food for Health Ireland's (FHI) research programme to explore the role of milk proteins in healthy ageing and performance nutrition. Professor of Sport and Exercise Sciences, Phil Jakeman, who is the lead investigator for FHI's Healthy Ageing and Performance Nutrition Health Pillar, explains the research, "As we age the amount of muscle and lean tissue mass begins to decrease. This can lead to frailty, disability and loss of

independence in older adults. Conversely, high performance athletes generally try to increase muscle mass and muscle function that has to recover and adapt quickly to sustain and improve optimal performance. Many of the nutrient and metabolic regulators of these effects on muscle in ageing and performance overlap." Can milk, specifically the proteins within milk, help older people and athletes to rebuild their muscle and to recover quickly for the next race, respectively?

"Over the next five years the Healthy Ageing and Performance Nutrition research team will be investigating whether milk proteins and their bioactive derivatives have the potential to be of benefit to these two population groups. This is an exciting Health Pillar within the FHI2 programme.

Using a multidisciplinary approach we seek to develop and evaluate a range of naturally produced, milk-based, bioactive ingredients for incorporation into food matrices targeting the area of muscle health."

.....  
Professor Phil Jakeman and Professor Dick Fitzgerald, University of Limerick



## Spin Out Licenses Fluid Dispensing Break-Through

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Dr Gabriel Leen, Poly-Pico Chairman; Alan Crean, Poly-Pico Managing Director; and Paul Dillon, Director, Technology Transfer Office, UL.

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*Poly-Pico uses disposable fluid cartridges which completely avoid any risks associated with cross-contamination.*

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The University of Limerick recently licensed a break-through fluid dispensing technology to the University Spin-Out company Poly-Pico Technologies Ltd. The fluid dispensing technology is capable of dispensing minute quantities of fluid in the nano liter ( $10^{-9}$ ) and pico liter ( $10^{-12}$ ) volume ranges.

Dr Gabriel Leen, co-inventor, explains, “To help put these tiny volumes into context, for example, from a single teaspoon volume of fluid, the technology can generate over 100million individual droplets of fluid. Applications where this level of accuracy and miniaturization have significant advantages include: the production of biomedical diagnostic devices; drug discovery; the production of protein/antibody/DNA based devices including DNA testing; dispensing of living cells for research applications which study the behavior of cells; depositing of nano-materials; micro-electronics; and applications involving the precise dispensing of adhesives, lubricants and coatings.”

Technologies exist which are capable of dispensing at these low volume ranges, however no other technology uses disposable fluid cartridges to do so. Poly-Pico uses disposable fluid cartridges which completely avoid any risks associated with cross-contamination. The avoidance of cross-contamination is a key benefit of the technology when handling for example biological samples from different patients. Furthermore, the technology out performs most of the other technologies operating in this low volume range, in terms of both ease of use and cost.

The patent pending technology has already undergone significant evaluation testing at laboratories both in Ireland and in other European locations. The potential market for this technology is significant and the applications for which this technology is suitable are continually expanding.



## Do You Trust Generic Medicines?

Researchers in UL's Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) published a study which compared the opinions of general practitioners (GPs) and pharmacists regarding generic medicines.

**More than twice as many GPs (15%) as pharmacists (7%) would prefer to take originator medications for themselves rather than generics.**

**12% of GPs + 2% of pharmacists believed generics do not work as well as originator medicines.**

**94% of GPs + 89% of pharmacists reported receiving complaints from patients related to use of generic medicines.**

**Nearly 90% of patients would take a generic if prescribed by their GP, but 24% would prefer the originator medicine if offered a choice.**

**T**his first-of-its-kind study in Ireland showed that while pharmacists hold largely positive opinions of generics, GPs were less accepting of generic medicines.

Suzanne Dunne, PhD candidate with GEMS and the study author, explained, "If GPs have negative opinions regarding generic medicines, then their patients are likely to have a similar lack of confidence. Improving GPs' confidence in generic medicines is very likely to have a positive knock-on effect in improving acceptance of these medicines by patients."

This new study also shows that large numbers of both pharmacists and GPs have received complaints from patients that were related to use of a generic medicine. The results correspond well with previous research from this group showing that approximately a quarter of patients believe that generic medicines are of poorer quality than originators and about one in five are of the view that generics do not work as well as branded medication.

Spending on pharmaceuticals in Ireland was the highest of all EU countries per capita in 2010. The annual cost of medicines under the state-funded drugs scheme increased from €564 million in 2000 to over €1.9 billion in 2010. The Irish government has recognised that increasing usage of generic medicines has the potential to make significant savings. Hence, new legislation, The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act, introducing generic substitution and reference pricing for the first time in Ireland, was signed into law in June 2013.



## Inadequacies in Wheelchair Provision

A study on wheelchair provision, undertaken by the University of Limerick, has highlighted a worrying lack of any national policies or guidelines in support of the 40,000 people who use wheelchairs and seating assistive technology in Ireland. This HRB-funded study in partnership with SeatTech, Enable Ireland as the host organisation and the University of Limerick, has worked with key stakeholders to identify system improvements and to develop a strategy for more efficient provision of wheelchair services.

The research, led by UL's Dr Rosie Gowran, involved qualitative interviews with key stakeholders including service users, service providers, healthcare professionals, clinical engineers, administrators, suppliers, manufacturers, regulators and policy makers. Participants engaged in a series of workshops, which identified major bottlenecks in unregulated wheelchair provision processes in Ireland and which ultimately led to a proposed strategy document for more sustainable wheelchair and seating provision and a model to review and develop policy relating to wheelchair and seating provision nationally.



Dr Rosie Gowran

Dr Gowran states, "The focus of this research was wheelchair and seating provision in the Republic of Ireland, which has developed and grown rapidly over the past twenty years. However, even with these positive developments, current wheelchair provision, as with many other countries, lacked uniformity and could not be regarded as sustainable. A wheelchair becomes a person's

legs, it becomes part of their skin, and it is a person's freedom. A wheelchair, if you need one, is essential for survival and it should be seen as a priority."

Dr Gowran calls on the Irish Government to sanction a national review of wheelchair services as a matter of public priority, equating the importance of appropriate and regulated provision to the prescription of pharmaceutical drugs. "As one research participant told me, you wouldn't let someone do heart surgery on you if they hadn't been to college, why should I let someone fix my wheelchair if they don't know what they are doing? While the impact of inadequate and unregulated infrastructure may not be immediately apparent, the side effects may have long-term or lethal consequences. This is a human rights issue", said Dr Gowran.

## Looking Back to Help Our Future

Dr Ciara Breathnach, Department of History, UL and Dr Sandra Collins, Director, Digital Repository of Ireland were awarded €329,000 by the Irish Research Council for a project entitled Irish Record Linkage, 1864-1913.

The project will provide an innovative demonstrator for the re-use of Public Sector Information. It will apply linked data technologies to birth, death and marriage records, more commonly known as vital registration (VR) data, from 1864 - 1913 to reconstitute families and create longitudinal health histories.

The re-use of the data offers an opportunity to estimate VR under-reporting, a problem that continues to hamper World Health Organisation (WHO) efforts in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. The project showcases the potential of Humanities research to resolve 'real-world' WHO problems.

Dr Ciara Breathnach



## Innovative Screening Tool for Osteoporosis

**A** University of Limerick spin-out company, Crescent Diagnostics Ltd, recently brought their ground-breaking screening technology Osentia™ to market. Developed at the Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI), UL, through the research of Crescent co-founder, Professor Mark Towler, Osentia™ is a convenient screening test which identifies those at risk of fragility fracture by analysing finger or toe nail clippings. Using this information, consumers can initiate long term lifestyle changes and access appropriate therapeutic intervention, which can help avoid serious osteoporosis-related fractures in later life.

With more than 30 million people at risk of the disease in the EU, early identification is important. Osteoporosis causes bones to become weak and fragile, and more likely to fracture. People are often unaware of the condition of their bones, as the disease displays no symptoms. As the bones affected are most frequently the wrist, spine or hip bones, any fracture can lead to considerable pain, surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation. According to the UK's National Osteoporosis Society, one in two women and one in five men over the age of 50 will fracture a bone, mainly due to poor bone health. Brendan Farrell, CEO of Crescent Diagnostics, said, "Osteoporosis is a growing health issue exacerbated by an ageing population. Osentia™ provides a rapid, inexpensive, convenient and effective way of ensuring customers know and understand their risk of developing a fragility fracture due to osteoporosis, and how to better manage their lifestyle to prevent its onset."

Professor Noel O'Dowd, Director, Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) said, "The fundamental research behind this success story was carried out at MSSI with equipment supported by the Higher Education Authority. This is an excellent example of translational research where fundamental studies have been successfully transformed into a practical application, which will have significant impact on quality of life. The use of MSSI's state-of-the-art facilities and equipment has been pivotal to such successes."

## Growing Up in a One-Parent Family

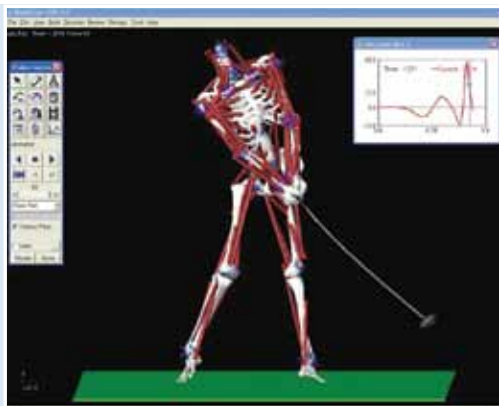
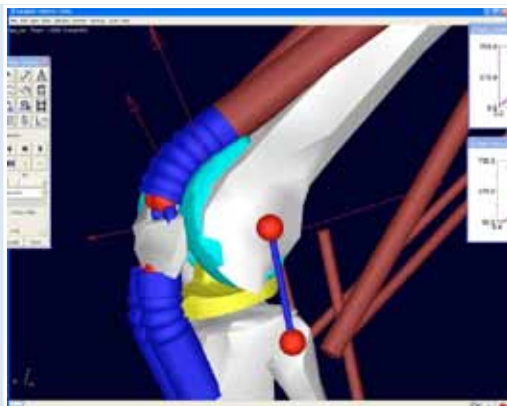
**G**rowing Up in a One-Parent Family is a UL-based study funded by the Family Support Agency through the Irish Research Council. The research was based on data taken from the State-funded Growing Up In Ireland study offering statistical insight into children's lives. The study found that the apparent benefits of marriage, in relation to child development, are not related to marriage per se but to the background characteristics of the parents.

Lead researcher Dr Carmel Hannan, of the UL Department of Sociology, explained that it was important to challenge the assumption that marriage is a solution to everything. "Those who marry are often from a more 'privileged' background and with a higher level of education. The majority of mothers who give birth outside of marriage come from impoverished backgrounds and, therefore, the adverse consequences of childbearing may be due to pre-existing socioeconomic disadvantages. "Cohabiting mothers are often younger, less educated and less religious. There is a difference in educational development, the area most negatively affected by lone parenthood, where children score significantly lower on maths tests than those from traditional families." The same was true of health and socioeconomic factors, where lone mothers are more likely to have suffered ill health prior to child birth and to have come from less well-off backgrounds. "Marriage is not the solution to child disadvantage," said Dr Hannan.

(L-R) Dr Brendan Halpin, Co-Author and Head of Sociology Department UL; Ms Norah Gibbons, Chairperson Child and Family Agency; and Dr Carmel Hannan, Lead Researcher, Sociology Lecturer UL.







1. Biomechanical computer knee model.
2. Computer knee model integrated into a full-body golf movement simulation.

## Custom Knee Replacement Speeds Return to Sport

**R**esearcher Ian Kenny, with Galway Clinic consultant orthopaedic surgeon Padraic Murray and research physiotherapist Jane Campbell have been investigating the effects of different knee surgery techniques on rehabilitation and knee movement.

This research investigates Kinematically Aligned Total Knee Replacement, which involves MRI scanning and 3D modelling of a patient's knee to determine their unique alignment. The

basis behind this technique is that each patient has their own natural lower leg alignment and plane of movement which might be a degree or two different from the next person. The work in progress suggests that bespoke development of knee replacement devices for a patient's own knee alignment might result in an outcome that is more similar to their pre-operative knee structure, resulting in improved function after surgery.

## Exploring Equality in Tax Policy

**A** team from the Kemmy Business School led by Dr Sheila Killian have been awarded a research grant from The Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland (CPA Ireland) to examine the equality impact of tax policy changes in Irish budgets over the last decade, moving towards developing a methodology for full equality budgeting for Ireland.

UL's Claire Quinn, Eoghan Kirrane and Kelvin Kilbane, all students on the KBS Master of Taxation programme will initially work on the research under Dr Killian's supervision while completing their theses. The completed work will be prepared not only for academic audiences, but also presented under the auspices of the CPA Ireland Research Committee to relevant policy and practitioner audiences.

Equality budgeting is most commonly applied in the form of gender budgeting, an idea which was successfully pioneered in Australia and Scotland, and



Kelvin Kilbane, Dr Sheila Killian, Eoghan Kirrane and Claire Quinn.

has been adopted by more than 60 countries. This research is broader in scope, examining all eight equality grounds established in Irish employment law including gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, race, age and disability. It is hoped that a broader move to evidence-based tax policy can be built on the findings of this research.

## Simple Blood Iron Test May Predict Fatal Outcomes

A new study led by researchers at the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) at UL has found that people with low levels and very high levels of a commonly measured laboratory test, the 'transferrin saturation ratio' are at an increased risk of death. The test is a measure of the amount of available iron in the bloodstream with low levels generally reflecting a state of iron deficiency and high levels suggesting a relative excess.

The new study, using data from 15,823 adults collected from 1988 to 1994 in the US, found that subjects with extremely low transferrin saturation levels (less than 17.5%) were at a 45% higher risk of death. On the other hand, the risk of death was also significantly higher for subjects with very high levels of transferrin saturation above 31.3 %. Primary author, Professor Austin Stack, Foundation Chair of Medicine at University

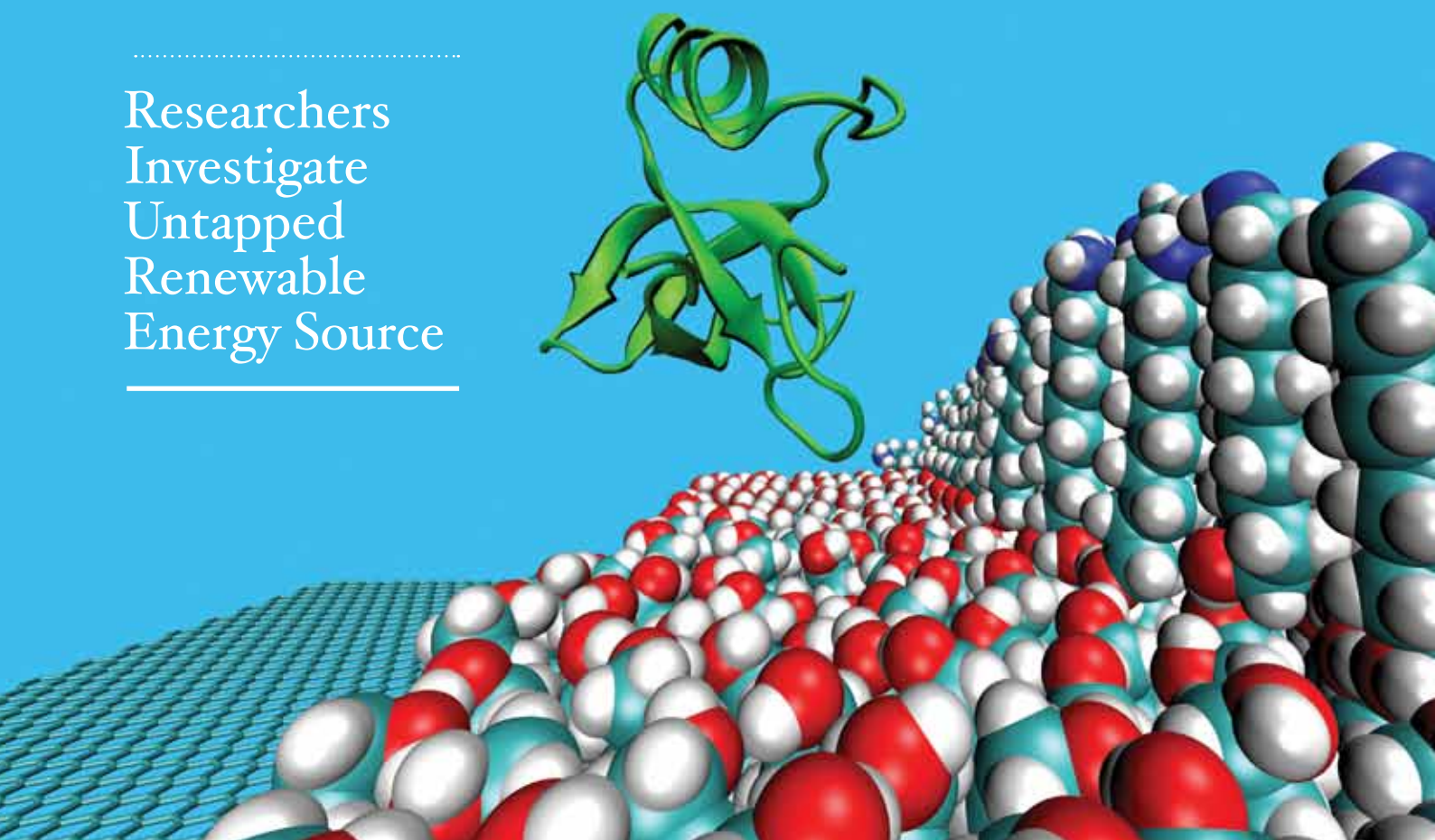
of Limerick Graduate Entry Medical School, and Consultant Nephrologist at University Hospital Limerick, said, "We believe that these results have important practical implications for the wider medical community. Our analysis suggests that the optimal transferrin saturation range for patient survival should be between 23% to 40% and that careful clinical assessment is warranted for patients with low and high levels in order to identify states of iron deficiency or iron excess. Our study demonstrates that transferrin saturation ratio is a useful prognostic tool in assessing a patient's health."

Members of the Kidney Health Research Consortium at the Graduate Entry Medical School and University Hospital Limerick (L-R) Dr Ells Gillis, Darya Yermak, Dr Mohamed Elsayed, Dr Liam Casserly, Professor Austin Stack, Professor Ailish Hannigan, Dr John Ferguson, Dr Hatim Yagoub, Dr Waleed Mohamed.





## Researchers Investigate Untapped Renewable Energy Source



**R**esearchers at the University of Limerick are taking on the challenge to improve the viability of biomass processing. The UL team are part of a consortium involved in the €4 million project 'CellulosomePlus' involving nine private and public-sector partners.

Dr Damien Thompson, Department of Physics, leads the UL research team involved in this project. He explains, "Currently half of the world's renewable energy is sourced from biomass. By 2030 it is projected that €20 billion will be invested globally in biomass as a large component of green energy solutions. However, there is a major technical bottleneck for plant biomass processing in the break-down of plant cell walls into fermentable sugars."

Biomass is abundant, renewable, sustainable and inexpensive. Typical sources are wood, inedible parts of plants or industrial residues, and the organic, biodegradable fraction of

municipal solid waste. As part of a European Union funded project 'CellulosomePlus' the research team at UL are using computer-models of the enzymes in plant biomass to better understand their properties, and are working with the other teams towards the design of enzymes that

are better able to break down biomass into fermentable sugars. Dr Thompson added, "If successful, this solution would provide a huge renewable feedstock of sugars for production of biofuels. The potential for this is huge. Municipal solid waste is abundant in every developed country in the world. The waste generated in Ireland alone every year would fill Croke Park to the top of the stands. Breaking-down this waste into the chemical components that would provide a fuel source would unlock a huge renewable energy source while helping our environment."

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 “  
*Currently half  
 of the world's  
 renewable  
 energy is  
 sourced from  
 biomass...*  
 ”

.....  
 Computer model of enzyme dynamics.



# UL FOUNDATION NEWS

## News & Events

The UL Foundation is working with new Corporate Ambassador for Munster Rugby and former All-Black rugby international and Munster player, Doug Howlett, to support the endeavours of Munster Rugby on the UL campus.

## UL and Munster Rugby Team Up on Fundraising

In 2013, Munster Rugby announced the establishment of its main training base at UL which will involve the club having a dedicated state-of-the-art facility on campus. A number of initiatives have since been identified which will mutually benefit UL and Munster Rugby, further cementing the relationship between the two organisations.

Brian Shaw, Trump Doonbeg GC; David Cronin, UL Foundation; Michael Flatley; Doug Howlett, Munster Rugby Corporate Ambassador at the Munster V Toulouse match in Thomond Park.

## Alumni Raise Funds for Postgraduate Students

The UL Foundation presented a cheque for €7,600 to the Postgraduate Students' Union President, Lily Carroll, in support of its Student Financial Aid Fund (better known by students as the 'Hardship Fund'). The money was raised from the UL alumni community as part of the Foundation's Annual Fund Appeal. The Postgraduate Students' Union has had an unprecedented number of students in crisis applying for financial support in recent times, a problem exacerbated by constraints on State financial assistance for postgraduate students. Sincere thanks to UL's graduate community for supporting this worthy initiative.





Chairman of the  
UL Foundation,  
Loretta Brennan Glucksman.

## Our Foundation Friends

### Meet Irish-American Philanthropist and Chairman of the UL Foundation, Mrs Loretta Brennan Glucksman

Raised in an Irish neighborhood in Pennsylvania, the granddaughter of four Irish immigrants, Loretta Brennan Glucksman has worked tirelessly during much of her life to establish strong ties between America and the island of Ireland.

**S**he and her late husband, Lewis L Glucksman, played a key role in philanthropic efforts to spread peace throughout the island of Ireland and have been generous supporters of the University of Limerick for over 20 years, helping to fund many of its projects.

Mrs Brennan Glucksman was Chairman of the American Ireland Fund for 18 years and now serves as Chairman Emeritus. She was elected Chairman of the UL Foundation in January 2014.

*Loretta, growing up in the US in an Irish-American family, did you feel connected to Ireland from a young age, or did this come later?*

Very, very much so from a young age. All my grandparents were very intent on instilling a sense of 'Irishness' in us and my paternal grandfather taught me poems and prayers in Irish. He also used to sing to me in Irish. My grandparents would not speak Irish in front of us on a day to day basis, however, because they were mindful of the need for us to integrate fully into American society.

*How did you and Lew become involved with the University of Limerick?*

In the late 1980's, Lew wanted to establish a Chair of Irish Studies at New York University (NYU). He went with the President of NYU to Ireland in the Spring of 1987. Daithi O'Kelly was Consul General in New York at that time and he connected us with Seán Donlon (who later went on to be Chancellor of UL) who in turn connected us to Ed Walsh who was President of UL. We all had a very memorable dinner in Seán Donlon's house and a great adventure followed on from then. Afterwards, Seán Donlon said, "I hosted the most expensive dinner that Lew Glucksman ever attended!"

*At the end of 2013, you stepped down as Chairman of the American Ireland Fund after nearly two decades. What have been the highlights of your tenure?*

I would have to say our work in Northern Ireland and the transformation that has taken place there during this time. I was grateful to be part of President Michael D. Higgins' recent state visit to England and it was a very emotional experience. So many people worked very hard over many years and the visit really represented the culmination of all their efforts.



*What moment stood out for you during the state visit?*

I thought both the Irish President's and the Queen's speeches were magnificent and the warmth that you felt when they spoke was so genuine. There was nothing artificial between them – just real camaraderie. When the Queen said, "My family and my government intend to pursue our links with Ireland...." - those were beautiful words.

*Drawing on the wealth of experience you have, what do you consider to be the most important elements in building a successful model for a charitable foundation?*

I think as a charity you have to go to your donors with the absolute assurance that you will do with their money what they hope you will do. These recent times in Ireland have been difficult for the vast majority of very genuine charities out there, but I think this will pass. The key element is trust and charities have to do everything in their power to ensure they have the trust of their donor base.

*The University of Limerick is fortunate to have had the support of some very special philanthropists such as you and Lew, Chuck Feeney, and others. How can we ensure this legacy of philanthropy is carried on by future generations?*

The only way to ensure the legacy continues is to draw in people of equal integrity and generosity. Of course, there are not too many Chuck Feeneys out there, but there are many very generous people. Future generations will stand on very broad shoulders with all the people who have poured their lives in the University of Limerick over the years. Through UL's many friends and the Foundation's Board, we are very capable of reaching out to new donors in years to come.



“

*Future generations  
will stand on  
very broad shoulders  
with all the people  
who have poured  
their lives in the  
University of Limerick  
over the years.*

”



David Cronin, Director ULF; Loretta Brennan Glucksman; and President Don Barry.



Thomas and Ellen O'Connor  
Scholarship Established

The Thomas and Ellen O'Connor Scholarship has been established at the University of Limerick for students of the new Masters in Creative Writing programme, which is due to commence in September 2014. The Scholarship is worth €5,000 per annum and will be awarded on the basis of financial need.

The scholarship was established by the admiring children of Thomas and Ellen O'Connor (nee O'Neill) to commemorate their parents. Both Thomas and Ellen were born and reared in Francis Street in the Liberties of old Dublin and had thirteen children, ten of whom survive. As parents, they epitomised the virtue of kindness and created a home which the love of music and literature became an integral part, and by their efforts, made it possible for their children to express themselves in these areas. Professor Joseph O'Connor, who holds the inaugural Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing at UL, is a grandson of Thomas and Ellen O'Connor.



University Club  
Funds Scholarships

The UL Foundation is delighted to announce €50,000 in new scholarships which have been generously funded by the University Club to mark the ending of its operations at UL. The funds will support the President's Access Scholars Award, a programme which rewards Access students for academic achievement.

Part of the funds will also be used to support four scholarships for mature students valued at €8,000 in total, with two scholarships awarded annually during the academic years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Through a matching programme at UL, ten mature student scholarships will be awarded in total and all of these will be allocated on the basis of financial need.



University Club Board Members: Gary Cotter, Eoin McCann, John Quinn (Chairman), Padraic Gallagher, Brian Hand (Secretary) and Don O'Malley.



# Unlocking *the secrets* of SUCCESS



UL reveals how to produce  
**AWARD-WINNING GRADUATES**




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## Establish **the largest** Cooperative Education placement programme in Ireland....

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### Cooperative Education Delivers the 'UL Edge'

In 1972, UL President, Dr Ed Walsh, pioneered the concept of Cooperative Education in Ireland. Today, 'Co-op' is a defining feature of the UL student experience and a very tangible expression of UL's commitment to engaged learning and employability. Spanning some 56 undergraduate degree programmes, UL's Cooperative Education Programme is the largest placement programme in Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. Over 1,600 placements are secured annually across a wide spectrum of sectors including financial services, medical technologies, ICT, pharma, aerospace, food, creative technologies, engineering, professional services and the public and civil service.

The international dimension of the Co-op programme is significant with 20% of students opting to undertake a placement in UL's network of international employers across 25 countries. According to Jerry Cronin, Cooperative Education Manager for UL's Arts, Humanities and Social Science programmes, "The key strengths of UL's Co-op programme comes firstly from working with students from first year onwards to prepare them for the world of work, and secondly from employer involvement in the delivery of the comprehensive preparatory programme. This is what makes Co-op in UL unique."

The Co-op experience clearly makes a difference; UL graduates continue to win awards and dominate the employability stage, nationally and internationally. UL was the only Irish university selected as a finalist in the 2014 Best University Placement Service award; a UL graduate won the 2014 National Student Employability Challenge ahead of 4,100 worthy competitors; three UL students have been inducted into the WACE Honour Society, Class of 2014; and a UL graduate has just won the 2014 Graduate Employee of the Year award.

Cooperative Education continues to grow from strength to strength, giving graduates the 'UL Edge'.

### Employers Value Cooperative Education

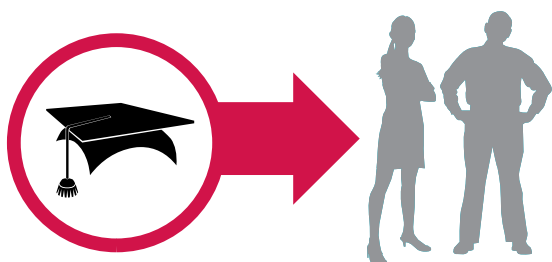
According to the most recent survey of Irish employers, work placement is cited by 96% of employers as being the most effective way for students to develop the soft skills required by graduate employers. Recognising this fact, UL's Co-op programme allows for a nine-month placement, longer than many other institutions' programmes. This extended placement allows students to become more established in the workplace, ensuring they have the opportunity to initiate new projects and see projects through to completion. This creates a more realistic work setting and leads to the development of higher order skills that are often absent in other graduates.

75% of Co-op employers also actively recruit graduates, many offering positions to the students before they graduate. Not surprisingly, the employment rate of UL graduates is consistently higher than the national average for the university sector, currently trending at 13% above the other Irish institutions.



Partners from The Kerry Group, the world's largest food ingredients and flavouring company, said, "Year on year Kerry Group have looked to the University of Limerick Cooperative Education Programme for high quality placement students as well as top class graduates. The students possess strong academic knowledge, practical skills and great understanding

of business environments. They are also enthusiastic and passionate about their courses and are pro-active in seeking the best placements and graduate roles. Kerry Group highly recommends the University of Limerick to any employers seeking high calibre students".



UL has the  
highest graduate employment rate



**13%**  
**HIGHER**  
than the other  
IRISH UNIVERSITIES  
**AVERAGE**

**1,600**  
**STUDENTS**  
COMPLETE CO-OP  
**annually**



**20%** of placements  
ARE INTERNATIONAL  
with students working in **25 COUNTRIES**



**96%**  
of employers  
cite work placement as  
the most effective way  
for students to develop  
**WORK  
SKILLS**

## STEP 2

### Create an outstanding and distinctive learning environment....

UL graduates are winning more than their fair share of national-level awards and excelling in the job market. Dr Fiona Farr, Dean Teaching and Learning at UL, talks about how UL is doing things a little differently and what makes our graduates special:

#### What is so special about a UL graduate?

Our graduates are special. They are special to us and are highly valued by employers. In addition to being deeply committed to the knowledge within their field of study, we provide them with opportunities to develop in many other valuable ways, both within their field and in a broader sense.

#### What are these broader qualities?

After much discussion with our staff, our students, employers and other relevant groups, we have developed our Graduate Attributes Statement. Our curriculum and learning environments are actively designed to produce individuals who are knowledgeable, proactive, creative, responsible, collaborative, and articulate graduates and citizens. It is not enough to develop knowledge in isolation. To contribute fully to society, graduates must have the ability to think, to create new ideas, to collaborate, to communicate and to act on their ideas. It is these broader qualities which make UL graduates stand out in the job market and add value to the companies and organisations in which they work.

#### What are some examples?

One example is the President's Volunteer Programme which connects UL students to community projects as volunteers. Some students may act as mentors or tutors to disadvantaged students in secondary schools, while others conduct research and provide other skilled services to charities and other organisations. This is not a small programme- each year volunteers contribute more than 10,000 hours of labour to community projects, benefitting more than 170 volunteer organisations since 2010.

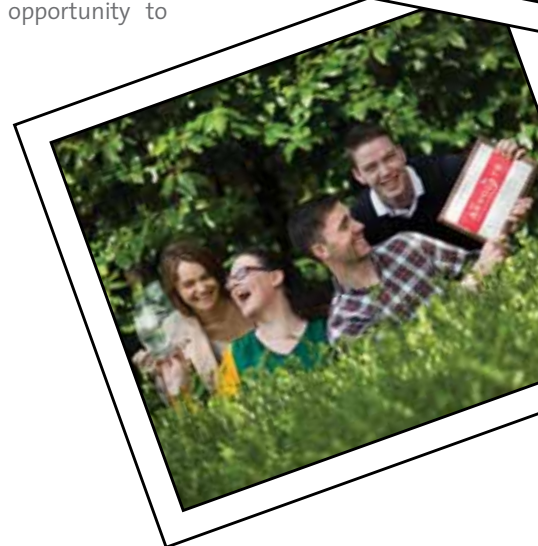
#### Are these principles integrated into the academic programmes too?

Yes, for the last few years we have been broadening the curriculum for all of our students so that they have opportunities to see the world, and their place in it, from other perspectives. One way we have done this is through the creation of cross-disciplinary broadening modules. These modules are specially designed around themes such as social media and social good; science and medicine in history; our city, our university; and social and civic engagement. Students may choose these electives as part of their normal course progression.

Another example is through the promotion of independent and research-oriented projects - and not just for postgraduate students. Undergraduate students also have the opportunity to engage in independent research and many of these projects were showcased recently at UL's All Ireland Conference of Undergraduate Research, the only one of its kind in the country.

#### Any final comments?

These outcomes are not achieved by accident; they are the result of serious planning and the dedication of many faculty and staff working together to ensure UL graduates have the best preparation for their future lives. Our graduates are important to us; we owe them every opportunity to succeed.





# STEP 3

## Graduates and employers reap the rewards....

### 'Best University Placement' Finalist

The University of Limerick has been selected as a finalist for the 'Best University Placement' award. The University is one of only five finalists from a total of 350 applications and it is the only Irish higher education institution to be selected in this elite group.

The purpose of the awards is to acknowledge and showcase outstanding achievements of universities, employers and students in the undergraduate work experience arena. UL was selected on the basis of the innovative nature, scale, extensive international dimension and inclusivity of its Cooperative Education Programme.

Above right: Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar with Patrice Twomey, Director, Cooperative Education and Careers Division.



Just some of UL's award-winning students: Ross Mullane, joint winner 'The Advocate' National Law Challenge; Triona O'Sullivan, winner 'Best Society Individual in Ireland'; Ava Mahoney, winner 'gradireland National Student Challenge Champion'; and Eoin Cahill, winner 'Student Marketer of the Year'.

## Google Snatches Up Marketing Graduate

UL student, Eoin Cahill, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Studies with a major in Marketing and minor in Entrepreneurship over summer, has landed a job with Google in Dublin working in the area of online advertising. Eoin tells how his Co-op experience helped him beat out the competition to land his dream job.

"I find myself extremely lucky to have my dream job waiting for me when I graduate - Associate Account Strategist in Online Advertising with Google Dublin. However, not all of this is down to luck. As well as maintaining a positive attitude, my time at UL has provided me with the opportunities to go out and grab the skills necessary to achieve my goal. I give a sizable chunk of credit to my semester of Erasmus and my International Cooperative Education work placement for helping me acquire this position.

My semester of Erasmus at Copenhagen Business School in Denmark provided me with so many opportunities which I would not be able to do here in Ireland. I gained valuable knowledge in the areas of Digital Marketing and International Business Negotiations, both of which were discussed in depth in my Google interview. Not to mention the lifelong friends which I have made on Erasmus, as well as sampling different cultures and their values.

After Erasmus, UL secured me a Co-op position in 'La Web Compagnie', a digital marketing start-up company in Villefranche-sur-mer, a seaside town in the French

Riviera. This was one of the best nine months of my life. As the company also owned a yacht brokership, my day could consist of anything from creating digital strategies to showing a client around a 20m luxury yacht. This is just one of the advantages of taking part in International Co-op.

All of these experiences ultimately led to my future employment in Google. A large part of the interview focussed on my work placement, the challenges and skills that I had learned, how I would apply those skills at Google and what motivated me to seek these experiences in the first place. But other UL activities such as marketing competitions, group projects and being a member of the UL Marketing Society have also contributed hugely to my chances. Like any employer, Google looks for what makes you stand out, what makes you different from the other three-hundred students with virtually the same degree. UL offers these experiences to every student and I would encourage everyone to take full advantage of these opportunities throughout their 4 years at the University of Limerick."



## African Adventures - a Co-op Experience in Ghana

UL's Cooperative Education programme has an on-going partnership with a community development programme in Ghana, West Africa. Here third year BA Journalism and New Media students Brendan Roche (Cork) and Conor O'Riordan (Kerry) chronicle their experiences.

"A six-month stay in Ghana, West Africa may seem like a daunting and formidable prospect to some, but for us it was the opportunity of a lifetime. After two years of hard work and study, third year is a year every Journalism student looks forward to – a semester working and a semester on study exchange abroad. Most of our friends from our class were placed with local and national newspapers and some did their

Co-op with radio stations. But we took the road less travelled and opted to spend six months working with a community development organisation in Ghana in West Africa. We knew that six months in Africa was going to be challenging. As Mícheál Ó Muirheartaigh might say, it was neither a hurling nor football stronghold, but that didn't put us off.





Also, neither of us had lived away from home for long periods. So upping sticks to Africa wasn't a decision we took lightly. However, after hearing about the experience from returning students, we made our decision.

Arriving in Ghana was made easier thanks to an excellent Co-op orientation programme that had been set up to help us assimilate to Ghanaian life. This included informative talks on Ghanaian culture and customs and tourist activities that are popular in the surrounding area. One of the first projects we worked on in Ghana was a two-week summer programme for the children of Ahotokurom and Enyindakurom where we organised games, songs and dances for local children. It was tough work but a great introduction to Ghana. We taught computer skills to young adults with learning difficulties, literacy skills to school staff and we helped organise a homework club for the children. The work was enjoyable and tiring, fun and humbling all at the same time.

There were opportunities for us to travel around Ghana as well, which opened our eyes to the diversity of Africa, and to the variety of culture and customs. Through our shared

love of football – we're from Cork and Kerry after all – we developed a great relationship with the local children. It proved to be an easy way to assimilate ourselves into their lives. Every opportunity to get stuck into a match was used – playing in small, dusty yards, in big, green(ish) fields, sometimes with official Premier League licensed balls, other times with bunches of rolled up socks!

One of the reasons we chose to study at UL was because of the Co-op programme. We both knew that we needed to get a good degree, but we were also aware that employers want to see work experience on graduate CVs. Employers also want to hire graduates who are independent thinkers, who can demonstrate initiative, who communicate well and who have a keen sense of themselves. Being able to combine work experience with our studies and being able to work in development as a volunteer in Africa was both extraordinarily fulfilling personally and a fantastic opportunity for us in terms of professional development. It is one of the reasons UL is such a great place to study. Going to Africa was an experience that has left us with incredible memories, and one we know we will never forget."



*Brendan and Conor at Wli waterfall in the Volta Region, Ghana.*



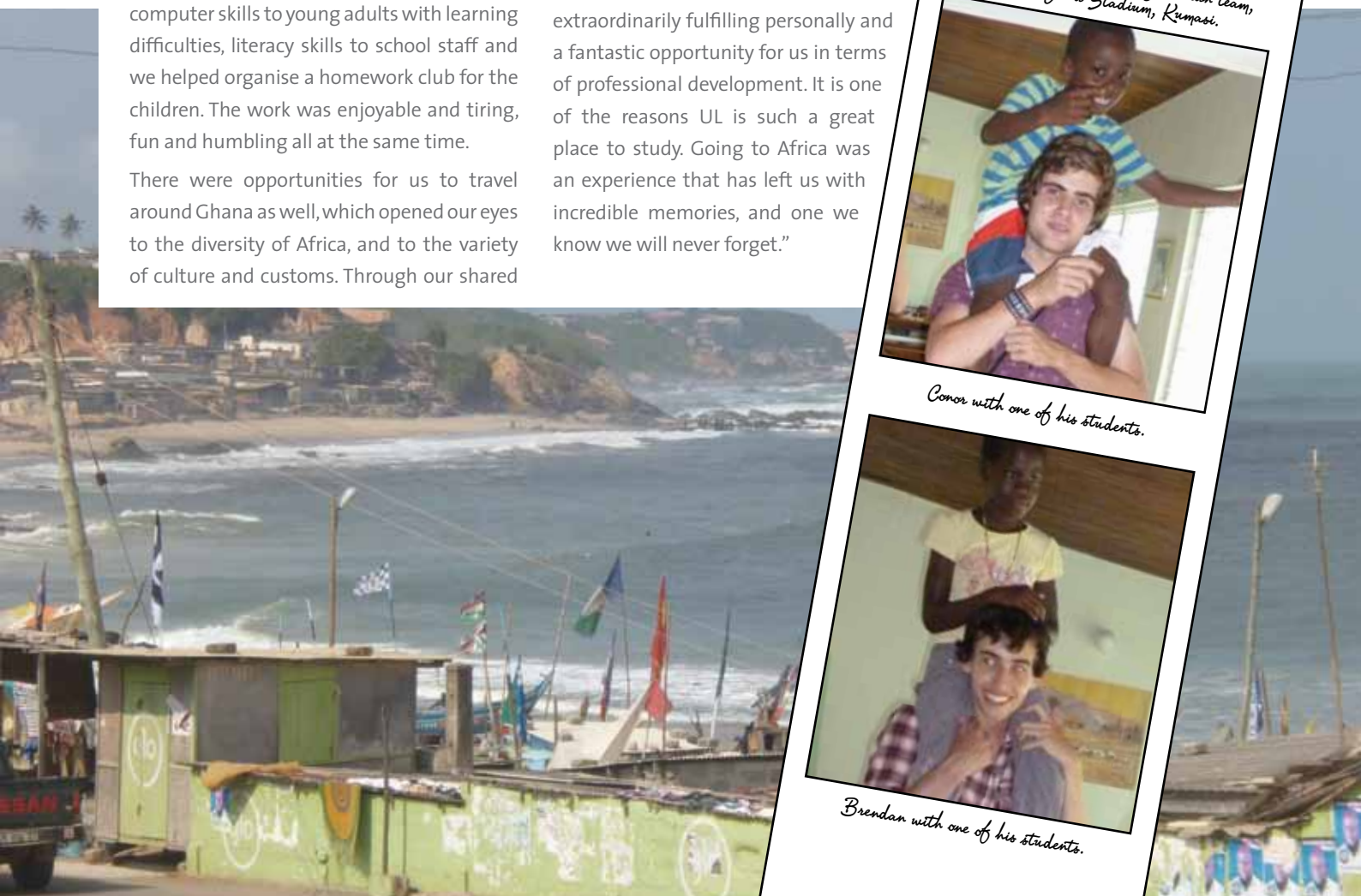
*Brendan supporting the Ghanaian team, Baba Jara Stadium, Kumasi.*



*Conor with one of his students.*



*Brendan with one of his students.*





A portrait of Professor Brian Fitzgerald, a middle-aged man with short, grey hair, wearing a dark suit, a dark shirt, and a dark tie. He is standing outdoors with his arms crossed, smiling slightly. The background is a blurred view of trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

# *Delivering* **WORLD-CLASS** *Computing Education*

*Professor Brian Fitzgerald is Chief Scientist at Lero - the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre. He discusses the HEA ICT Action Plan, the choice between 'quality' versus 'quantity' of ICT graduates and how to deliver world-class computing education.*

**R**

leased in 2012, the Higher Education Authority ICT Action Plan is a multi-agency approach to address ICT skills needs for the Irish economy. The Plan estimates that Ireland will produce about 1,200 computing graduates at degree level in 2013. Given that about 75% of computing students enrol on degree programmes, the remaining 25% of graduates from shorter certificate level programmes increases the number to about 1,500 computing

graduates produced annually by Ireland in total. To put that in perspective, India produces about 700,000 computing graduates per year (although local sources indicate quality issues in that only 25% are considered employable <sup>1</sup>). That is, India produces about 500 times more computing graduates than Ireland. The situation is even starker if we consider a comparison with China who is ahead of their target of educating 190 million people to degree level by 2020. Some signs are encouraging in Ireland; more students are choosing computing degree programmes.

Also, the ICT Action Plan goal of producing 2,000 degree-level graduates in computing annually by 2018 looks likely to be achieved, given the number of students who entered computing degree courses in 2013, even when taking into account an overall attrition rate of between 20 and 36 per cent on these courses over the four years.

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*...it is not a brute-force numbers game; rather Ireland needs to be smart in its approach to computing education.*

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The clear message from the above is that it is not a brute-force numbers game; rather Ireland needs to be smart in its approach to computing education. While there is a skills need in relation to the supply of computing graduates, it is not just about producing more graduates; rather the goal must be to produce graduates with the right skills. To elaborate on this, certain computing skills can be seen as job multipliers in the sense that these skills can underpin several additional supporting computing jobs. These roles include software architects and user experience (UX) design.

Employers of ICT graduates in Ireland often complain that we produce neither enough graduates, nor the right type of

graduates here. However, the solution is not to deliver more short, conversion-type diploma or certificate courses on the latest ICT hot topic. The third level sector has also been guilty of re-branding courses to appear more attractive to address the downturn in students choosing traditional ICT courses. While innovations in the curriculum are of course welcome, there is no quick fix. The situation is reminiscent of HL Mencken's apt observation that for every complex problem, there is a solution which is short, simple and wrong! About 55% of jobs in the ICT sector in Ireland are satisfied by internal immigration. A lot of Irish employers are solving their development needs by employing developers from Eastern Europe and former Soviet bloc states. This is interesting as these countries have not pursued the latest fads in their third level computing options. Their computer laboratories are generally not as well equipped with modern technology as here. Courses tend to be more traditional, eg focused on hardware or software, for example. We get several graduates from these countries enrolling in Masters programmes here. What I have found impressive is the level to which sound principles of programming, for example, have been inculcated. For example, one student who enrolled here recently taught himself Java in his spare time. He had only studied the C language in his undergraduate degree, but he quickly became as proficient as any of the students who had taken Java to degree level. Thus, my point is that rather than employers suggesting that our third level institutions produce graduates familiar with the latest technology hot topic, we take a more rational approach,

combining the fundamentals with the high value skills, and seek to optimise all levels of our education system to help deliver the necessary skills into the future. To summarise, we at Lero – the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre are passionate about improving the software industry capacity here, from the Lero Scratch programme in secondary schools through to Lero Graduate School in Software Engineering at PhD level. We would welcome further collaboration with employers and agencies to ensure that we develop the world-class computing education that we need in this country if we are to deliver on our potential in this space.

“

*...we (should) take a more rational approach, combining the fundamentals with the high value skills.*

”

**Professor Brian Fitzgerald**  
*Chief Scientist Lero –  
the Irish Software Engineering  
Research Centre*

1. [www.articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2011-04-07/news/29392668\\_1\\_engineering-colleges-employability-study-nasscom](http://www.articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2011-04-07/news/29392668_1_engineering-colleges-employability-study-nasscom)





SP



## SPORTS NEWS

## O'Connor Cup Winners

**H**earliest congratulations to our Senior Ladies Footballers who captured the O'Connor Cup for the first time since 2004 after a pulsating final victory over hosts Queens University Belfast. Down at half-time, UL seemed to be outclassed by an extremely mobile and talented Queens side. However, the team regrouped and came out with an unbelievable display of sheer determination, preventing the hosts from scoring in the second half. Crucial goals

from Julia White and Roisin Leonard helped UL to victory with the final score 3-7 to 1-9. Six UL team members received all-star awards: Sarah Tierney, Kate Keaney, Jennifer Grant, Julia White, Niamh O'Dea and Aine Tighe. Two outstanding players, Julia White and Niamh O'Dea, received dual awards for the O'Connor Cup win and the Ashbourne Cup camogie victory. Selection to the All-Star team in two codes in the same season is surely a historic achievement.

## EU Nations Waterpolo Tournament

**T**he University of Limerick was chosen as host venue for the EU Nations Waterpolo Tournament with teams representing Ireland, Switzerland, Austria, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Malta playing twenty games over three days.

The Irish team did not disappoint and shocked the crowd by winning their opening game against a much-fancied Swiss team, nine goals to seven. Later that evening, they thrilled the home support by accounting for Scotland 12 – 9, leaving them feeling confident before the match against Austria the next day. However, the bubble was burst when the clinical Austrians netted fifteen to Ireland's seven. After a loss to the bookie's favourite, Malta, the Irish came back to win the bronze medal by defeating Austria for a second time, thirteen goals to six - a fantastic victory.

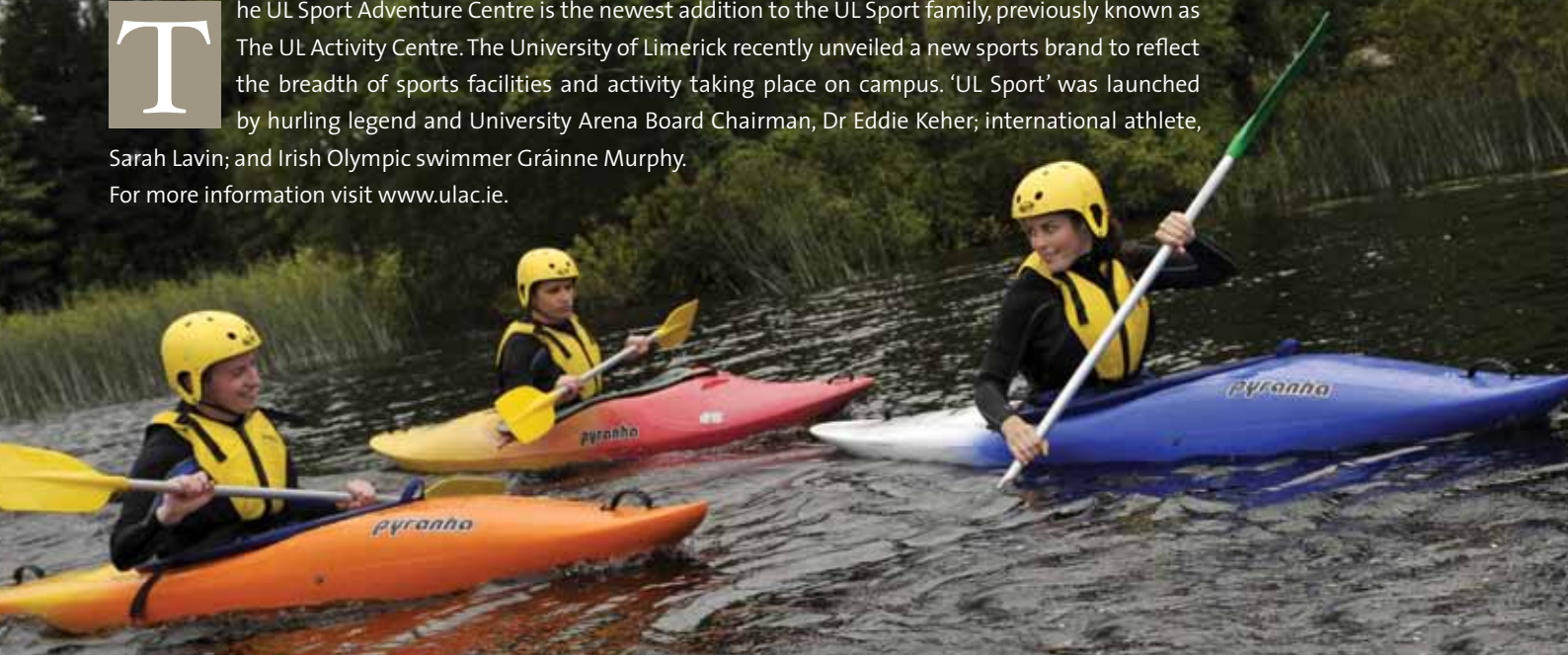


UL's Senior Ladies Footballers celebrate the O'Connor Cup win.



## Activity Centre Joins UL Sport

**T**he UL Sport Adventure Centre is the newest addition to the UL Sport family, previously known as The UL Activity Centre. The University of Limerick recently unveiled a new sports brand to reflect the breadth of sports facilities and activity taking place on campus. 'UL Sport' was launched by hurling legend and University Arena Board Chairman, Dr Eddie Keher; international athlete, Sarah Lavin; and Irish Olympic swimmer Gráinne Murphy. For more information visit [www.ulac.ie](http://www.ulac.ie).



## UL Sport Kids Run for Fun

**T**he University of Limerick is proud to support Barrington's Hospital, who have created Ireland's largest mass participation event for children, namely the UL Sport Kids Run for Fun as part of the Great Limerick Run. In its second year, 2,000 children aged 4 to 12 years of age participated in the four race distances spanning 1km, 1.5km, 2km and 2.5km. Speaking at the launch, UL Vice President Academic and Registrar, Professor Paul McCutcheon said, "Running and other mass participation sporting events are becoming increasingly popular across the country and I am delighted, on behalf of the University, to lend our support and partner with the Barrington's Hospital Great Limerick Run team in delivering an important element of the overall event series."



Helping to launch the UL Sport Kids Run for Fun event at the University of Limerick were pupils from Lisnagry National School, Jane Byrnes, Ciara Macken, Tom Marsden and Mark Donnellan.



## 25th Anniversary of a Famous Victory

**T**he reputation of a university will always be determined by its scholarly achievements, but many other events will enhance its reputation. Not least amongst these will be its attainments in the realm of sport and the arts. It is fitting, therefore, to recall one such sporting occasion in UL's glorious sporting heritage.

1989 was a momentous year in the history of the University of Limerick. The New Year was just a few weeks old when the Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke TD, announced that the NIHE Limerick was to be granted university status. Just six weeks later the university's senior hurling team travelled to Belfield, home of UCD, to participate for just the second time in the Fitzgibbon Cup, the blue riband inter-varsity competition.

Having dispatched UCG (NUIG) and WIT in the quarter-final and semi-final respectively, the stage was set for a final showdown against the hosts UCD. The home side had the upper hand in the first half. Following a tense and fiercely contested second half, UL emerged victors on the score-line of 2-9 to 1-9.

25 years later, no less than 22 of the 24-man panel returned to the UL campus for a reunion. Guests included Dr Leo Colgan, former Registrar; Fr John O'Shea, former Chaplain who recalled the role of the late Jacinta O'Brien and presented the Club with the sliothar used in the final which will be added to the museum of sporting memorabilia at the University. The event was also attended by Phil Bennis, the former Limerick hurling legend who coached the team; Brian Finn, the then GAA Development Officer and trainer of the team; Paddy Shanahan the team physio; and John Lenihan, team manager. Deirdre Murphy, UL's current GAA Development Officer, accepted the presentation of a hurley signed by all of the players from one of the stars of the team, Brian Stapleton.

### Dave Quinlan:

Known to all as "Quill", Dave was the driving force behind the reunion, and back in 1989 was the centre-field dynamo. Dave graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor in Electronic Engineering. Since graduating, Dave has worked for Ericsson in London, Stockholm and Athlone.

### Jim Hackett:

Jim graduated with a Bachelor in Electronic Engineering in 1991. He was recruited immediately by Mitsubishi and worked in Japan and San Jose, where he found time to play with the St Joseph's Hurling Club. He returned to Ireland to work with IBM and then to take up a senior position with Johnson & Johnson.

### Brendan Corcoran:

Brendan graduated with a degree in Industrial Chemistry in 1990 and immediately moved to Sardinia, Italy and joined Nuova Samin, part of the ENI Group. He also worked in Chicago where he met up with fellow Fitzgibbon-winner, Dan Tracey, and played for the Limerick team in Chicago.

### James Healy:

Not a player on the day, but graduating with a Business Studies degree, James used his strong business links to find very generous sponsorship for the team. He has extensive experience in the food industry having worked with such big brand names as Golden Vale and Bewleys and more recently two new start-up companies.

### Brian Stapleton:

Looking younger than most on the night, Brian in fact was one of the earliest mature students at UL. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Studies (Honours) and has since worked for Shannon Aerospace and a number of aviation companies in Australia. Brian recently established the Irish Aviation Leadership Group in Dublin and is a director with HomingPIN which is the world's first global lost property recovery system.



Dave Quinlan



Jim Hackett



Brendan Corcoran



James Healy



Brian Stapleton

## Special Olympics and much more...



While the academic year may be drawing to a close, the summer sports schedule is just getting started.

UL will play host to the 2014 Special Olympics National Games 12th – 15th June with 1,500 Special Olympics athletes from the four corners of Ireland participating in the 3-day residential Games, in 13 sports competitions plus a comprehensive non-competitive Motor Activities Training Programme. Seven of the 13 events will be hosted on the UL campus.

May sees some 600 U-14 girls take part in the Gaynor Cup Soccer Tournament - a 3 day festival of football run by the WFAI, followed by the U-16 4-day tournament in June.

June will also see the arrival of 800 school-boys for the annual weeklong FAI Kennedy Cup tournament which includes the cream of underage soccer players and also attracts many scouts from top premiership clubs such as Liverpool and Chelsea.

Also in June, some 300 school children will visit UL each day to try their hand at archery, swimming, orienteering and uni-hoc to mention but a few of the many activities on offer.

In July 3,000 participants, coaches and families will descend upon the UL campus for the Munster Community Games. This is a multi-sports event with approximately 14 sports – from rounders to GAA, from judo to drafts - there will not be an inch of sports hall or grass area unoccupied, as the campus becomes a hive of sporting activity.

July also welcomes the European Powerchair Football Association Nations Cup; nine countries will participate in the event at the UL Sport Arena including Ireland, England, France, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. The Nations Cup will be a competition in its own right for the title of European Nations Champions and will also be a European zone qualifying tournament for the World Cup in 2015 in Brazil. The top five placed teams will qualify for the World Cup.

*a summer of sport*



UL will also host the International Archery Shoot, Lacrosse and Softball Tournaments and FAI Soccer camps over summer.

Alan's Sports Extravaganza' takes place on Saturday 2 August on the North Campus hosting a tag rugby tournament, an exhibition sevens football match, an array of fitness and exercise classes, and fun interactive physical activities for all ages. This festival of sport aims to raise awareness for organ donation, to promote physical activity and to commemorate the late Alan Feeley – UL graduate and PE teacher who died suddenly following a fatal brain haemorrhage. Sports fanatics, families and friends of Alan's are expected to flock to the campus in their hundreds for what will no doubt be a wonderful memorable weekend in Limerick. For more information visit [www.ulsport.ie](http://www.ulsport.ie)

Images from the 2010 Special Olympics National Games hosted at UL.





# Highlights from the GAA Ball

1. Ashbourne Cup winning Camogie players Carol O'Leary (Clare), Finola Keely (Galway) and Christine O'Neill (Cork). 2. O'Connor Cup winning Football panel belting out the team anthem. 3. UL GAA Club President John Lenehin with Professor Paul McCutcheon, Vice President Academic and Registrar and Dave Mahedy, Director Sport and Recreation. 4. Ashbourne Cup winning camogie players Catriona Hennessy, Ellen Horgan, Caoimhe Maher and Ciara Holohan. 5. Camogie and Ladies Footballers sharing a giggle: Lisa Bolger (Wexford), Judith Mulcahy (Limerick), Niamh Richardson (Limerick), Aine Tighe (Leitrim). 6. Fresher Footballers Gary Patterson (Roscommon), Paddy Lordan (Limerick) and Jack Browne (Clare) enjoying the taste of success. 7. The Clare Mafia! Standing: Maire McGrath, Niamh O'Dea, Lisa Loughnane and Deirdre Murphy (UL GAA Officer). Seated: John Lenehin (Club President), Laura McMahon, Aideen Hogg, Carol O'Leary, Ellen Horgan and Catriona Hennessy. 8. Intermediate Hurler Shane McHugo (in the tuxedo) surrounded by Fresher Hurlers.





# UL STUDENT ACTIVITIES



UL students and winners of  
The Advocate Law Challenge,  
Rosemary Lynch and Ross Mullane.

## Students Win *'The Advocate'* Law Challenge

After four rounds of intense competition, two UL students, Rosemary Lynch and Ross Mullane, were crowned the winners of The Advocate 2014 – McCann FitzGerald's All-Ireland Business Law Challenge.

**I**n the competition, law students compete against each other as they attempt to convince judges that they understand the crucial commercial issues of the day.

The Advocate offers budding lawyers the chance to compete against other top legal students from around the country and win a coveted summer internship with Ireland's top law firm, McCann FitzGerald. The winning team also shares a prize fund of €3,000. The UL team not only won the challenge outright, but they also won an award for Best Written Submission.

The final was adjudicated by The Honorable Mr Justice Peter Kelly, Ms Rose Hynes, Chairman, Bord Gáis Éireann, Irish Water and Shannon Airport Authority plc and Mr John Cronin, Chairman, McCann FitzGerald.





## gradireland Student Challenge Champion Crowned

**A**va Mahony, a final year Masters of Taxation student from UL, has been crowned the first female gradireland National Student Challenge Champion. Ava emerged triumphant against 60 of Ireland's top students after a series of 6 gruelling tasks set by some of Ireland's top graduate employers.

To qualify, a pool of over 4,100 students completed an online test, challenging their verbal reasoning, numerical reasoning, commercial competency and logical thinking. Students were ranked on a leader board, with only the top students qualifying to take part in the Final.

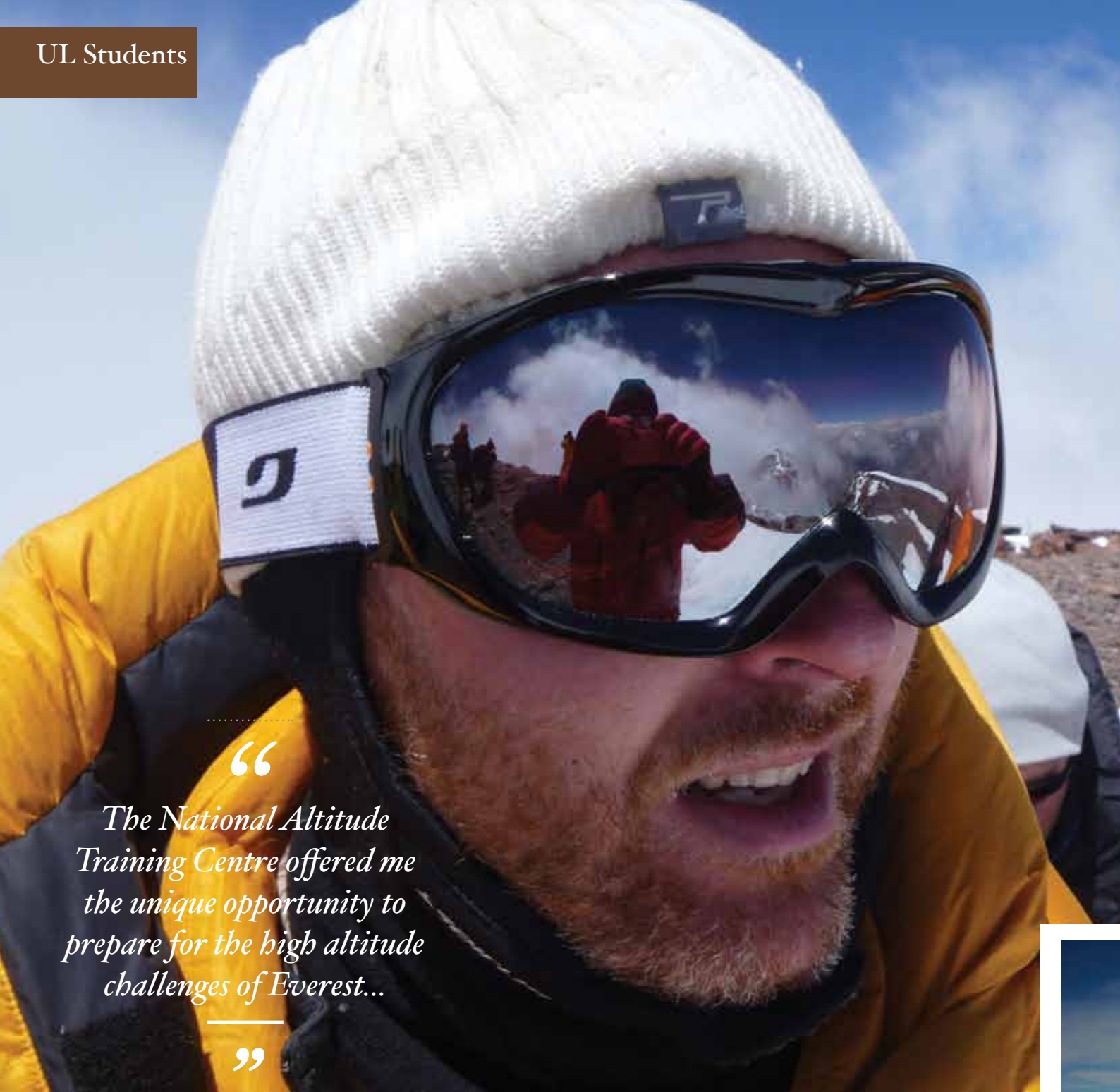
Finalists were then set a series of 6 challenges set by gradireland in collaboration with Lidl, Boston Scientific, PwC, Jameson, SAP and EY, with the help of Irish psychometric testing company cut-e, and mirrored tests used by graduate employers in assessment centres, thus helping all students develop their employability skills. Ava and the other finalists were tested on Planning and Organising; Commercial Acumen; Persistence; Constructive Teamwork; Creativity; and Innovative Problem Solving - all key attributes that top graduate employers look for when recruiting for their graduate positions.

Ava Mahony, winner of the gradireland National Student Challenge.

## National Journalist of the Year Award

**BA Journalism and New Media Student, Fintan Walsh,** has been awarded Journalist of the Year – National Press award at the Oxygen Student Media (S Medias) awards. Fintan received the award for his investigative and health features which he undertook as part of his Cooperative Education placement with the Limerick Leader.





“

*The National Altitude Training Centre offered me the unique opportunity to prepare for the high altitude challenges of Everest...*

”

## UL Supports Alumni Everest Endeavour

UL aeronautical engineering graduates Paul Devaney and Niall O’Byrnes plan to climb the world’s highest mountain as part of the ‘Seven Summits’ challenge; a challenge that sees climbers reach the highest mountain peaks on all seven continents.’





Ireland's only residential altitude training facility, the National Altitude Training Centre (NATC), University of Limerick has been the basecamp for Paul Devaney's training prior to his 8848 metre Everest summit attempt. Having raised over €30,000 for multiple charities to date, Paul is now focused on raising funds for "Liams Lodge" - a unique and much needed respite centre for children with rare genetic diseases.

Paul moved to UL to live in the National Altitude Training Centre (NATC) last July with the University of Limerick Foundation as official training sponsor for his residence. Speaking about his experience and training at UL, Paul said,

"The National Altitude Training Centre offered me the unique opportunity to prepare for the high altitude challenges of Everest while living right here in Ireland and training at the world class facilities on the University campus. My stay in the altitude facility is the longest of any person to date, and with 2000 hours of simulated altitude living completed in advance of reaching Everest Base Camp in April 2014, I will be best placed to take on the challenges of the upper mountain with the advantage of significant altitude adaptation. I would highly recommend the Altitude Centre at the University of Limerick to anyone aspiring to climb the world's highest mountains."



“  
...the world-class  
training facilities and  
multidisciplinary  
sport science support  
available on campus  
at UL.  
”



The NATC is a state-of-the-art facility providing elite sportspeople and mountaineers the opportunity to undertake simulated altitude training in a bespoke living environment, while also availing of the world-class training facilities and multidisciplinary sport science support available on campus at UL.

Paul is the first mountaineer to use the residential altitude training facility. During his stay he has benefited from a broad range of specialist supports available on campus including; yoga breathing techniques, strength and conditioning training at the UL Arena, DEXA body composition scans and VO2max testing.

Paul Devaney's Irish Seven Summits challenge is supported by the University of Limerick Foundation, Plassey Campus Centre, National Altitude training Centre, Physical Education and Sport Science Department and UL Sport.



## Niall Wins Graduate of the Year

University of Limerick graduate, Niall Fitzgerald, has been named 'Graduate Employee of the Year' at the eighth annual gradireland Graduate Recruitment Awards gala evening in Dublin.

**N**iall, who graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2012, undertook his Cooperative Education placement at Abbot Vascular in Clonmel, winning the Abbot Intern of the Year award. On graduation, Niall was offered a graduate position with Abbot and is currently participating in Abbot's professional development programme, which has allowed him to work in four different roles including an international assignment with Abbot in California. In the words of Kevin Walsh, Abbot's Engineering Group Leader, "I have more than fifteen years'

experience working with engineering graduates in the medical devices sector. I have yet to see a graduate make such an impression on a business as Niall has."

The Graduate Recruitment Awards are the blue riband event for graduate recruiters in Ireland and encourage training providers, higher education, business and government to continue to cooperate closely so Irish students are equipped with the necessary skills to compete in a highly competitive, global jobs market.



*Main Image:* Board of Irish College Societies at the Titanic Convention Centre in Belfast.

*Bottom right:* Best Society Individual in Ireland, Triona O'Sullivan.

## Best Society Individual in Ireland

At a gala dinner at the iconic Titanic Convention Centre in Belfast, Triona O'Sullivan from the UL International Society was awarded the Best Society Individual in Ireland in the large college category for 2013/2014.



A popular student, studying 4th-year Business Studies with Human Resources, Triona received a 2 minute standing ovation only weeks earlier in Thomond Park when she won the Best Society Individual in UL, thus qualifying to represent the university on the national stage. Triona claims this year's award for her outstanding contributions to the society and to society life. The National Society of the Year

Awards, hosted by the Board of Irish College Societies, is the highlight for many student-run societies as the only platform in Ireland where societies are acknowledged for their contribution to college life in Ireland with over 17 different third level institutions represented across the island of Ireland. More than 95 individual submissions were assessed over two days by a panel of dedicated independent adjudicators based on portfolio presentations and interviews.





## Limerick Voice Newspaper

Gary Whelan and Karen O'Conner Desmond, students from the UL Media Department, working on the Limerick Voice Newspaper

University of Limerick Journalism students have published their sixth newspaper for the local community. The 48-page newspaper includes news, features and sports stories from the city and county and the designated Regeneration areas. The Limerick Voice has been distributed as a supplement of the Limerick Leader and it will also be circulated to the 1,500 homes in the regeneration areas.

The newspaper was produced by the fourth year BA in Journalism and New Media students and the Graduate Diploma/MA in Journalism students under the same strict editorial guidelines of all local newspapers – a fair and balanced coverage of the main issues concerning the people. The students had to source and write all the stories, write the editorials and analysis pieces and design the pages in UL's Newsroom. An online edition of the paper is available at [Limerickvoice.com](http://Limerickvoice.com).



## Professional Project Managers Ready for Work





## Fifty Academic Scholarships for UL Students

**T**he University of Limerick has awarded 50 first year students €2,000 entrance scholarships for a second year running. The entrance scholarships, which are offered to students who began their undergraduate studies in the Autumn Semester for the Academic Year 2013/14, were established last year as the University celebrated its 40th Anniversary. The decision has been made to extend the offer of entrance scholarships beyond the UL40 celebration year.

The Scholarships are awarded to incoming students based on their performance in the Leaving Certificate determined by their CAO points. All CAO applicants are automatically included in the selection process provided they have not already received another bursary or scholarship from UL. In addition, a number of scholarships were awarded to incoming mature students.

Scholarship recipients Eimear Fitzgerald, Thurles; Isabella Harold-Barry, Tipperary Town; and Sinead Kenrick, Clonmel.



**A**n innovative online master's programme in project and programme management at the University of Limerick has conferred its first set of graduates. Launched in September 2011 by the Centre for Project Management, it is the first fully-online MSc programme in Project Management to be offered through an Irish university. 22 students received their degrees, and because the programme was 100% online, many of the students were meeting their tutors and fellow students in person for the first time at the graduation ceremony.

"Online learning is an excellent way for universities to reach out to professionals who want to further their careers through education," said John Kelly, Director of UL's Centre for Project Management. "The MSc in Project and Programme Management now has over 60 online learners, studying part-

time while holding down busy schedules at work and at home. Our teaching philosophy makes use of the latest technologies to enable students to engage and interact, sharing experiences and learning together."

The graduates travelled from as far afield as Canada, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. "We were delighted to welcome many of them to the UL campus for the first time," said John Kelly. "Through them we have built up a global network of project and programme managers, working in sectors as diverse as IT, oil and gas exploration, pharmaceuticals and construction."

Graduates from the first fully-online MSc programme in project management through an Irish university.



## Safety First!

The UL Safety Week, coordinated by the UL Student Union (ULSU) Welfare Office, was a collaborative effort between many internal and external organisations including UL Health and Safety Division, Limerick SmarterTravel, the Irish Wheelchair Association, the Order of Malta and the Road Safety Authority. The main aim of the week was to raise awareness around road safety, bike safety and personal safety through a range of events and initiatives.

The 'RSA Rollover' simulation showed first-hand what it feels like to roll-over in a car crash and students also learned the proper way to wear a seatbelt.

The 'Hot Wheels Challenge' involved teams taking part in a treasure hunt around campus where one team member had to remain in a wheelchair at all times. The aim was to raise awareness of the multitude of accessibility issues that exist in UL for wheelchair users and how these issues can lead to safety issues. It was also a fantastic way of raising general disability awareness amongst our student body.



1. Participants in the Hot Wheels Challenge.

2. RSA Rollover demonstration.





## Robocode Programming Competition Winners

**C**ongratulations to our UL team who emerged overall winners in the 2014 National Robocode Programming competition which was held as part of the 2014 Games Fleadh at LIT Tipperary. The winning UL team, RavenUL, included first year BEng in Electronic and Computer Engineering students, Ian Lodovica, Raj Shah and Gearoid Cremin.

Robocode is an annual programming competition, open to first year undergraduate students, to demonstrate their programming abilities and advance their knowledge of GUI programming, API usage and Artificial Intelligence.

Prior to the event each team uses Java programming language to 'code' behaviours and functionality into a graphical tank. Tanks are programmed to 'strike' opponent tanks while avoiding being hit themselves. But the competition proceeds without any kind of manual intervention; the tanks rely on their programming to react to changing circumstances in the game.



## Taekwon-do World Champion

**L**ouise McCagh, fourth year Sport and Exercise Sciences student, became the first Irish woman to win an International Taekwon-do Federation (ITF) World title at the ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships in Spain. Louise has become the fourth individual senior champion from Ireland and the first ever female winner of a senior title.

**O**ver 200 UL students tackled our environmental challenges by taking part in '24HRUL' - UL's first 24 hour sustainability challenge. Mixed teams from Marketing, Business, Architecture, Product Design, Energy, Electronic Engineering, Interactive Media and Sustainable Resource Management were presented with a challenge theme - ENGAGE. The teams were asked to raise awareness and engage the campus community in conversations and activities around sustainability in order to achieve positive behavioural change.

The challenge began at midday and ran through the night discussing, arguing,

presenting, consulting and generating potential solutions. The following morning the innovative solutions were pitched to the judging panel, including the UL Sustainability Games, a Floating City, a personal energy monitoring device and a reimagined new student Eco-Village. The winning team presented a holistic idea that comprised a Sustainability Hub on campus that would build in size and ambition as the campus community's engagement in sustainable practices increased. The judges commented that the winning team's solution addressed the holistic nature of sustainability and tackled the issues from a variety of novel and innovative perspectives.

## 24 Hours to Change the World

24 hour Sustainability Challenge students and staff with Professor Don Barry, President, UL.



## Student Placements - Making an Impact at Extern

Occupational Therapy Students, Aoife Dempsey and Nicola Young spent their student placement with children's charity, Extern. During their placements, the students had the opportunity to design and implement a programme of workshops called 'The Feel Good Group for Girls'. The workshops aimed to support the self-esteem of teenaged girls attending Extern services. Extern provides services for at risk children and young people and the students' workshops particularly supported those in need of help with self-esteem and overall mental well-being. Through the workshops each participant developed a repertoire of affirmations and coping strategies to support their positive mental health, this was achieved through music, movement, discussion, art, and photography. The sessions culminated in a professional photo-shoot at the University Concert

Hall, which were then transformed into individual magazine covers displaying each girl's positive affirmations; chosen positive song lyrics and their own identified strengths.

The project has since secured funding from O2 Think Big which supports initiatives promoting positive mental health for young people. The funding will be used to provide a training day for the staff of Extern. It will be co-facilitated by the original workshop participants, providing them with an opportunity to reflect upon and share their own learning with staff. In addition the intervention has been shortlisted for the prestigious Ann Becket Award in Occupational Therapy which recognises excellence in practice. This is a great example of the positive impact of UL students working within the community.

Aoife Dempsey and Nicola Young (middle) pictured with programme participants.



## UL Journalism Graduate Scoops Top Job on RTÉ News Channel



**U**niversity of Limerick journalism graduate, Orla Walsh, has beaten off stiff competition to become the new co-presenter of the RTÉ News2Day programme. The programme was launched by RTE 10 years ago to make news more interesting and engaging for children and teenagers.

RTE Managing Editor Television, Hilary McGouran, said “We were looking for journalism graduates who could take complex news stories and present them in a way that young people can understand and also find interesting and engaging, this is not an internship, we were looking for a graduate who could write, edit and present news from day one.”

Fifteen journalism graduates were called for interview and UL graduate Orla Walsh came out on top. Orla said she was thrilled and delighted to get the job and to co-present the programme with Conor McNally. “I could not have done it without the professional training I got in my UL journalism course – we learnt how to write and edit stories but it also gave me the confidence to present a story on live television,” she added. Orla, who is a native of Shannon, County Clare was among the first graduates in the BA in Journalism and New Media programme in 2012.

Orla Walsh with Conor McNally



## UL Student: Born to Bridge Gaps

“*“Ethio-Modern Dance” allows him to use dance and performance arts as a medium for cultural understanding...*”

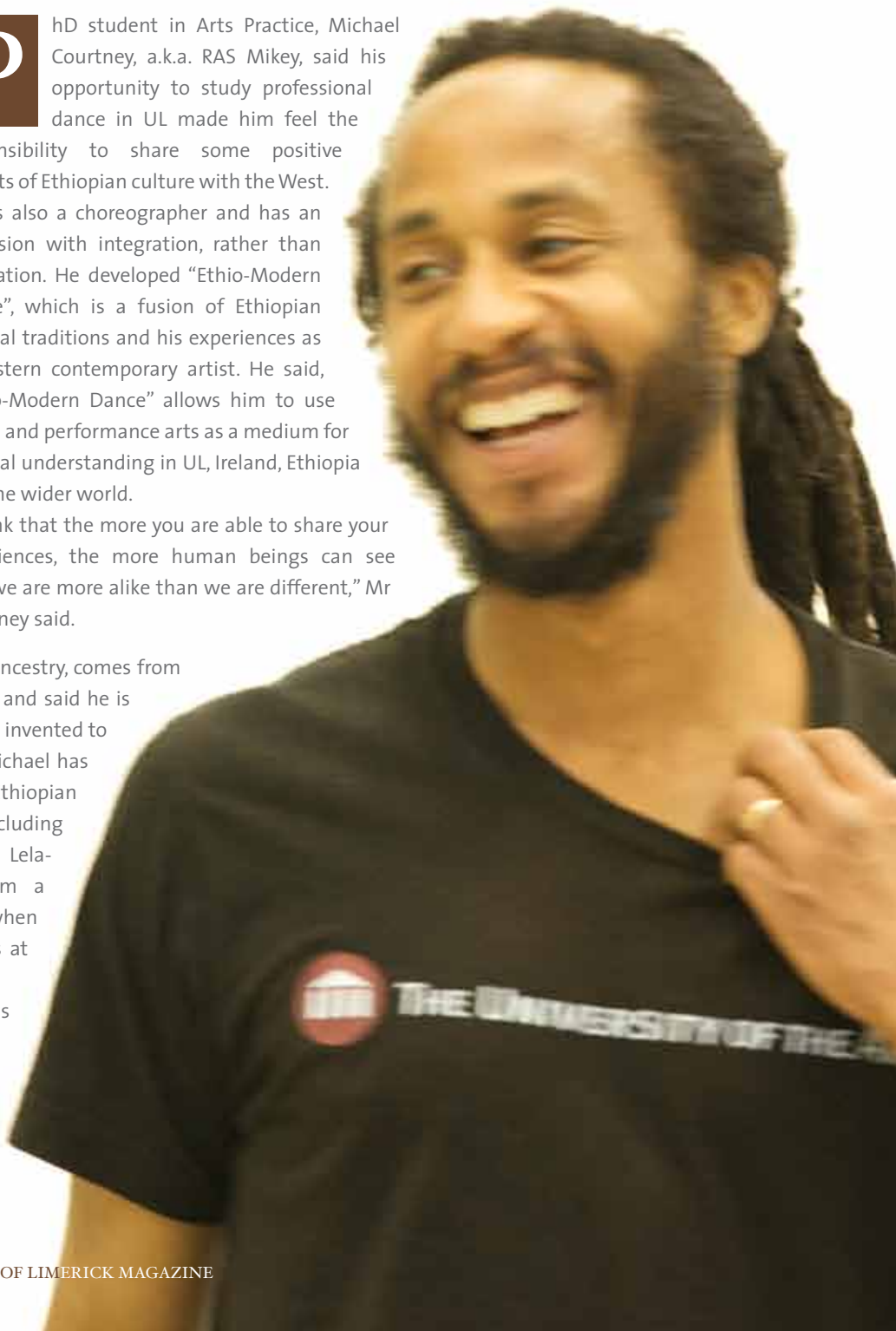
A student profile of Ras Mikey Courtney, PhD Arts Practice student at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. The piece is written by Lylian Fotabong a graduate of the MA in Journalism at UL, Lylian also writes for Africa World Newspaper and Metro.

**P**hD student in Arts Practice, Michael Courtney, a.k.a. RAS Mikey, said his opportunity to study professional dance in UL made him feel the responsibility to share some positive aspects of Ethiopian culture with the West. RAS is also a choreographer and has an obsession with integration, rather than separation. He developed “Ethio-Modern Dance”, which is a fusion of Ethiopian cultural traditions and his experiences as a Western contemporary artist. He said, “Ethio-Modern Dance” allows him to use dance and performance arts as a medium for cultural understanding in UL, Ireland, Ethiopia and the wider world.

“I think that the more you are able to share your experiences, the more human beings can see that we are more alike than we are different,” Mr Courtney said.

The 35year-old American of Ethiopian ancestry, comes from the popular RnB and Hip- Pop cultures and said he is “Pan-Africanist” and “Lifest” – a noun he invented to illustrate his artistic outlook of life. Michael has an assiduous passion for promoting Ethiopian traditions, which is noted by many, including Ethiopian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Lela-Alem Gebreyohanes, who called him a “Cultural Ambassador of Ethiopia” when she attended one of his performances at the University last May.

RAS continues to showcase his ingenuities in teaching hip-pop, African dance and choreographing independent projects for The Academy and UL. He was happy to begin the unprecedented “Taste of Africa” series, a project he coordinates with PhD





student, O'Dyke Nzewi, and under the auspices of The Irish World Academy. "The series demonstrates and shares African dance traditions within UL, so that people don't see Africa as distant from them," he said.

Mr Courtney moved to Ethiopia from America in 2005 where he met his wife with whom they have two boys, aged six and two. His parents, two brothers and two sisters live in the US. The 5'6" American said, as a child, he sang and acted more, but "shied away" from music when he was older because he thought it involved too much theory.

His only weakness, perhaps, was his naivety in believing that professional dancing was easier, little realising that a career in dance was as difficult as one in music, but one which turned out to be a blessing to Ethiopia, Ireland and the world.

"My career allows me to express myself and be happy.

"I am sharing my knowledge, experiences and professionalism in UL to the best of my ability and I hope that this will connect the different divides."



*The Irish World Academy welcomes many international students on part-time and full-time programmes every year ensuring a mix of culture and experience on every programme. The Academy will celebrate over 20 years of music and dance in 2014 as their programmes and student numbers continue to grow.*

## Erasmus Student Profile - John McDaniel

**J**ohn McDaniel, a postgraduate student preparing his PhD in Law, undertook an Erasmus placement to the University of Copenhagen working under the guidance of Professor Henrik Stevnsborg. "The Erasmus office in UL was fantastic to deal with. The Erasmus team, who were wonderful ambassadors for the Erasmus programme, provided me with numerous information packets pertaining to the University of Copenhagen and the surrounding city. They were always welcoming and constantly on hand to answer queries. My trip to Copenhagen as a visiting PhD researcher couldn't have been more productive – the work that I undertook now represents a highly valuable part of my thesis. I met numerous new colleagues who are working in my subject area in Denmark and I intend to collaborate with some of them once my doctoral studies are complete.

I would not have been able to undertake the fruitful research trip without the support, both administrative and financial, of the Erasmus office in UL."



John McDaniel beside 'Little Mermaid' statue in Copenhagen.

## 50 Outstanding KBS Students Awarded

**F**ifty high achieving University of Limerick business and management students were honoured with a KBS / Northern Trust Outstanding Scholar Awards at the Annual Kemmy Business School (KBS) 2014 awards ceremony. This is the 10th year of the awards run by the KBS which recognises the most outstanding scholars in the School each year. The students were presented their award Certificates by Dr Philip O'Regan, Dean of the KBS and Catherine Duffy, General Manager, Northern Trust - Limerick. Dr O'Regan said at the event, 'this awards ceremony recognises truly outstanding student achievements across 29 different Certificate, Diploma, Degree, Graduate Diploma and Masters programmes.'

Catherine Blake, MSc Marketing, Consumption & Society, pictured with Julie-Ann Russell, studying for a BBS Marketing and Dr Philip O'Regan, Dean, Kemmy Business School.







Aeronautical engineering students  
Zameer Judge, Co. Mayo;  
Ciaran Conway, Limerick;  
Anthony O'Carroll, Co.  
Kerry; and Ali Kearney,  
Dooradoyle.



## Engineering Students Test Model 'Medical-Evacuation' Aeroplanes

**F**ourth year Aeronautical Engineering students at UL have conducted flight tests of model aircraft which were designed to simulate a 'medical-evacuation' mission. Two teams of students designed and constructed remotely-controlled subscale aircraft to meet defined specifications including being able to taxi over very rough fields, take-off and land in less than 12 metres and carry a 1.4 kg payload (wooden blocks that simulate patients and medical attendants).

Aeronautical Engineering student and Leader of Green Team, Anthony O'Carroll said, "The DBF (Design-Build-Fly) is an excellent project. Blood, sweat and tears have gone into this model and it gives me and my team great pleasure to see it in the air. The manufacturing aspect of this project was very enjoyable. We used a lot of carbon fibre in our design and it was an experience to work with new materials."

UL offers the only Bachelor of Engineering in Aeronautical Engineering programme in the Republic of Ireland and has developed strong links with many of the world's leading aerospace companies, including Airbus, Boeing and Bombardier Aerospace.







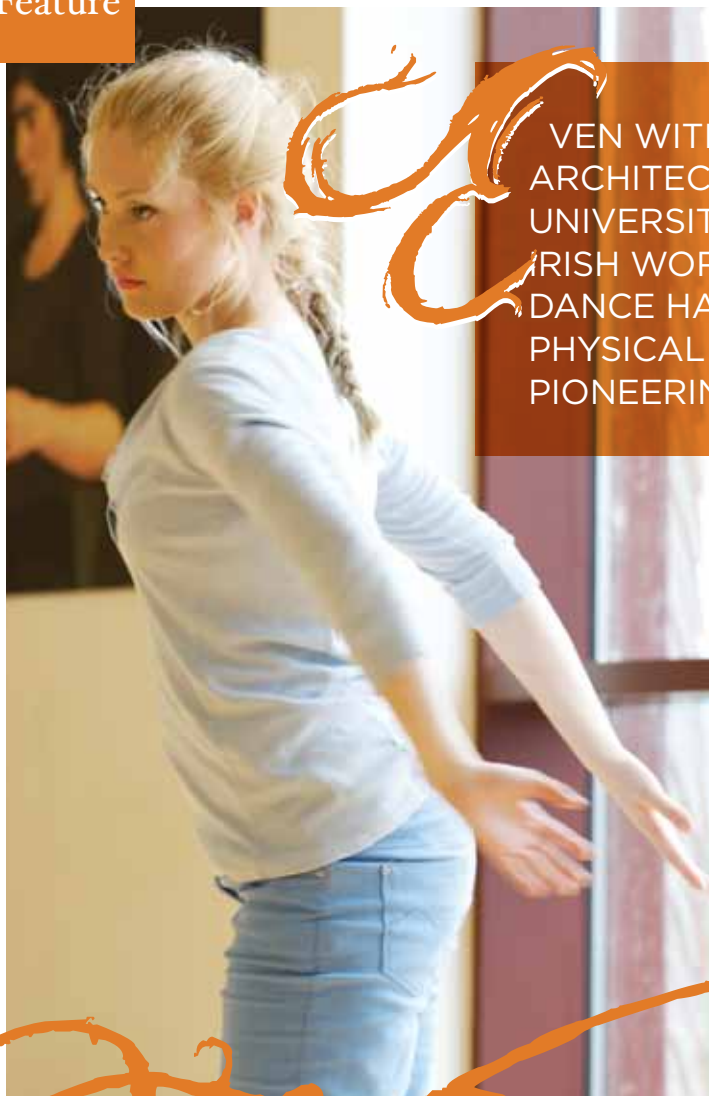
The Risk

Wild

Academy

A SONG & DANCE OF SUCCESS

By Journalist Michael Seaver



EVEN WITHIN THE IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK'S CAMPUS, THE IRISH WORLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE HAS AN ICONIC PRESENCE, ITS PHYSICAL UNIQUENESS MIRRORING THE PIONEERING ACTIVITY WITHIN ITS WALLS.

intersecting areas of activity and by integrating locally-based professional practitioners. IWMC initially offered a "suite" of MA inter-related programmes that drew on the resources of Glenstal Abbey, and the UL-based Irish Chamber Orchestra and Daghdha Dance Company. In addition to MAs in Ritual Chant and Song, String Performance, Contemporary Dance, there were MAs in Traditional Dance, Ethnochoreology, Community Music and Music Therapy.

"I knew that I couldn't get 20 staff members to teach in one particular area," Ó Súilleabháin said. "But what if I chose interrelated areas that had connections and contexts in existing work? I could get just one staff member in one area, but that staff member would actually be seeding prepared ground."

Those seeds have thrived. Marking its twentieth anniversary in 2014, the IWAMD now offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes. A year-long celebration - Academy 20 - will offer an opportunity to reflect on IWAMD's work to date and its local, national and international impact. By happy co-incidence, Limerick becomes Ireland's inaugural City of Culture in 2014 and the local ties that underpin the academy's continued success will be further strengthened through engagement with the 2014 City of Culture initiative. In particular, students from the MA Festive Arts programmes (launched in 2013) will be collaborating with local artists and community groups and inviting aerial dancers, performers and storytellers to IWAMD to interact with staff and students and develop work for the City of Culture.

After twenty years IWAMD might be firmly consolidated, but the pioneering nature of its early achievements cannot be overstated.

Visitors approach the building by crossing a bridge spanning the River Shannon, a journey complete with metaphoric resonance of connecting previously separate entities. Walking through its doors, the high ceilinged atrium is immediately welcoming as it reveals floors of studios, offices and performing spaces.

Architect DLB Cordier have placed the performing spaces at the heart of the building, surrounding them with studios, practice rooms and support accommodation like monastic buildings around a cloister. This is not only an historical nod to the area's monastic past, but reflects the academy's primary objective.

In an interview with The Irish Times in 1999, founding director Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin spoke of creating a community of learning within the then-named Irish World Music Centre (IWMC) based in the Foundation Building. This community would be formed through





## THE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCE BEING RECOGNISED IN AN ACADEMIC CONTEXT WAS HUGE,...

“The symbolic significance of traditional Irish dance being recognised in an academic context was huge, not alone for Ireland, but also internationally,” says Dr. Catherine Foley, who designed the MA in Traditional Dance and has directed it to date. “It was the first MA in Irish traditional dance in the world and, to the best of my knowledge, the first MA in any traditional dance form in the world.” Although practically-based, it was about more than just steps.

“By allowing for the examination of Irish dance within a university context it enabled the development of our understanding of our humanity in Ireland, as well as the social, political and cultural dimensions associated with the practice as it has developed over two hundred years, and the aesthetic values embodied, expressed and valued by people in Ireland,” says Foley. Step dancers have studied, performed, and become critically aware of Irish dance history, European dance history, World dance history and their respective movement aesthetic systems, business skills, choreography-for-camera skills and contemporary dance principles.

The MA in Traditional Dance has produced graduates who are engaged in professional dance work and the development of new choreography. Some of these are leading performing scholars and scholarly performers in the field, and all graduates generate an awareness both nationally and internationally of the developments of Irish dance practices within the context of the University of Limerick.

Similarly, the MA in Ethnochoreology (an interdisciplinary subject which considers dance in its cultural context) critically engages students in relevant multidisciplinary literature and in the actual physical field where they engage with the ‘living’ culture. It therefore extends students’ horizons by looking at dance or any human movement system within one’s own and others’ cultures. The programme is European partner of the IPEDAM 10-day Erasmus programmes since 2003.

“I have, since then, been a senior ethnochoreologist teaching and assessing work of new ethnochoreologists on this European programme,” says Foley. Registered students on UL’s MA in Ethnochoreology programme can attend, free of charge, this intensive programme annually hosted by Trondheim University, Norway, where they get to meet and engage with leading academics in the field of ethnochoreology and dance anthropology.

One graduate is Breandán de Gallaí. A former dancer with Riverdance, including seven years as Principal Male Lead dancer, he followed fellow Riverdancers Jean Butler and Colin Dunne to UL. Whereas Butler and Dunne followed stints as artists-in-residence by embarking on MAs in Contemporary Dance – both are now highly active and respected in the contemporary dance scene – De Gallaí was drawn to the MA in Ethnochoreology.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE HAS BEEN SIMILARLY INVIGORATED BY THE IRISH WORLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE.

Colin Dunne,  
Visiting Tutor at  
IWAMD.

"Having returned to Ireland from a nine-year spell with Riverdance, I found myself in a liminal space struggling to find my place within the wider dance landscape to express myself as a dancer and choreographer," he says. "I had given up my touring life with the intention of questioning my own practice as a contemporary Irish dance artist." That questioning has culminated in a recently-completed PhD in Arts Practice, which, for him, was a logical next step in his academic self-investigation.

"Hierarchical struggles are not a new phenomenon when it comes to new 'knowledges' being accepted by the University. To me, anti-Cartesian approaches to pedagogy is a positive move and I welcome any university who is progressive in this respect. Besides, there is a history of disciplines that were once at the margins of academic legitimacy now being well established within the institution.

"But the MA is only one hurdle. PhD-worthiness is an entirely different battle, with the 'doctorateness' of something closely defended. The PhD Arts Practice now on offer in the IWAMD may struggle with two sets of incompatible competencies, satisfying the demands of the university and the outside world of art production. But my own personal experience of such a programme has not only been rich, but significant in that it has allowed my artistic work and research to breathe." Contemporary dance has been similarly invigorated by the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. Like traditional dance, a snapshot of the Irish contemporary dance scene twenty years ago would have revealed two weaknesses: a lack of academic rigour behind practice and compartmentalised communities who rarely engaged with each other. Contemporary dance training took place principally in the UK, with many students choosing not to return to Ireland on graduation. These days many Irish contemporary dance production will include cast members with some link to IWAMD.

Again, the University of Limerick was pioneering in bringing dance into academic learning through the physical education courses. The Department of Physical Education and Sports Science continues to offer a Graduate Diploma and an MA in Dance with a strong emphasis on education for those who want to deepen their knowledge and understanding of dance. In contrast, the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at IWAMD is focussed on performance and the process of performing and devising choreographic work.



“Students are also introduced to the field of practice-based research, which prepares them to progress to PhD research in this field if they so wish,” says course director Mary Nunan. “It provides an opportunity for mature and well established dance artists to be in an environment that supports them to research their practice and explore it from a number of different perspectives.” In addition to Irish artists like Jean Butler, Colin Dunne, Jenny Roche, Katherine O’Malley and Nick Bryson, students have also come from the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Scotland, Brazil, Palestine, Mexico and Malaysia. Some graduates, like Jenny Roche and Mairead Vaughan, have moved on to complete PhD research in dance.

Links to the national and international dance community have also been created by commissioning work from guest choreographers and teachers, like Yoshiko Chuma,

between training and professional experience,” says Nunan. “The Academy does this by providing the studios and office space free of charge. Additionally, I have been Chair of the Steering Committee since its inception.”

The range of programmes at UL - from undergraduate to Doctoral studies - are making a continued impression on the Irish and international dance landscape. Graduates of the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance are working in many different roles in the professional dance community, as artists-in-residences, artistic directors of companies, the Arts Council executive, festival directors, and independent artists. The effect on the traditional dance scene is equally potent.




THE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES AT UL - FROM UNDERGRADUATE TO DOCTORAL STUDIES - ARE MAKING A CONTINUED IMPRESSION ON THE IRISH AND INTERNATIONAL DANCE LANDSCAPE.

Mark Baldwin, Charles Linehan, Liz Roche, John Scott and Fearghus O’Conchuir. In addition guest teachers have included artists of the calibre of Steve Paxton, Yvonne Rainer, Lisa Nelson, Eva Karzac, Jodi Melnick and Wendy Houstoun. The internationally renowned Liz Roche Dance Company has also been in residence.

In 2010, Step-Up: Dance Project – a joint initiative with the Arts Council and Dance Ireland - was established to offer graduates an opportunity to work with leading choreographers and perform their works. “Step-Up is another example of how UL supports professional arts practice, by helping to bridge the gap for young dancers

“I think the resonances of the programmes will really be felt when those who entered the commercial performance worlds return,” says Breandán de Gallaí. “Rather than returning to their roots and having a vocational engagement with the form, they can choose to look at it from a more academic vantage point. This community is massive and global, but quite close-knit and the importance of the work at UL will eventually ripple throughout the community at large.”

## UL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Graduate Profile

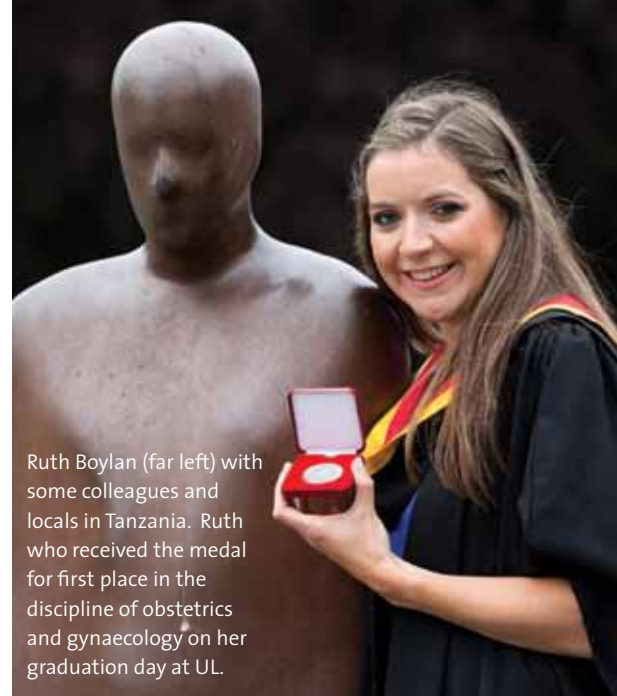
# Ruth Boylan...

Ruth Boylan was a student of the UL Graduate Entry Medical School and has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, she hails from Celbridge, County Kildare and recounts for UL Links her time at GEMS.

**I** studied pharmacy at RCSI, Dublin, graduating in 2007. Upon graduation I did a six month internship as a pharmacist with Leo Laboratories - a pharmaceutical company specialising in the manufacture of creams for dermatological conditions such as psoriasis. Following this, I worked for 18 months as a community pharmacist in Dublin. However for many years, I wanted to study medicine and become a doctor.

I specifically chose the Graduate Entry Medical (GEMS) programme at the University of Limerick because it offered me the opportunity to complete undergraduate medical training in four years in a medical school specifically designed for graduate students. Being an avid sportswoman, I also knew that UL boasted some of the best sporting facilities and sports teams in the country. Having such excellent sports facilities on campus would allow me to continue my sporting interests while studying here.





Ruth Boylan (far left) with some colleagues and locals in Tanzania. Ruth who received the medal for first place in the discipline of obstetrics and gynaecology on her graduation day at UL.

# My Time at GEMS

As a student of GEMS I was particularly impressed with the highly innovative curriculum in the pre-clinical years 1 and 2, which is delivered in the format of problem-based learning in small groups. I also enjoyed the practical nature of the course, clinical skills are taught from the first week in the programme. The programme also offered the opportunity to complete special study modules in areas of interest and to volunteer abroad as a medical student.

The summer between 3rd year and final year is an ideal time to do these electives and many students travel overseas to gain experience in specialty fields of medicine or work in hospitals in developing countries. The GIVE society (founded by UL GEMS students) organise summer electives in hospitals in Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania. I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to travel to Makiungu, a tiny village in central Tanzania in the summer of 2012. I was accompanied by three classmates and we spent four weeks in the hospital where we gained great experience in the fields of surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology and infectious diseases. We assisted the local doctors in surgical procedures, helped with the running of the hospital pharmacy, met members

“  
...deciding to study  
medicine at UL  
was definitely one  
of the best decisions  
I've ever made!

of the Flying Doctor Team and gave medical educational presentations to the staff at the hospital. It was not all work and no play and while in Tanzania we did manage to visit the beautiful island of Zanzibar and have a 4 day excursion to Serengeti National Park during our time off - a wonderful experience!

This programme of study at UL is an intensive and demanding course and at times it can be hard to balance academic work with family time, social life and hobbies. The biggest challenge was finding time for other things in life apart from medicine!

After completing my degree, I was delighted to accept the offer of an internship in St

Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin. I began my internship there in July 2013. I spent my first 3 months in the Respiratory Department and I am currently the neurology intern for Professor Tubridy. My job is very busy and challenging with long hours but I truly love it! I am constantly learning. Looking towards the future, I think I would like to specialise in neurology. This job is giving me a great introduction to the specialty! I can say that deciding to study medicine at UL was definitely one of the best decisions I've ever made!

# Gradua

## **Helen Raftery** BA Physical Education and English 1991

Originally from Co Galway, Helen is CEO of Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI), part of a worldwide organisation reaching out to millions of young people each year by encouraging them to remain in education and helping them to develop the skills they need to succeed.

## **Xiaoyang Zhao** Msc in Financial Services 2007

Originally from China, Xiaoyang joined Dell in Limerick in 2007 as part of the graduate programme. Following a recent a job offer, Xiaoyang has now moved to the UK where she is Deployment Manager with Reckitt Benckiser plc at their head-quarters in Berkshire.

## **Ronan Coy** BEng Electronic Engineering 1999

Originally from Loughrea, Co Galway, Ronan is Strategic Projects Director at Fujitsu Ireland with responsibility for delivering strategic projects, business efficiency, business development, technology strategy and operational improvements. He began his career as a field engineer, progressing to Infrastructure Architect and Customer Solutions Architect.

## **Orla Walsh** BA in Journalism and New Media 2012

Orla is the new co-presenter of the RTE News2Day programme, launched 10 years ago to make news more interesting and engaging for children and teenagers. A native of Shannon, Co. Clare, she previously worked in local radio station, Spin South West and the Irish Examiner newspaper.

## **Fiona Coghlan** BSc in Physical Education 2005

From her loose-head prop position, Fiona captained the Irish Women's Rugby Team to their first Six Nations Championship in 2013, including their first ever win against England, allowing Ireland to claim an historic Grand Slam. A native of Clontarf in Dublin and now teaching in Co Kildare, Fiona also received the honour of Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sportswoman of the Year.

## **Robert O'Meara** BA European Studies 1997

Director of Media and Communications at Airports Council International Europe, Robert is regularly in contact with the media, EU institutions and airports, including Aéroports de Paris, where he completed his UL Co-Op placement in 1995. Living in Brussels, Robert previously worked in communications at the European Commission's Science & Research DG.

## **Déirdre Keary** BA European Studies 1991

Originally from Aughrim, Co. Galway, Déirdre is Chief Underwriting Officer at ALD Re Ltd. Previous roles included underwriting and management positions in Willis, HSBC and Mitsui Sumitomo Re. Deirdre and her husband Ken Breen, who graduated from UL in the same class, live in Malahide, Co. Dublin with their two daughters.



Xiaoyang Zhao



Ronan Coy



Robert O'Meara



Orla Walsh



Fiona Coghlan

Helen Raftery



# te Lives

**Michael Hourigan** BA 1999, LLB 2001

Following his graduation, Michael continued his studies at King's Inns and qualified as a barrister in 2004, also holding an Advanced Diploma in Corporate, White Collar and Regulatory Crime. Originally from Castletroy, Limerick and now living in Dublin, Michael divides his time between the Four Courts and the Criminal Courts of Justice where he has appeared in a number of high-profile cases.

**Karen (Kilroy) Morton** BBS & French 1995

A native of Limerick and now Brand Director for Europe, Middle East and Africa at Dell, Karen drives awareness of Dell's brand and purpose. She is involved in the 'Connecting Women in Technology' committee, the 'IT is not just for Geeks' programme for secondary school students and is leading Dell's Sponsorship of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014.

**John Hurley** MBA 1988

Newly-appointed as CEO of Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, John plans to focus on members by working to enhance the potential of their business and support activities around job creation and sustainability. A native of Tralee, Co Kerry, John is a Chartered Toastmaster, a qualified Chartered Insurer and is married with two children.

**Catriona Scanlon** MBS in Human Resource Management 2008

Originally from Templeglantine, Co. Limerick, Catriona is Marketing, PR and Sales Executive for international engineering design, project and construction management firm, PM Group in Shanghai. Catriona is also heavily involved in the local GAA club and was one of the organisers of the recent GAA All Stars Hurling Tour (2013) to Shanghai.

**Ronan White** BTech Materials and Construction 2012

Cork native, Ronan makes wooden sculptures from his workshop at home in Glanmire. Among his best-known pieces are creative designs based on a human skull and long-stem roses. A qualified Woodwork teacher, Ronan's dream is to strike a balance between teaching and sculpting.

**Rory McGovern** Grad Dip Music Education 2005

Since 2009, Rory has been running music courses with Youth Work Ireland Cork. Through one-to-one classes and group sessions, he currently helps close to 100 young people to express themselves through music, become artists and help change the culture of their communities in positive ways.

Michael  
Hourigan



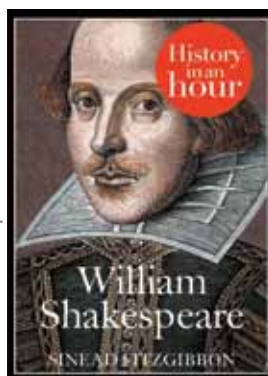
John  
Hurley



Catriona  
Scanlon



# Alumni Authors

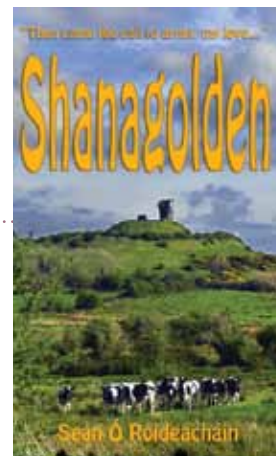


● **Sinead (Kelly) Fitzgibbon**  
BBBS 2000

## *'History In An Hour' Series*

As a self-confessed lover of history, literature and art, Sinead Fitzgibbon has published five titles for the bestselling HarperCollins 'History In An Hour' series, with the latest subject being William Shakespeare (previous subjects have included The Queen, Titanic, The Gunpowder Plot and JFK). Sinead is also working on a series of city histories - the paperback edition of A Short History of London is due soon while A Short History of Dublin is nearing completion.

Following her graduation from UL, Sinead spent 18 months working in Bank of Ireland in the IFSC in Dublin before the lure of travel brought her to Australia. After six years in Sydney where she worked at Macquarie Bank, she moved to the UK in 2007 where she now lives with her Australian husband. Originally from Portarlinton, Co Laois, Sinead now devotes her career to writing and also contributes articles to various publications.



● **John Redington**  
B.Tech (Engineering & Science) 1976, M.Phil 2012

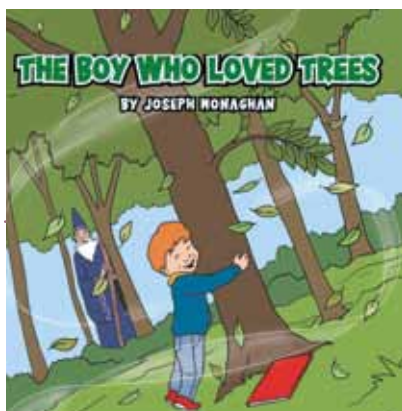
## *'Shanagolden' by Seán Ó Roideacháin*

Published under his Irish name, Limerick man, first President of the UL Students' Union (1972/'73) and Gaelic games writer, John Redington has published a novel 'Shanagolden'. He explains, "The original idea came from Seán McCarthy's ballad, I wondered just who was young Willie, who died on the fields of Shanagolden on a lonely winter's night. And I was intrigued by the forces of circumstance and conviction that sent young men to war and others to rebellion during that momentous decade whose centenary we're now about to commemorate."

*IN THE SUMMER OF 1914, a generation of young men bring a football championship to their village. It's their last moment together. As Europe prepares for war and their own country teeters on the brink of conflict between Nationalist and Unionist, ideals and circumstance pull them to opposing sides. Most would have emigrated to America had the First World War not intervened. Instead they find themselves either in the trenches Flanders or on the streets of Dublin, as they answer the call to arms. When the Great War ends, the Easter Rising has been crushed, and half of the team are dead, the survivors find themselves once again taking sides as the War of Independence is followed by Ireland's Civil War. SHANAGOLDEN follows the lives and loves, the dreams and despair of a small rural community in the country's southwest, as it is catapulted into the new Irish State.*



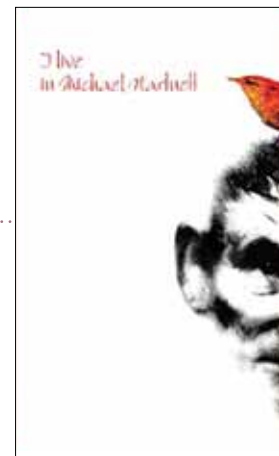
Nothing delights us more here at the ULAA than to see our graduates excel at whatever career path and profession they choose. For this edition of UL Links, we've focused on those who have succeeded in the difficult and competitive world of literature.



**Joseph Monaghan**  
B.Tech (Wood & Building Technology) 1988  
*'The Boy Who Loved Trees.'*

Originally from Connemara in Co. Galway, Joseph Monaghan is a teacher at Presentation Secondary School in Limerick. He is very involved in sports (both coaching and administration), and is married to Geraldine with two children, Bláthín (now a Primary School Teacher) and Joseph who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy a year after his birth and is the inspiration for his father's book 'The Boy Who Loved Trees'. Joseph explains "We would often be walking the dogs down by the Plassey River behind the University and I would be teaching the different types of trees to young Joseph. Later, he asked me to make up a story for him and of course I obliged and the rest, as they say, is history."

*A BRAVE YOUNG BOY enters the forest to collect leaves from his favourite trees. As he makes his way happily from tree to tree pulling leaves and placing them in his own private notebook, suddenly, a magical moment changes his life forever. This enchanted journey through the forest brings 'The Boy Who Loved Trees' a gift that he could never have imagined!*



**James Lawlor**  
BA (New Media & English) 2009  
*'I Live In Michael Hartnett'*

Initiated by the Limerick County Arts Office, 'I Live In Michael Hartnett' has been edited by writer, James Lawlor. James, who has also been involved in running outreach writing programmes for secondary-school students at The Frank McCourt Museum in Limerick, explains "I was drawn to Michael Hartnett's work quite early in my life. I was always curious about the 'Poet Hartnett' persona that people would speak about when I was a child. In many ways I am still curious about him."

*SINCE THE PREMATURE DEATH in October 1999 of Michael Hartnett, poets have tried to capture in language and lyric, their sense of personal loss and the loss to literature of one of our greatest and much loved poets of the twentieth century. In this collection, poets such as Eavan Boland, Paul Durcan, Peter Fallon, Brendan Kennelly, Theo Dorgan, Seamus Heaney, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Michael Longley, Tony Curtis, Anthony Cronin, Michael Coady, Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Pauline Fayne, Pat Boran and Paula Meehan amongst many others pay tribute to him.*

## 2013 Alumni Reunion

With the aim of bringing graduates back to the campus to renew old friendships and see first-hand developments at their alma mater, ULAA again hosted class reunion events in August and September.

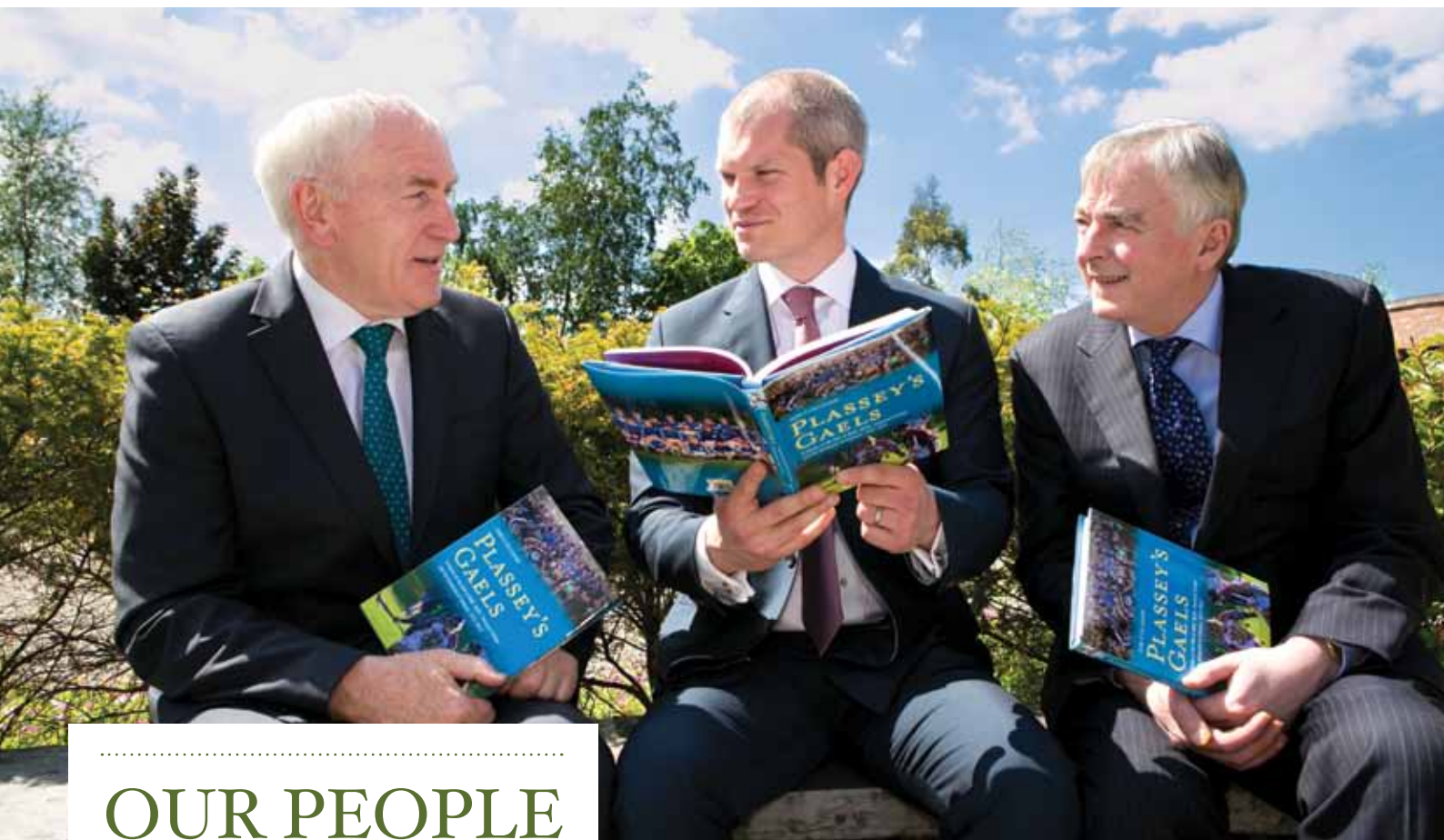
*Graduates enjoying the Annual Alumni Reunion Party held in the Stables in September 2013 were*

1. Front: Michael Carey '87 with Class of '83 graduates, Maggie Curtin, Ann Ledwith, Ita Richardson, Raymond Manley Back: Shay Kennedy, John Lawlor, Patrick Delahunty, John Nelson, Michael Gill, Peter Kilkenny.
2. Class of '08 graduates, Vincent McDonnell and David Murphy.
3. Class of '93 graduates, Louise Toland, Karen Fitzgerald, Mary Coleman and Niamh O'Sullivan.



4. Class of '78 graduates, Willie O'Meara and Tom Doheny.
5. Class of '03 graduates, Conor Langford, Thomas O'Donoghue and Enda Conway.
6. Class of '98 BA Graduates, Emer O'Sullivan, Karen Angley, Margaret Drennan, Elaine Kiely, Siobhan Treacy and Christina McGinn.
7. Class of '08 graduates, Darren McGrath, Bridgetta O'Brien, Hugh Geaney, Shane Kenny and Pat Kelly.





## OUR PEOPLE PUBLISHED

Throughout the academic year many books are published by University of Limerick staff and here is a short selection of their work.

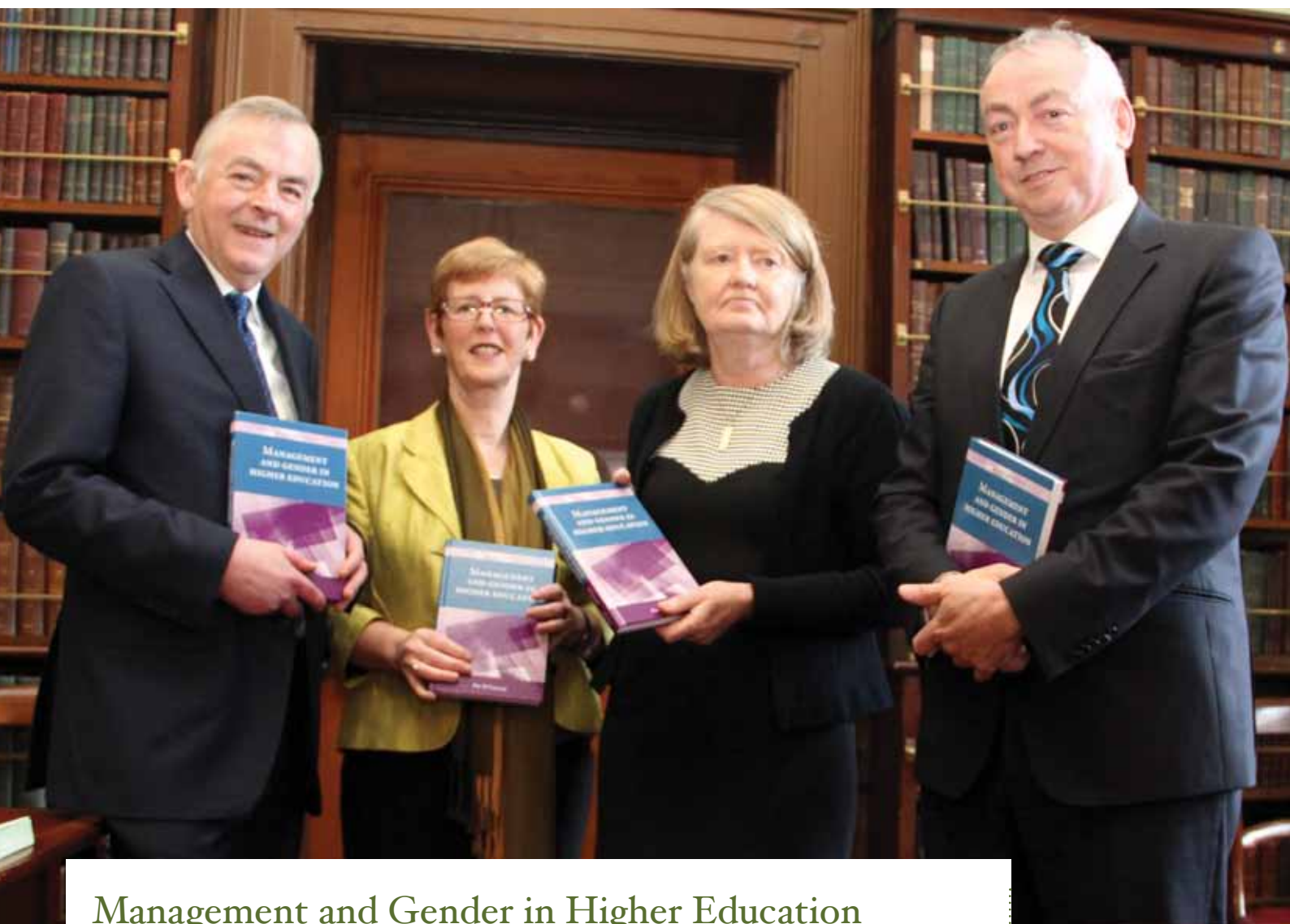
### Plassey's Gaels *Dr John O'Callaghan*

**P**assion and history unite in this account of Gaelic games at the University of Limerick and its predecessors on the Plassey campus, the National College of Physical Education (NCPE), Thomond College of Education and the National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE). It is a story of forging an identity in challenging institutional and sporting contexts. The Plassey clubs were clearly different from community-based GAA clubs but at their

foundations were the Association's traditional spirit and ethos. The strength of the UL club is testament to the rich history that it has inherited. Plassey's Gaels have known glory and failure, joy and heartbreak.

The brilliant Thomond team of 1977–78 won All-Ireland club football honours. Among the club's sweetest victories was the Fitzgibbon Cup hurling triumph of 1989, having previously been denied access to the premier intervarsity competitions. There have been emotive boardroom wrangles and off-field controversies. Some of the finest players of the modern era have worn the jerseys of NCPE, Thomond, NIHE and UL, including Pat Spillane, Brian Mullins, Fiona O'Driscoll and Séamus Hickey. The campus has evolved dramatically over the last forty years but the collegial experience has remained constant and essentially undiluted. It is about love of the games, camaraderie and friendship.

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan with Dr John O'Callaghan and Professor Don Barry pictured at the launch of 'Plassey's Gaels'



## Management and Gender in Higher Education

*Professor Pat O'Connor*



Over 80 per cent of those in senior management positions in Irish universities are men. Women's under-representation in senior management was most often explained by those surveyed as being due to lack of career ambition, low self-esteem, inability to market themselves, poor political skills and life choices.

These are some of the findings of Professor Pat O'Connor in her new book *Management and Gender in Higher Education*. The findings are based on interviews conducted with Presidents, Vice Presidents and Deans/Divisional Directors in all seven public universities in Ireland, including men and women, academics and non-academics and across various disciplines.

*Management and Gender in Higher Education* provides a detailed examination of higher education, locating it in the wider context of the state and the market, with a specific focus on recent higher education policy. It also provides a uniquely extensive in-depth analysis of university senior management and its structures, cultures and practices.

Professor Don Barry, UL President; Professor Pat O'Connor, author; Professor Mary Daly, Royal Irish Academy President; and Tom Boland, CEO, HEA.



## UL Scholars Edit Two Books to Coincide with National Centenary.

**The Irish Volunteers 1913–1915: Recollections and Documents, New Edition**

*by Ruán O'Donnell & Mícheál Ó hAodha - Irish Academic Press, Dublin*

**With the Irish in Frongoch**

*edited by Ruán O'Donnell & Mícheál Ó hAodha - Mercier Press, Cork.*

**U**niversity of Limerick academics Dr. Ruán O'Donnell and Dr. Mícheál Ó hAodha recently published two seminal works as relating to the foundation of the Irish Volunteers, exactly one hundred years ago, in November, 1913. Ostensibly formed in response to the formation of the Ulster Volunteers in 1912, the Volunteers' declared aim was "to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to the whole people of Ireland". The Volunteers were to the fore in the struggle for Irish independence and led the rebellion of Easter, 1916 where they were joined by the Irish Citizen Army, Cumann na mBan and Fianna Éireann. The Irish Volunteers 1913-1915 is a rich compendium of original letters, reports, speeches, newspaper editorials, military and administrative instructions and members subscription lists that together create a unique historical record of the Irish Volunteer movement.

For eight months following the Easter Rising over 1,800 Irish rebels were imprisoned in Frongoch, a former whiskey distillery in North Wales. It soon became a "University of Revolution" and among its notable alumni were Michael Collins and Richard Mulcahy.

Frongoch had initially held German prisoners-of-war but became much more high profile when the Irish rebels were interned there. Most of them were interned without any trial or chance to defend themselves. By December 1916, all of the Irish prisoners had been repatriated and the camp was closed down.

Both books have received widespread coverage on the national media including programmes such as Talking History, on Raidió na Gaeltachta and on The Pat Kenny Show.

Tá an dá shaothar seo ar na leabhair staire is cuimsithí a bhaineann le hÓglaigh na hÉireann, na trodaithe Poblachtacha sin a sheas an fód go daingean i gCogadh na Saoirse. Na scéalta a ríomhtar sa dá leabhar seo, baineann siad le scéal na hÉireann, tír óg ar a glúine ach tír a shantaigh a háit féin i measc náisiúin uile an domhain.

## Innovative Business School Teaching – *Engaging the Millennial Generation*

*Edited by Dr Elaine Doyle, Dr Patrick Buckley and Dr Conor Carroll*

**I**nnovative Business School Teaching showcases the latest pedagogic innovations that actively engage the millennial generation in learning within the business domain. In the context of the contemporary macro issues facing higher education, this book presents the latest teaching practices and tools used in higher education business teaching, clearly illustrating the practical ways in which business teachers can confront current pedagogic challenges. All of the contributors to this edited book have outstanding track records in teaching, having won national and international awards for teaching excellence, as well as publishing widely on pedagogy. Best practice teaching from multiple jurisdictions across a broad spectrum of business schools is represented. Each contributor shares their innovative teaching tools and techniques in a manner that emphasises how these tools can be adapted to other contexts, thus providing readers with an invaluable teaching resource.

Pictured are Dr Conor Carroll, Dr Elaine Doyle and Dr Patrick Buckley at the launch of their book, Innovative Business School Teaching.





## UL GRADUATIONS

Graduation Days ...  
Congratulations!

This year's Autumn Conferings saw the Graduation of over 2600 students, including 44 PhD graduates, over 4 days.

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2

## UL Confers St Patrick's College Degrees

Fifty two students were conferred with University of Limerick degrees from St Patrick's College this Autumn, forty one from the B.A. in Education, Business Studies and Religious Studies programme and eleven from the B.A. in Education, Irish and Religious Studies programme. This year's ceremony was particularly notable as this is the first year that Irish teachers graduated from the college.







Graduates of the MSc Sustainable Resource Management: Policy and Practice pictured with Professor Don Barry, UL President and faculty from the University of Limerick and NUI Galway.

David Ryan, Tipperary Town; Aidan Reilly, Athlone; and Xudong Li from Beijing who graduated with a Masters in Finance and Information Systems.

## NUI Galway - UL Joint Masters

The NUI Galway – UL Strategic Alliance celebrated the graduation of students from two joint programmes, MSc Sustainable Resource Management: Policy and Practice and the MSc in Finance and Information Systems at the University of Limerick Winter Conferring.

Established in 2010, the strategic alliance has developed a number of joint programmes and shared modules which provide students with a unique opportunity to gain access to the research and teaching of two of Ireland's leading institutions.



Three days of Winter Conferring ceremonies saw 1,511 students graduate, including 155 international students from 19 countries and the award of 58 PhDs.





1. Gearoid Cronin, Lahardane, Co. Mayo who was conferred with a BSc Sport and Exercise Sciences.
2. Jill Cunningham, Dunmore East, Waterford who was conferred with BA Business Studies with First Class Honours.
3. Melfy Alrashidi and Alharbi Rashed, MSc Software Engineering, with Alshammari Munif from Saudi Arabia.
4. Dr Sarah Moore, UL Associate Vice President Academic, presenting Dr Ciaran MacNamee from Navan Co. Meath with the Award for Excellence in Teaching.
5. Twins, Agyant and Avdhey Tiwari from India, both received an MSc in Software Engineering.
6. Dr Jennifer Joyce from Checkpoint, Waterford.





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Launch of the  
20th Anniversary Riverdance Tour  
At the UL Arena  
As part of the  
2014 Limerick National City of Culture

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