



RIO BOUND

UL LINKS

SUMMER | 2016



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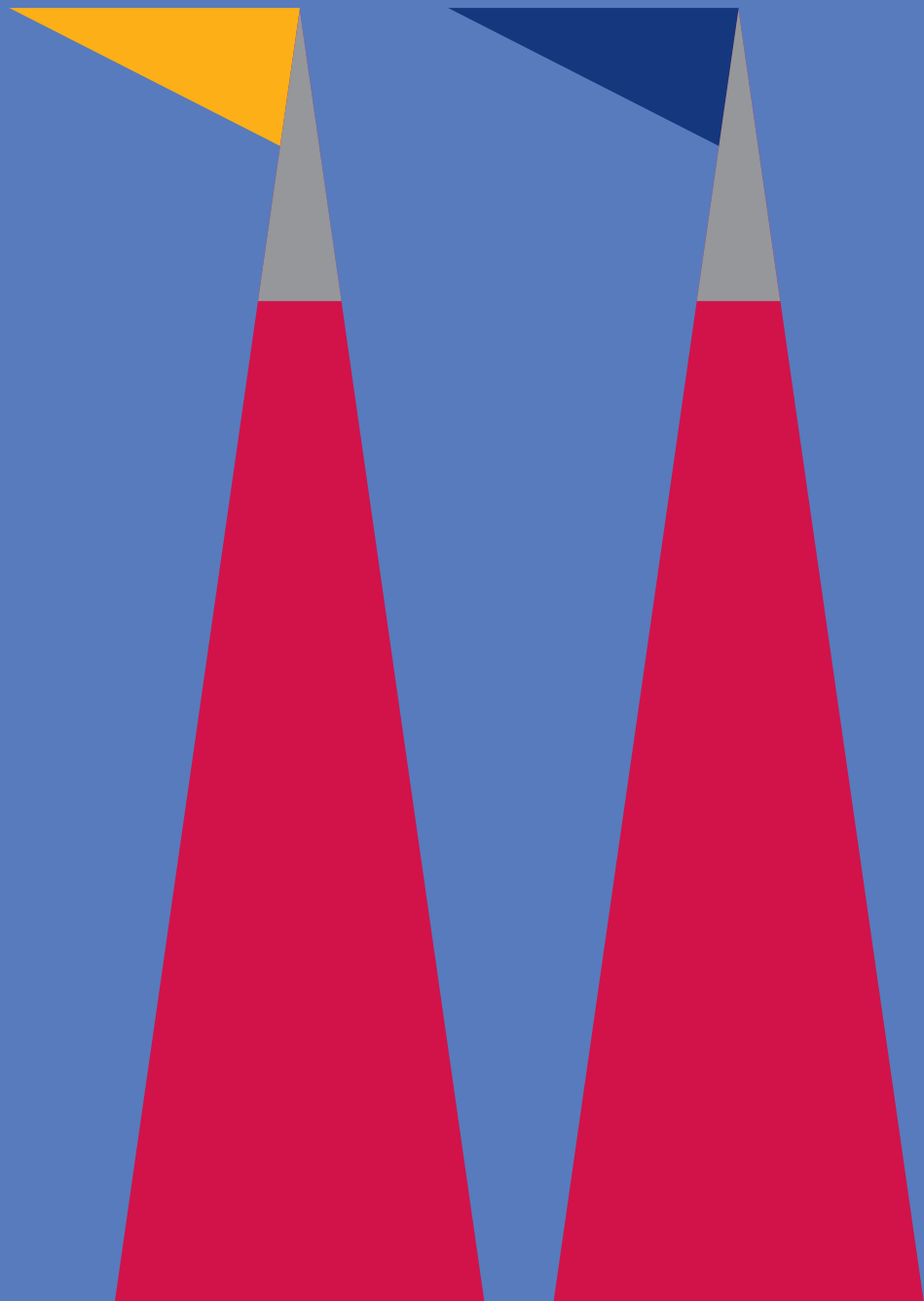
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UL Links is a magazine published by the University of Limerick. Contributions in the form of feature articles, news items, letters and photographs are welcome. We would also be delighted to receive your comments and ideas for future editions – please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

We would like to thank the UL Campus community for their contributions to this edition of UL Links.



Since the last edition of *UL Links* the University of Limerick has launched our new Strategic Plan 2015-2019 'Broadening Horizons'. The Plan commits UL to building on its key achievements, accentuating our distinctiveness and raising our international profile.



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

We believe that by harnessing our core strengths we can extend our global reach and impact, making the University of Limerick a primary educational and research player on the international stage and contributing significantly to Ireland's future evolution. Broadening Horizons also focuses on making significant impact on the research landscape at a global level. The growth in international research funding opportunities, particularly the EU's Horizon 2020, will support our efforts to look outwards and position ourselves as a university of the world. And we have also ensured that our plans are in line with Government policies as set out in the National Strategy for Higher Education and

the emerging Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2015-2020. Indeed, we recently launched our Research and Innovation Strategy Excellence and Impact 2020 to provide a roadmap that will help us achieve the research and innovation goals of Broadening Horizons. In other news, we continue to be recognised for sector-leading excellence in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in STEMM in higher education. Our Department of Mathematics & Statistics and our Department of Life Sciences have secured Athena SWAN Departmental Bronze awards and more UL Departments are following with submissions for Athena SWAN recognition in 2016.



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And we were delighted to host the RTÉ General Election 2016 Leaders' TV Debate which was broadcast 'Live' from the University Concert Hall - the first time ever that it has taken place outside Dublin. In this edition we give a behind-the-scenes view of this major event that attracted large TV and online audiences.

As we near the end of the academic year 2015/16 we have much to be proud of at UL. Through our many achievements, we have continued to grow our national footprint as a relevant and highly impactful institution. Through our ambitions we will make an even greater mark internationally. We invite you to join us on what will be an exciting global journey.

And a last word about *UL Links*: this is our first edition that arrives to you both in hard copy and digitally. Where you see a UL story that you like, please share it digitally far and wide. We appreciate your help in bringing the UL story to the world and creating new opportunities to invite the world to Limerick.

PROFESSOR DON BARRY
PRESIDENT





Eye on the Prize

Since students started graduating from UL's Product Design and Technology course eight years ago the University has celebrated seven finalists winning nationally or among the finalists at an international level at the annual James Dyson Awards.

With their eyes firmly on the top prize, product design lecturers continued to focus and nurture the creative ideas of their students and in 2015 UL gained its highest placing yet as UL graduate Cathal Redmond was named in second place in the International James Dyson Award Competition. Having qualified through the Irish leg of the competition Cathal competed with over 700 entries from countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, UK, and US, with his invention "Express Dive" underwater breathing system'. He is the first Irish student ever in the eleven year history of the awards to win an international prize, scooping an excellent 2nd place worldwide.

No one in UL was more pleased than Muireann McMahon, Course Director for Product Design and Technology. "The James Dyson International Awards are an excellent platform for students to showcase their creativity and get recognition for the products they are developing, giving them confidence to pursue those ideas after they graduate as real business opportunities". Creativity being the name of the game, *UL Links* spoke to Muireann to find out what makes a successful product design student.

Pictured opposite: Muireann McMahon, Course Director for Product Design and Technology.





“Design is fun! Designers change and manipulate our world and create new worlds in which people can do things differently. As a designer your work has the potential to positively change people’s lives which is such an interesting space to work in. The best designers are empathic, creative, open-minded, curious people who look around and see things others don’t; opportunities that can be exploited and problems that need solving. Designers can recognise the overlaps between people, planet and technologies and are comfortable working at these intersections. Where designers really excel over other disciplines is that they can make intangible ideas real through sketches, models, prototypes, buildings, spaces, experiences and services.

Our approach to teaching Product Design in UL is to expose the design students to the myriad of different ways of doing, seeing and practising design. Students are given the space, the support and the encouragement to explore, experiment, build, test, learn and improve through their project work. These practice, studio-based, projects are supported by modules in CAD, engineering, manufacturing processes, new product development, materials, business, ergonomics and technology.

Pictured left: Cathal Redmond second-place winner of the International James Dyson Award Competition demonstrating his design “Express Dive” which allows divers to breathe underwater for up to two minutes.



Students are given the space, the support and the encouragement to explore, experiment, build, test, learn and improve through their project work.

A lot of the projects we do at undergraduate and research levels are collaborative endeavours with people both inside and outside the University (locally and internationally). These research collaborations not only uncover new ideas and knowledge, they also introduce our industry partners to the benefits of working with designers.

For a Product Designer graduating today the career opportunities are very diverse – we have graduates working in areas such as medical devices, sports equipment, toy design, user experience, consumer products, design engineering, set design and sustainable design as well as research and consultancy. Design in the future will be far more flexible and fluid, with less defined borders between the creative disciplines. By teaching ways of thinking, collaborating, co-designing and participating we are preparing our UL graduate designers for the creative careers of the future.

We are very excited by the success of our graduates and to see how they move through the undergraduate programme and on to bringing their innovative ideas to commercialisation”.



'Space Adventure' a product designed by Year 2 student Deirbhile Nic a Bhaird. The brief, in collaboration with FabLab Limerick, was to design a 3D object that would be produced on a Laser Cutter and presented as a flat packed item. The students are also encouraged to look at the branding and packaging of the items they design.



This is the hope of recent winner Cathal Redmond whose design “Express Dive” allows divers to breathe underwater for up to two minutes. Once the air supply begins to run out, the user simply resurfaces and holds a button to refill the one-litre tank. “I’d like to set up my own company and develop the product further to get it past safety regulations. The dream is to see it on the shelf available for purchase but the real crowning glory is to see somebody using it”. Muireann mirrors the sentiment, “It is very satisfying seeing our graduates’ designs in the hands of real users and having an impact on their lives”.

The UL Product Design students showcase their talents every year as part of the Design@UL Graduate Showcase which, for the last 5 years, has taken part in various city centre venues including Fablab and the former Franciscan Church in Limerick City. This exhibition highlights the fruits of their undergraduate studies at UL and also includes the work of students of Architecture, Digital Media Design, Civil Engineering and Technology Education. It is a clear illustration every year of the innovation and creativity of the students and the commerciality of much of their creative output.



Pictured above left: Ryan Morgan, Year 2, flat packed product.

Pictured above right: Work from the Smarter Travel project by Year 2 student team Rachel McNamara, Noel Gleeson and Kevin Prior.



It is very satisfying seeing our graduates’ designs in the hands of real users and having an impact on their lives.

Muireann highlights the opportunities “Design is very much in the consciousness of business and society both in Ireland and internationally. Multinationals are hiring designers at the highest levels, designer-founded companies are growing quickly and the social impact of design is being given a platform to thrive. There has never been a better time to be a designer!”



RIC
BC



As Rio 2016 fast approaches, those who have qualified expect the relentless training, diet and mental preparations to intensify, but what if you had to balance university exams, lectures and group work at the same time?

OUND


By Neasa Fahy O'Donnell

Neasa Fahy O'Donnell, UL Senior Executive Sports Officer and Assistant Head of Delegation for the World University Games 2015 Irish Team chats to Thomas Barr and Michelle Finn on how they manage to keep on top of their game!

"Sitting in the River Café on the UL Campus for a relaxing afternoon drinking a hot cuppa with these two, you'd think they were regular students just popping in for a chat, except they're not! They're two of our nation's hopefuls for the 2016 Olympics and have probably put down more activity in a day than most of us do in a week. Balancing hectic training schedules fixed between academic study has meant a gruelling schedule for athletes Michelle Finn and Thomas Barr, Thomas having just graduated in January. Both are relaxed and focussed as they count down to Rio. I'm curious to see where their interest in sport came from, their aspirations and how they do it all!"



Thomas Barr and Michelle Finn in the River Café, UL with Neasa Fahy O'Donnell.



Thomas: I have always been active, and tried a whole array of sports from a young age. I came across athletics when I was about eight years old, eventually finding the long hurdles at the age of 15, and have stuck with it since!

Michelle: I grew up outside the small village of Castlemagner in Co. Cork, playing almost every sport available within 10 miles of the area – Gaelic football, camogie, soccer, gymnastics and athletics. Both of my parents were runners so I've been running (for fun!) for as long as I can remember...somewhere along the way it got serious!

How have you managed to deal with the dual career of athlete / student?

T: I've just graduated with a Masters Degree in Sports Performance but being completely honest, at the time I didn't find myself stressed out (with the odd exception) with trying to balance college and training because I was a little bit oblivious! In hindsight I realise it was tough, but I just didn't think about the workload I had on my plate or how tired I may have been some days, and I simply got on with my daily training – college – training routine.

When I came to UL I studied an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and also joined a new training group under new coaches – Hayley and Drew Harrison. I've remained at UL ever since and it was under my new coaches, the Harrisons, that I began to make vast improvements.

M: I struggle - but time management is key!, it is hard there is no doubt about that, and you really want to do your best with both. I agree with Thomas, you just get on with it, I'm studying at the moment for my degree in PE and Irish teaching.

What has been your greatest sporting achievement to date?

T: In the past few years there have been so many high points in my athletics career. But without a shadow of a doubt, claiming the title of World University Games Champion has been my greatest achievement so far!

M: Running the Olympic qualifying standard or competing at World Champs in Beijing last year.

You both have such a great outlook and positive attitude and are clearly influenced by positivity. Who are the biggest influences in your life – sporting and otherwise and why?

T: I think my parents are and always have been the biggest influencers in my life. They have brought me up to be the person I am today, and I trust their opinions and judgements on most topics. I say 'most' because both my dad and I are very stubborn! The apple doesn't fall far... And professionally I'm not really one for heroes as such but Edwin Moses, a fellow 400m hurdler from the 1970s-80s, was an absolutely incredible man. During his career he dominated the event on the world stage, with an insane winning streak of 9 years, 9 months and 9 days!! What really makes him hero-worthy though is that while he was the undefeated top dog he still seemed quite humble and very respectful to his fellow competitors.

M: Winnie-the-Pooh - "If the person you are talking to does not appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in this ear" - wisest philosopher out there! Professionally – Tom Barr...great athlete, down to earth and all round legend!



I'm very proud to say that a UL student and UL graduate have qualified for the Olympics. But I guess four years ago you probably had no idea you'd be sitting here today as two of our nation's hopefuls. If you were to rewind four years would you change anything?

T: This would take me back to my first year of college when I had no idea of my potential on the track, as I was running a leisurely 56 seconds for the 400m hurdles and didn't see myself going anywhere in the sport. I was very close to giving up because I was stuck in a rut and saw so much more to life outside of athletics, especially in college. My parents convinced me to give it one more year to realise my potential, and I am glad I did! It's crazy to think that my presence in athletics would be non-existent without having made that decision so I wouldn't want to change a thing, except for maybe my hairstyle back then...

M: Four years ago I would have been in the States. No regrets - but I would advise anyone who's thinking of going to the US on an athletics scholarship to be aware of the NCAA rules about academics and competing; study something you're interested in and don't just go for the athletics.

After completing my Leaving Cert, I moved to Limerick to study Physical Education and Irish teaching at UL. After two years in UL, I decided to accept an athletics scholarship to the US and began focusing more on athletics than the other sports. I spent four years studying and running at the University of Western Kentucky University (BSc in Interdisciplinary Studies and Health, MSc in Organisational Communications). After graduating, I moved to Austin, Texas to work and train (with Rogue Athletic Club) for a year. I loved Austin and applied for a visa to stay for another few years but returned home to compete at the Irish National Championships in the meantime. While I was home my first visa expired and second was denied (still waiting to hear back on the appeal!!) and so after almost a year of working bits and pieces of jobs in Cork, I returned to Limerick to complete my degree in PE and Irish teaching and I'm currently in my 3rd year of the course (and very happy with my decision to come back!). The last four years have been an adventure but it has all come full circle and I'll be running for my country in the Rio Olympics in the coming months and I'm really proud of that.





And speaking of Rio 2016, what are your expectations / aspirations ?

T: I don't want to be counting my chickens before they hatch. But off the back of last year and the fact that training is going well so far, I would like to go one better than last year's World Championships and make the Olympic Final. It may be a long shot for my first Olympics but all going well it's not too far off realistic either I hope! But my priority out in Rio is to enjoy it. There's few people who have the honour of representing their country at an Olympic Games so I'll be soaking up the whole experience as it's one I won't want to forget.

M: Would love to make the final, but it's possibly a long shot; I'll be happy with a personal best or a good race. It's such an honour, I agree with Tom, I'm going to soak up the experience.

And after Rio - where do you see yourself 5 years from now in terms of your career / professional sport direction?

T: It's difficult for me to look ahead to tomorrow, let alone in five years, but that would bring us to just after the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, and it's a big aim in my career to do damage at that! I will be 28 at that stage, which, depending on how my body is at that stage, could see me beginning to wind down my career, or else gearing up to the 2024 Olympics. I could be around for a long time yet.

M: I find it hard to plan past dinner so who knows...!

Thomas will compete in the 400m hurdles and Michelle in the 3,000m steeplechase in the upcoming Rio Olympics.



ATHENA SWAN RECOGNITION FOR UL IS A WIN FOR ALL

Social Affairs Correspondent with
The Irish Times, **Kitty Holland** recently interviewed one of
UL's champions of gender equality Professor Ita Richardson
about her own career and the significance of the Athena
SWAN recognition for UL.



The women of Ireland are to be thankful that Professor Ita Richardson, of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at University of Limerick, put Applied Mathematics as her first choice on a CAO form in 1979.

The only girl in Loreto College, Mullingar to take honours maths in the Leaving Certificate that year, she was drawn to a male dominated world - where she would challenge, throughout her career, the gender bias that existed within it. It was in the same school that her Maths teacher, Sr Concepta, had taught computer programming to Richardson in the early 1970s.

So unusual was it for a girl to choose an Applied Maths degree, her former primary school teacher worried she could be confined, sidelined, by her gender, in that world. When she was offered her chosen course - at the then National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE), Limerick, the teacher hoped she would be the only girl in the class. "Because if there was another girl, she told me, I would have to be friends with her," recalls Richardson. "That shocked me."

As it happened she was the only girl in her class, but the class mixed with other classes which had other girls. She was very good at sports and that "saved" her too. Her gender was not an issue at college. As her career progressed however it became one and she has been challenging this since.

Just a few years into her career as a software engineer at Wang Laboratories, she applied for a job up the pay scale. "I was pregnant at the time. I was having a coffee with a supervisor who mentioned to me that they needed the successful applicant to start on the 1st May. That would

have been about when I was going on maternity leave and I remember thinking, 'Gosh I am at a disadvantage here because I am woman'. I went straight to HR to say I felt I was being left at a disadvantage."

The HR manager assured her it would not be a factor. "I didn't get the job," she says, She doesn't know if her pregnancy was a factor, but she does know a man would never have had to go through that stress. It also made her exceptionally

conscious of particular experiences women have in a world tailored for men's lives.

She has been conscious of gender bias ever since and was determined to challenge it. Working with colleagues at UL to recognise and change it, the University has just been recognised with the hugely prestigious Athena SWAN Bronze Institution Award - by the Equality Challenge Unit in the United Kingdom.

UL and Trinity College

Dublin are the only two Irish institutions to have achieved the award since its expansion to Ireland in February 2015. The Athena SWAN Award has, up to last year, been focused on advancing the careers of women in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths & Medicine) where women are particularly un-represented at the most senior levels, but since May 2015 has extended the remit to include the faculties of arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL) as well as support staff in Higher Education.

It is something akin to a "green flag for gender equality", explains Professor Richardson. She stresses Athena SWAN does not mean a new world of total gender equality has been achieved at UL.



**What it is, is
recognition of a
real commitment
to advancing
gender equality.**



"What it is, is recognition of a real commitment to advancing gender equality. It means we have identified our weaknesses and have committed to addressing them."

She and UL colleagues have been working to address gender imbalance in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) faculties for many years.

Steering committees were established across the STEM departments to monitor and understand what was happening for female students and staff, driving the gathering of data, of gender audits and gathering qualitative data through interviews with

female staff. "One of the things we found was women were doing more teaching hours and less research [which is where real career progression is] than men."

Professor Richardson refers several times to the truth she says is encapsulated in the 2007 book title, 'Women Don't Ask,' by Laura Babcock. Whether due to cultural conditioning, family commitments or a lower self-confidence of some kind, women were less likely to put themselves forward for

research grants, for travel to conferences - which are vital for networking, or to ask for the teaching supports that free them up to concentrate on research.

UL's research highlighted that women returning from maternity leave found it easier to "slot back in to teaching" than to begin months' of groundwork necessary to return to research. It also refers to evidence of unconscious gender bias, where for example men in senior positions, in a male dominated world, may more easily offer other men opportunities that should just as easily go to women. In such a context, often "women don't ask" she says. Actions taken by UL to address these issues include the requirement for all interview panel members

to undertake unconscious bias training prior to sitting on a selection or promotions board; there must be 30 per cent gender representation on an interview panel, and, to support academic staff in re-establishing their independent research careers on return from extended leave (20 weeks or more) for reasons connected to caring - such as adoption leave, additional paternity leave, maternity leave, or leave to care for a dependant, staff are entitled to apply for a 'Research Grant'. This grant will provide them with 6 months protected research time on return from carers' leave or hire an 'assistant for the period of the carers' leave to maintain their research. This, she explains, means their teaching time continues to be covered for 20 weeks to enable them to get back into research.

"This has been really, really important," she says. Some 31 per cent of professors at UL are women - the highest in the State - but there is more to be done. Securing the Athena SWAN Award, is far from a license for UL to sit on its gender-balanced laurels, but is rather a call to further action. UL will be reviewed in three years and unless further progress is made, the award will be lost. Given that UL and Trinity are the only two Third-Level institutions in Ireland to be awarded Athena SWAN, the University recognises that it has national and institutional obligations to keep pushing forward, to continue to progress and inspire, through its achievements, other institutions to take up the mantle.

'Deeply ingrained gender bias remains a serious challenge', she says. 'It means half the available talent, particularly in STEM subjects but also across higher education, is potentially being lost.'

Blunt instruments like gender quotas will not suffice. Richardson argues the most effective change will come from gendered thinking at the heart of decision-making structures. Change will then radiate out from the centre bringing about real, embedded change on the ground.

This applies beyond academia she stresses. Such actions as gender audits, unconscious gender bias assessments and supports that recognise that too often 'women don't ask' should be in every college and workplace in the country, she says.

//

Some 31 per cent of professors at UL are women – the highest in the State...

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several old, thick books. The spines are made of worn, light-brown leather or parchment, showing significant texture and some cracking. Some spines are bound with dark blue or black material, featuring gold-colored decorative patterns. A bright red ribbon is tied around one of the spines in the lower right area. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the old materials.

THE BOLTON LIBRARY

By Ken Bergin

In January the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland agreed to place the historic Bolton Library in the care of the Glucksman Library.



The Bolton Library is an exceptional collection of early printed books, manuscripts and incunabula of rare academic and bibliographic importance.

It was collected by two bishops - Archbishop William King and Archbishop Theophilus Bolton in the early eighteenth century. It reflects the interests, knowledge and concerns at that time as they sought to build a library to encompass, as much as possible, humanity's knowledge of the world. The history of science, technology and medicine is strongly represented in the collection as is Irish history in the 1640-1660 period. It includes 200 volumes of 17th century pamphlets from Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

The Bolton Library had been housed in poor conditions and had deteriorated due to the wholly unsuitable environment in which it was stored. This was despite the best efforts and hard work of many individuals and supporters of the collection over recent decades. Unfortunately, many of its oldest and most valuable elements were at real risk of being destroyed. If they were to survive for future generations they urgently needed a humidity and temperature controlled environment, preservation and secure monitoring and management.

In transferring the Bolton Library to UL the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland (RCBI) ensured it would be housed in optimal environmental conditions that would halt further deterioration.

Both RCBI and the University are also committed to working with partners in Cashel to develop a permanent Bolton Library Exhibition in Cashel, and this will form part of the wider ambition to make this wonderful collection much more accessible, once it has been preserved. Moving the collection from Cashel was a complex undertaking and one that the University took great care to execute. The University engaged professional restoration services to carefully remove the fragile books from the shelves before wrapping them in acid free tissue. They were then packed into special book crates for their removal to Limerick. The books, now housed in the Glucksman Library, are currently being stabilised and cleaned. On completion the Bolton Library will require considerable investment for assessment, conservation, cataloguing and promotion.





*Pictured below:
Ken Bergin, Head of Special
Collections at UL helps to
pack some of the collection.*



*Pictured below:
The Bolton Library holds the smallest
book in Europe. The book has a black
cover with a silver cross on it and 24
pages on which is written the Lord's
Prayer in German.*





With over 12,000 early printed books, manuscripts and incunabula, the collection is of exceptional academic and bibliographical significance and is one of the most important private libraries in Britain or Ireland. It was assessed by Professor Robert S Mattheson in his works on the collections of Archbishop William King, original collector of the Bolton Library. The collection is valuable and unique because the items in the collection themselves are rare, unique or distinctive and also because it is a corpus of knowledge collected by two Bishops in the early eighteenth century which provides an insight to the interests, knowledge and concerns of that class at that time.

The Bolton Library contains a number of manuscripts, the most significant is a medieval encyclopaedia from 1168 – 1220 and a missal which is one of only three examples of hand written missals in Ireland prior to 1500. Significantly, it includes 18 imprints from before 1500 and 30 up to 1520 including the Nuremberg Chronicle 1493 which was the last major history of the world before the discovery of the New World, Dantae's Divine Comedy, Venice 1512, and the Sarum Missal, Rouen 1515.




The collection contains books with Library stamps of previous ownership that indicates provenance connected with Catherine of Aragon, Francis Bacon and Abraham Ortelius. It includes unique printings such as the Kilkenny Confederate Declaration of 1648.

The collection also has substantial elements on mathematics, astronomy, architecture, the natural sciences, medicine, literature, travel, history, law, and politics. In all, the Bolton Library will be a major addition to the University but the next chapter in this long and fascinating story will be one of hard work arresting the collection's decline, preserving it and ultimately, making it much more accessible to our audiences – on-campus, nationally and internationally.

Ken Bergin with the Very Revd Gerald G. Field, Dean of Cashel





// ...a collection of 12,000 early printed books, manuscripts and incunabula...one of the most important private libraries in Britain or Ireland.



ONE OF OUR OWN - A CRUCIBLE OF CREATIVITY

BY ÉAMONN CREGAN

When news of the passing of Dr Terry Wogan OBE reached the University of Limerick in January there was a sense of loss – not just the loss of a great public figure, but a feeling that his departure from the ‘stage of life’ was felt like that of a family-member.

With his typically self-deprecating humour, Terry spoke in a previous *UL Links* interview of being bestowed with UL's highest honour in 2004, saying that “In a moment of academic weakness the University conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Letters on my undeserving head”. The citation heralded his glittering career, his philanthropic work that benefitted so many and his “major contribution to improving relations between the peoples of Britain and Ireland”. No mean achievements for a man who put his successes down to being “luckier than most”.

Terry gloried in all things Limerick. “Limerick made me” as he so eloquently put it. And he saw in the University of Limerick a dimension that the ancient city of his birth had lacked when he was a junior citizen. He believed that this young institution could help build a new Limerick of which we could all be proud. As a member of the UL Foundation Board he was a keen advocate of the University's development.

At a fund-raising event he co-hosted with his fellow UL Honorary Graduate, Dr Keith Wood, to secure significant funds for the University, Terry praised UL as “a crucible of creativity”. Terry was, in many ways, a veritable “crucible

of creativity” in his own right. His unparalleled, decades-long career in the creative world of broadcasting was founded on his extraordinary talent for extempore commentary and ad-libbing while engaging in the high-wire profession of communicating live, unscripted and unedited with millions of listeners and viewers. So it is no surprise that he placed such great store on creativity in all its forms. Just as he created magic in front of the microphone or camera in his own, unique style, he truly valued how the University could inspire and nurture the spark of imagination that all students, researchers and staff so avidly seek in their pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. He cherished the innovations UL pioneered. He championed the UL cause whenever an opportunity presented itself. And he celebrated the University's achievements with a vicarious delight that was infectious.

Like so many others across Limerick and Ireland and throughout the United Kingdom and beyond, we feel as though we have indeed lost a member of the family.

The UL family is much the poorer for his passing. For Terry was, very definitely, ‘one of our own’.

DR TERRY WOGAN 1938-2016





"Luckier than most" - Terry at UL on the happy day when he was conferred with what he called "the first and the most important" of his many honorary doctorates.

By Mark Mulqueen





ELECTION 2016

RTÉ



We want to build the profile of our University and when you have a campus like UL's it makes a lot of sense to build it around such a unique attribute. Securing the first RTÉ General Election TV Debate to be held outside of Dublin sits naturally into such ambition. Creating a high impact profile takes a degree of boldness and some real scale and a General Election TV Debate offered a fair degree of both.

Whatever people say about politicians, what they do actually matters. Politics, good and bad, has real consequences. Unlike a lot of things we watch on TV, political discussions actually matter. Yes, there is the feel-good, tribal loyalty that comes with light entertainment and most especially sport, but the actual importance of both are very limited in comparison to politics. So, a General Election TV Debate may infuriate at times (and give rise to much unrepeatable commentary on social media!) but it does actually matter. That is why UL was delighted to host the GE 16 TV Debate.

One phone call last September sealed the deal. In hindsight, there was urgency in our decision that proved unnecessary - we all thought we were, most likely, looking at an early November election, so the event planning began with haste. When the election subsequently moved to 2016 there was some relief but that initial planning stood to us. The Taoiseach's prerogative to call the election – a potential trump card to be played as the Taoiseach of the day chooses – meant that only 10 days would be given between notice of the exact date and the event itself.





PICTURED ABOVE | *Richard Boyd Barrett of the Anti-Austerity Alliance/People Before Profit Group, Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams, Fianna Fáil Leader Micheál Martin, Claire Byrne, Taoiseach and Fine Gael Leader Enda Kenny, Labour Leader Joan Burton, Stephen Donnelly of the Social Democrats and Renua Leader Lucinda Creighton.*

The get-in of RTÉ crew and trucks, the logistics of turning our University Concert Hall into a TV studio, the high security required by the Gardaí, the accompanying national media pack and last but not least, the unavoidable disruption of academic life, made for a busy 10 days. And that was before an audience was assembled!

RTÉ had chosen a polling company to select the audience so as to guarantee impartiality and fairness. This certainly represented good risk management and though personally I might have preferred a much more passionate and raucous audience, one only needs to cast a glance across the Atlantic to see what extreme partisanship can do to national political discourse.

UL students of journalism had already been selected by RTÉ to enter into a unique collaboration in providing coverage from the many election count centres nationwide, and so UL's Journalism School was primed to become hands-on with the TV Debate production when it descended upon our campus.

RTÉ were great to work with. They were fair and generous in the coverage given to the Mid-West and the University in both the lead-up coverage and the Debate Show itself. The role of a 'national broadcaster' was self-evident over these few days and, indeed, subsequently in their coverage of the election result a fortnight later.

Today, from this post-election vantage point, we can look back at what was an election campaign that was quite short and relatively lacking in stand-out moments. This, and the fact that debates are a media construct in the first place, meant the media probably ascribed greater importance to the debates in this election than in previous elections. This was not the case in 2011, when an economic crisis provided plenty of drama and very real consequences. So I wouldn't assume that another General Election will permit TV Debates to be quite the centre of attention they were in February, 2016. No doubt GE 2016 will be remembered by many people for other things but for UL we will recall a bold opportunity that we grasped with both hands.



**...one only needs
to cast a glance
across the Atlantic
to see what extreme
partisanship can do
to national political
discourse.**



#1

You are down to the chosen few! Take confidence in this! The CV and application process is the employer's opportunity to screen you out, you have just made it past the most difficult hurdle. Employers now see you as a potential fit for their organisation and interviewing you is worth their while. Check out Amy Cuddy's Power Pose TEDGlobal 2012. Think about a time in your life that you felt confident and you got what you wanted.



#2

Forensically read the job description to anticipate potential interview questions and also further research the company beyond their website. Prepare for questions you want to avoid. Ask a close friend to be your worst critic while completing a mock interview with you — and videotape it.



#10

Ensure you have questions for the interviewers — an intelligent question about the company or the industry points to the research you have done. Although you shouldn't ask a question for the sake of it— saying "I think you have covered all of the questions I had".



Countdown to Interview



The time in preparing for your interview is your opportunity to get yourself into the right frame of mind, and set your energy and focus on who you'll be meeting with, what you want them to remember about you, and what you want to ask them. Here **Gavin Connell UL's Head of Careers** gives his top tips for getting the job !

Best of Luck!

#3

Storytelling — practise your "Tell Me About Yourself" pitch out loud. Think about why your past career experiences have led you to this job. Why should we hire you? Why do you fit this role?



#9

Be friendly to all receptionists and security guards — it's probable they might be reporting to the hiring manager.



#4

Get comfortable in your interview clothes — particularly shoes! A conservative approach is best. Interviewers will subconsciously judge you before you open your mouth.



#8

Plan your logistics, park a little bit away (you never know who is observing you), you shouldn't walk into the office building more than 15 minutes early. Turn off your phone. Don't be thrown if your interview start time is delayed — everybody is busy!



#5



Practise your smile, handshake and eye contact. They want you to want the job and be excited at the prospect of working for them, the first step in communicating that enthusiasm is to smile. A weak handshake implies that you are meek or disinterested, but squeeze too hard and you come across as aggressive or overbearing. If you spend the entire interview staring at your shoes, they will assume that's how you always communicate. That kind of behaviour doesn't inspire confidence and makes it more difficult for the hiring manager to engage with you. Be aware of your natural style — does it fit the interview process, also be aware of your energy levels.

#7

Look in a mirror — check your grooming!



#6

Know your interviewers — check LinkedIn or your own network to help you understand the interviewer's background. This will help you build an understanding of career trajectory within this organisation.





▲ | "The original manuscript of the Quiet Man. "this is one of the most popular items we have, and it has delighted many visitors who have come to UL. Now over 80 years old this manuscript was first published in the Saturday Evening Post in the United States in 1933. This is where American Film Director John Ford first read it, he secured the film rights shortly after reading it but it was 1952 before the famous film was released"



▲ | "The History of Limerick by John Ferrar was published in Limerick in 1787. This early history of Limerick is one of our oldest Limerick publications. It is significant for UL because it is one of the foundation books of the Limerick collection established by Fr. John Leonard. He acquired it in the late 1960s and has spent the last 40 years building this excellent library of Limerick publications which we are so proud of having at the Glucksman Library."

► | *A Little Tour in Ireland* was written by Hole S. Reynolds in 1859. "This book is from the Ciaran McAnally travel collection and is a delightful example of travel literature from the 19th century.

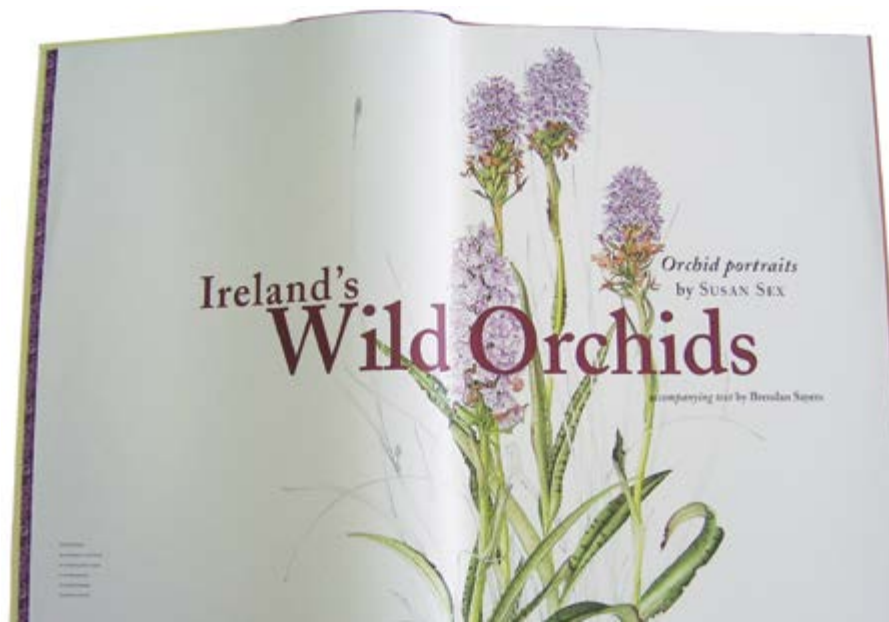
The McAnally collection is a library of over 5,000 items devoted to accounts of travellers in Ireland over some 400 years. This volume by Reynolds is handsomely bound in an inlaid binding of crushed Levant morocco and is a superb example of fine binding."



MY GLUCKSMAN LIBRARY *treasures*

Special Collections at the Glucksman Library UL is a treasure trove of unique and rare acquisitions collected over 44 years and cared for under the watchful eye of **UL's Head of Special Collections Ken Bergin**. For such a young University the acquisitions are vast and span the ages. *UL Links* set Ken the difficult task of selecting some of his favourite antiquities, what was even harder was making him stick to four!

▼ | "Ireland's Wild Orchids by Susan Sex & Brendan Sayers is one of the more modern books in the collection but it is one of the more striking. This 2004 book is known as an elephant folio due to its size. The large format does justice to the wonderful paintings of wild Irish orchids by the award winning artist Susan Sex. The edition is one of only 700 signed and numbered copies and is bound in maroon buckram over illustrated boards. It has become a rare but important Irish botanical book."





THE ERASMUS DIARY

The University of Limerick has over 400 students going on Erasmus every year and welcomes nearly 550 Erasmus exchange students to the UL campus. Here three UL students give an insight into their experience.

SALLY GORMAN / Manchester, UK

"I'm studying Journalism and New Media at UL. When it came to choosing my Erasmus destination there was absolutely no question about it, I wanted Salford. I had no doubt that it was the place for me. Being based at Media City UK, beside the BBC and ITV, was the main motivator for me as I am serious about pursuing a career in television. The students have a radio station called Shock FM, and they have their own news channel called Quays News. I studied three modules: TV News, Radio and Presenting. My Erasmus has been one of the best things I have ever done and I would encourage every UL student to go and make the best of it.

PLACES VISITED:

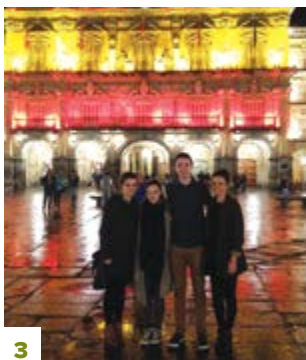
OLD TRAFFORD / LAKE DISTRICT / CHINA TOWN / 'ALBERT SQUARE' / MEDIA CITY



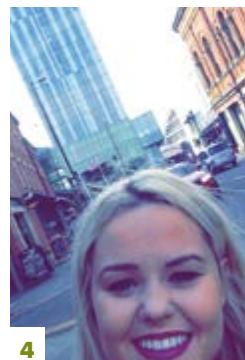
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2



3



4



5

1 | Sally Gorman in Manchester with friends 2 | Raymond Dolan at Los Picos de Europa in Asturias, northern Spain with friends 3 | Raymond Dolan and friends at Plaza Mayor, Salamanca, Spain 4 | Sally Gorman at the University of Salford 5 | Evan McNamara on a visit to Pisa.

RAYMOND DOLAN / Salamanca, Spain

You will never regret doing Erasmus! Honestly, you will have one of the best semesters of your college years. I studied in La Universidad de Salamanca (Spain) and really enjoyed meeting new people and experiencing the culture. For example, here in Spain it is almost obligatory for men to give two kisses to females when they are being introduced to them for the first time, while between other males, a handshake is almost always given. I often thought 'I bet it will feel weird when I return to Ireland and realise that I can't do this to every girl I am introduced to!'

PLACES VISITED:

PORTO / LA CORUÑA / LOS PICOS DE EUROPA

EVAN MCNAMARA / University Of Mannheim, Germany

I'm studying for a BA (Joint Honours), I spent a semester in Mannheim, Germany and in the four months I was on Erasmus, I got to travel to a lot of new places, meet new people and make new friends. Going on Erasmus, of course, I was nervous, who wouldn't be; you're about to live out of your comfort zone for a few months. But it gives you the opportunity to study in a different university and take new modules. Being on the European continent also allows for great travel opportunities.

PLACES VISITED:

BERLIN / COLOGNE / VENICE / PISA / MILAN



Dr David Fleming of the Department of History is spending a semester at the University of Montana (UM), deep in America's north-west. Awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, he is teaching Irish history to undergraduate students of UM's Irish Studies programme.

BRINGING 1916 TO MONTANA

Few may realise that Montana is home to the largest Irish-American population, per capita, west of the Mississippi River. Since the 1870s large numbers of Irish migrants made the long journey to the Rocky Mountains, where they mined copper and gold in great quantities. The city of Butte remains the center of a very large Irish-American population, mostly descended from Cork emigrants. It is no surprise then that UM has a vibrant Irish Studies programme, which grew from collaboration between the Irish-American community and UM's faculty. Carefully directed by Dr Traolach Ó Riordáin, students study the Irish language, literature, music, dance, film, theatre and history.

I am teaching two modules here, the first a general survey of Irish history from the earliest times to the present; the second drawn from my specialist expertise in eighteenth-century Ireland, intermixed with American colonial history (the two places having similar political and social experiences). Those taking classes range from individuals with no knowledge of Ireland to those who have not only visited the country and are aware of its past, but can also speak fluent Irish.

There is tremendous interest among the students in understanding the significance of the 1916 Rising, and what I'm doing in my modules is providing time for them to research and present their findings on the rising itself and how it was and is being commemorated in Ireland and America. This has been both exciting and rewarding, as the students often adopt approaches and provide insights that reflect their own cultural background.

While in Montana, I hope to continue to build the ties between UL and UM's faculty and students to provide more opportunities for collaboration and partnership.





A CHANCE IN CHINA

More than 400 applications were received but UL's Marian Dino was among those successful. Beating off stiff competition from all over Europe, Marian (Law and Accounting) won one of only six scholarships available on CRCC Asia's 2015 European Scholarship Programme to undertake a one-month legal internship in China. Off she went!





*Pictured on previous page:
Marian was the recipient of
the President's medal 2015 for
graduating in first place across
all interfaculty programmes.*

*Pictured from right:
Marian Dina pictured in
China.*



I came across the CRCC programme when Dr Kathryn O'Sullivan encouraged me to apply for one of the scholarships on offer. CRCC Asia specialises in connecting China and the global community through award-winning internships, study abroad programmes and consulting services. I knew this was a wonderful chance to gain excellent work experience, in addition to the opportunity of living and working in China.

I worked in a company called Legal Mall which is a subsidiary of Ray Yin & Partners. It deals with foreign clients looking to establish a business presence in China or to deal with a legitimate Chinese business. It provides services such as company verification, certificate verification, finding a lawyer, recommending a supplier and providing free consultation. During my internship most of my time at the beginning was spent redesigning and making changes to the company website. That was a good learning experience and I was thrilled to be given such responsibility. I also researched and wrote business articles for Alibaba, through this I learned

a lot about online trading in China.

I think in most western countries having an international work experience, especially in a country that is fast-paced and vibrant like China, is highly regarded. It shows to prospective employers you can adjust to a new situation and you are willing to learn new things. I feel like this will really boost my CV and help me to really stand out from the crowd.

I am very grateful to CRCC for the amazing opportunity they gave me the best summer of my life. Their level of help and guidance was definitely above and beyond my expectations and their networking events really helped to build my confidence.

The best part of my experience in China was meeting the other interns from all over the world. Building relationships through networking is the most basic and central part of doing business in China. I really enjoyed my time in China. With its rich culture, fascinating history and very hospitable locals, it is hard not to fall in love with this beautiful country.

Students from the University of Limerick are very lucky to be presented with such fantastic opportunities to work or study abroad.

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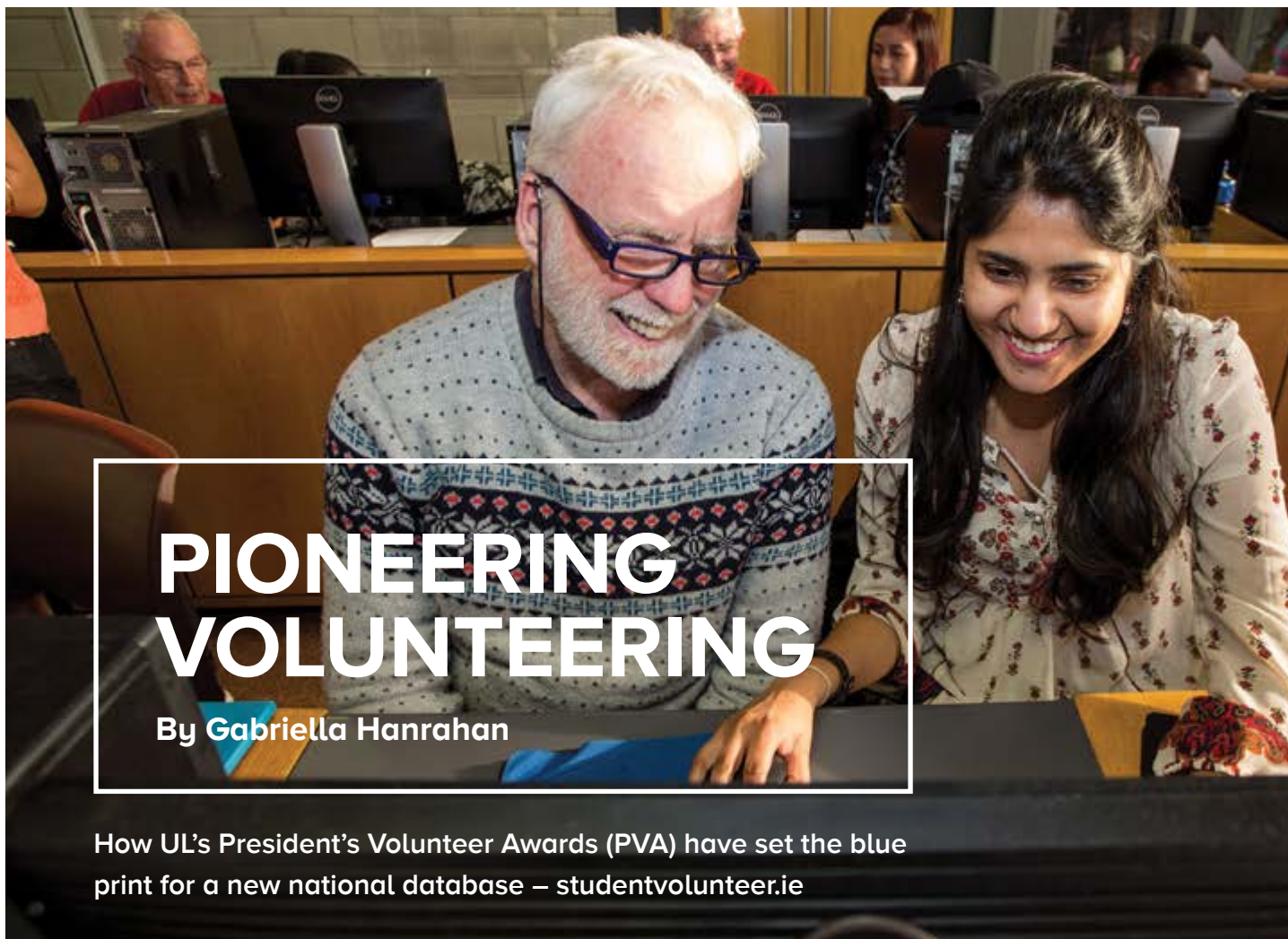


REACHING GREAT HEIGHTS

Clíodhna Murphy, Chloe Aherne, and Sinead O'Connell, 5th year students from St Mary's, Macroom, Co. Cork were among the 9,000 students experiencing all the University of Limerick has to offer at the UL Open Days 2015.

2016 Open Day dates are the 20th and 21st of October.

www3.ul.ie/opendays/



PIONEERING VOLUNTEERING

By Gabriella Hanrahan

How UL's President's Volunteer Awards (PVA) have set the blue print for a new national database – studentvolunteer.ie

"I've worked on the UL President's Volunteer Awards with the Student Affairs Division for nearly six years and have seen a significant 40,000 student volunteer hours recorded in that time and over 600 UL students receiving their PVAs from President Don Barry. The Community Liaison Officer post at UL has created over 90 volunteer opportunities on campus in collaboration with UL staff, departments and services and over 600 off campus in collaboration with external community organisations in Limerick, nationally and overseas. I think this gives some indication of the demand that is there for student volunteers within HEIs and external local, national and international organisations. Studentvolunteer.ie will be launched in the University of Limerick in 2016 to mark the beginning of a new and exciting development chapter in Higher Education

student volunteering in Ireland and I'm proud to say that UL set the blueprint for what will now be a national asset for HEIs as well as charitable organisations in Ireland and beyond.

Studentvolunteer.ie is a new bespoke higher education student volunteering management system, database and website. It is designed to connect higher education student volunteers across Ireland with local, national and international charitable organisations/opportunities, and campaigns. This unique cost-effective online volunteer infrastructure is available to all HEIs for the purpose of promoting civic engagement activities through volunteering. There are now eight partner institutions signed up to studentvolunteer.ie; DCU, NUIG, IT Tralee, IT Tallaght, TCD, UCC, UCD and UL, with two more preparing to come on board. The population of students

*Opposite page:
Pictured at the PVA digital
training for Limerick Senior
Citizens at the Glucksman
Library were Pat Mulcahy,
Shannon, Co. Clare and
Herma Venkatesh,
UL Volunteer.*

*Pictured right:
Brother Damien and
University of Limerick
volunteer, Vivienne O'Neill
entertain children at John
Paul Youth Club, Delmege
Park, Moyross Limerick.*



with access to studentvolunteer.ie currently stands at over 100,000. This is a significant intellectual human resource for HEIs and our wider community partners to tap into. Given the success of the President's Volunteer Awards at UL I was selected to spearhead this national initiative with my colleagues Joanne Ozarowska in DCU and Lorraine Tansy from NUIG. The project was coordinated and partly funded by Campus Engage and the Irish Universities Association.

Prior to the development of studentvolunteer.ie there was no HE infrastructure to support student/community voluntary activity and/or capture this activity across the sector. UL was ahead of the game in this respect. In 2010 the President of the University of Limerick, Don Barry launched the President's Volunteer Award (PVA) in order to officially recognise and award the work students were doing outside their academic studies. The University of Limerick is one of the first HEIs to have an on-line system supporting and promoting student/community engagement through volunteering. UL is also the first and only HEI to structure student volunteering so that the significant contribution student volunteers make to our internal and external communities, the principle role it plays in their development and valuable resource we have in HEIs can be recognised and acknowledged on the student's transcript. The new studentvolunteer.ie is designed to further this development across the sector by making

it easy for students to log their volunteer hours and complete their reflective portfolios.

One of the most significant issues that drove and influenced studentvolunteer.ie was the growing and obvious interest in volunteering not only in UL but in other third-level institutions and the lack of any significant information on this popular student activity. In 2012, under the guidance, and with the voluntary support and direction of Annette McElligott, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, a blue-print for an on-line student volunteer system with the whistles and bells not available on www.ulpva.ie was mapped out. This work was the foundation on which studentvolunteer.ie advanced. We now have a national infrastructure for use by all third-level institutions that will promote student volunteering but eliminate duplication of effort and costs. It will assist greatly in building university/community partnerships, student volunteering best practice policies and practices, and connecting volunteer organisations to HE students. It will also enable the development of national student volunteer demographics, the experience and impact it has on student volunteers, the communities they serve, HE profiles, and HE award systems."

For further information contact
gabriella.hanrahan@ul.ie



NEW UL SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BEST IN IRELAND

Regarded as Ireland's premier sports campus, boasting some of the top facilities in Europe, the University of Limerick has 'raised the bar' with a new suite of sports scholarships. The UL Sports Scholarships will offer elite athletes the support they need in pursuing and excelling in their sport while also undertaking academic study at the University of Limerick.





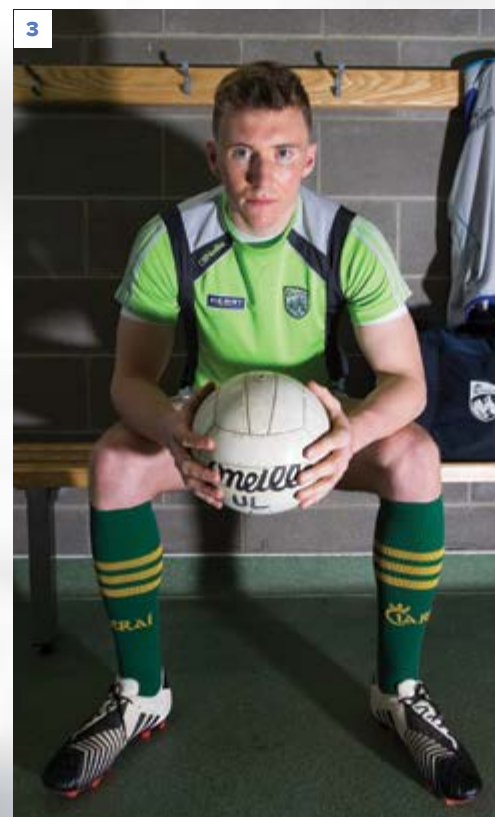
OPPOSIT PAGE |

Jason Forde, Hurling, Tipperary

1 | *Louise Ward, Football, Galway*

2 | *Triathlete Darren Dunne*

3 | *Denis Daly, Football, Kerry*



The Scholarships are open to undergraduate and postgraduate students and provide significant funding towards accommodation, fees and training costs. It will also give recipients the opportunity to work with some of the world's leading sports scientists based at UL and train with top coaches in exceptional facilities. Students must have membership of a national governing body of sport recognised by the Irish Sports Council, in the sport in which they are applying for a scholarship.



**UL has attracted
some of Ireland's
and, indeed,
the World's top
coaches, athletes
and teams to
train here...**

Speaking about this significant move by UL, Vice-President Academic and Registrar Professor Paul McCutcheon said, "As Ireland's sports campus UL has attracted some of Ireland's and, indeed, the World's top coaches, athletes and teams to train here. In the past 20 years UL has produced Olympians and Paralympians, the vast majority of whom were studying at the time. In addition some of those athletes have won, Paralympic, World and European medals. Other students have won Irish Internationals, Grand Slams, national leagues and cups and All Ireland titles with many graduating with not only an undergraduate degree but a postgraduate qualification as well. I am delighted that these scholarships will complete our offering and provide financial backing to their success".

Scholarships are open to all incoming first year students in 2016 and all current UL students. You can find out more about the UL Sports Scholarships and application process at www.ul.ie/sportsscholarships

Closing date for application is the 1st of July 2016 and the awards for the forthcoming academic year will be made in late August.

Come and join the best!

Swimmer Chris Bryan





UL LAUNCHES AMBITIOUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

The UL research community was joined by industry, corporate partners and supporters for the recent launch of the UL Research Strategy, Excellence and Impact 2020 by then Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD.

The new strategy focuses on research excellence and leveraging our position as the leader in translational research and partners of choice for industry while extending our global reach. It incorporates four goals: **Research Excellence, Research Impact, Investing in People and International Reach.**

Key targets for the five year strategy include:

- 20% increase in the number of doctoral enrolments
- 100% increase in the number of employment-based and part-time doctoral enrolments.
- 30% increase in the number of publications in top 10 percentile journals.
- A doubling of income from European funding sources relative to that achieved under FP7.
- Establishing commercialisation and entrepreneurship training for all staff and students and expanded enterprise boot camp activities for second and third level students.
- A 25% increase in new spin-out companies and a 20% increase in research income from industry.

The strategy is fully aligned with the Government's ambition as outlined in Innovation 2020 – the new strategy for Research and Development, Science and Technology.



UL's Research Strategy Excellence and Impact 2020 was launched by then Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD who is pictured here with President Don Barry and Vice President Research Dr Mary Shire.

CLEAR WINNERS



Pictured at the Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre's (SSPC) National Crystal Growing Competition awards at UL were, Coláiste Bhaile Chláir Galway students, Rachel Scarry, winner for the most innovative crystal; first place prize winner, Aoife Ryan and second runner-up prize winner Billy Clarke. The competition was open to primary and post-primary schools in Ireland and students were challenged to grow a single crystal from a variety of compounds such as: Salt (Sodium Chloride), Alum, Sugar, or Copper Sulphate.

MARTIN HAYES IS UL'S INAUGURAL IRISH WORLD ACADEMY ARTIST

Pictured is the internationally acclaimed Clare fiddler Martin Hayes who was the first appointment to the Irish World Academy Artist Initiative. The new patronage award will facilitate the creative process of selected artists across a three-year period through a budget of €60,000. Martin Hayes has been internationally renowned for bringing his local East Clare traditional fiddle style to a global audience through his performances and recording.





UL'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT

An innovative programme 'First Leanings' aimed at supporting students in making a successful transition to higher education was recently launched by the University of Limerick.

'First Leanings' is the first comprehensive career development toolkit to be produced in Ireland with Transition Year students in mind. UL has provided every post-primary school in Ireland with a Toolkit and it is also available in PDF format on www.ul.ie/careers/firstleanings. The toolkit was developed by UL's Cooperative Education & Careers Division and supported by the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

Speaking at the launch of 'First Leanings' UL's Vice-President Academic and Registrar Professor Paul McCutcheon said, "Students in transition year are expected to make big decisions that will affect their futures and their career opportunities. First Leanings will support them in identifying their interests, abilities, and preferences so they have the knowledge and self-awareness to make effective choices".

Guidance counsellor – Ann MacNamara from Tullamore College gives the top reasons for including First Leanings in the classroom and says "after 16 years in the job I really appreciate this sort of innovation".

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>The workbook gives a crisp, coherent structure to the career programme.</p> | <p>2</p> <p>It's well laid out with an easy to follow path to evidence-based decision making.</p> | <p>3</p> <p>It incorporates interview techniques currently favoured by many multi-nationals.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>It's a very useful record of progress to show parents</p> | <p>5</p> <p>IT'S FREE!!</p> |
|--|--|---|--|---|

Pictured above: Transition year students from Gaelcholdáiste Luimnigh Julia Leonard and Aoibhinn McNamara launching First Leanings.



NANOWEEK IRELAND IN LIMERICK

Celebrating the vital importance of nanotechnology was the focus of NanoWeek in Ireland which commenced with the flagship event at the University of Limerick.

Organised by NanoNet Ireland, NanoNet Conference 2015 brought together international speakers with direct experience in building technology companies, representatives from Irish industry, research and investment communities to share experiences in the commercialisation and application of nanotechnology and to highlight the nanoscience research and expertise currently available to industry in Irish research institutes.

Using the natural tendency of atoms and molecules to assemble 3-D architectures, nanotechnology changes the nature of existing materials to better suit our needs, making our smart technology even faster or creating entirely new materials with the exact kind of properties we require, giving the possibility, for example, of faster lighter aircraft.

Speakers at the event covered topics including nanotechnology in medical technology and the impact it has on how we approach disease, design medical devices, and treat patients in the near future; the field of wearable devices and the benefits for sports training and rehabilitation and miniaturised robotic devices; and the newest technology making an impact in the pharmaceutical industry.

One of the highlights of the conference was a University of Limerick and the Tyndall Institute hosted Nanoscience Workshops which brought nanotechnology to DEIS primary schools around Limerick. These workshops “SSPC Smell Factory”, “Science Live!” and “Nano in a suitcase” aimed to inspire primary school students to learn more about nanoscience.



Taking part in the workshops were, Sean Chitedze and Ola Olatilewa, Thomond Primary School, Limerick with Maryam Karimijafari, MSSl, UL.

ICOMP'S DIRECTOR ACCOMPANIES PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS ON A VISIT TO CEiiA

Dr Terry McGrail, Director of the Irish Centre for Composites Research (IComp) hosted at MSSl, was the only third-level representative to accompany President Michael D. Higgins on a visit to the Centre for Enterprise and Innovation in the Automobile Industry (CEiiA) in the Portuguese city of Oporto. CEiiA is a Portuguese not-for-profit organisation engaged in innovation and research. Its mission is to enhance the competitiveness and environmental impact of mobility and transport through international cooperation between universities and industry translating into market oriented products and solutions. The activities of CEiiA are focused in the automotive and aerospace industries, specialising in product development, structural analysis, aerodynamics, prototyping and intelligent systems. The purpose of the President's visit was to participate in meetings with CEiiA representatives and Enterprise Ireland client companies engaged in a networking event. Some of Dr McGrail's research is in the area of composites and he was invited to participate as a technical expert.



UL AND STRYKER DEVELOP BONE REPAIR MATERIAL

*UL researcher and Stryker
sponsored PhD Student
Aoife Culliton, demonstrates
DirectInject™.*

Researchers at the University of Limerick, in collaboration with research & development staff at Stryker, have developed the world's first FDA cleared injectable Hydroxyapatite forming bone repair material used in neurosurgical procedures.

DirectInject™ is a Calcium Phosphate Cement (CPC) which is used to fill bone defects caused by surgical procedures, for example in brain tumour excision surgery, or as a result of trauma.

Traditional products on the market in this area are all based on powder and liquid format, where the surgeon mixes the powder and liquid and transfers the mixed cement into a delivery syringe prior to usage. This mixing process has to be performed in the operating room (OR) as the mixture rapidly sets and is unusable after just a short period, the new product transforms that timeline. Dr Eamonn de Barra, University of Limerick explains "This invention saves critical time for surgeons in theatre as the new formulation enables mixing and application in the delivery syringe while ensuring no impact on the performance of the product. In neurosurgery in particular, saving nearly 10 minutes in a procedure has major benefits for patient outcomes."

The innovative product was launched by Stryker this year and is already in use in US hospitals since November. DirectInject™ is currently undergoing regulatory approvals for a variety of

other global jurisdictions. The projected annual sales revenue of this product manufactured in Ireland is US\$20 million.

Steve Harris Director of Stryker R&D said: "We are delighted with the clinical feedback received from neurosurgeons throughout the US. As the first and only true on-demand HA bone cement, DirectInject™ has revolutionised neurosurgery, providing the surgeon with a precision, rapid delivery option that reduces the risk of intra-operative complications associated with traditional bone cement mixing and delivery systems. The R&D talent base available in Ireland has been a crucial factor in the success of this product development."

Dr de Barra added: "The success of this industry/academic partnership has wider benefits for the R&D landscape in Ireland as this product is directly supporting 20 high value jobs in Limerick and the potential for further developments in the future."

This research was undertaken by researchers involved in the Bernal Project and the Health Research Institute at the University of Limerick and is funded by the Irish Research Council under their Enterprise Partnership Scheme.



LERO RECEIVES €46M FOR EXPANSION



Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland with Professor Mike Hinchey, Director, Lero at UL.

Lero, the Irish Software Research Centre, based at UL has received €46.4 million investment over six years for expansion. The development means that 90 PhD and 46 postdoctoral research positions will be created over the next six years, with recruitment commencing immediately.

€32.6m of the investment is being funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) with support from the EU Structural Funds. Industry is backing the initiative with total contributions worth €13.8m.

The Lero expansion now incorporates software researchers from UCC and NUI Maynooth, which means that all Irish universities plus Dundalk IT are represented in the national centre.

Under the new programme, Lero has also broadened its research scope from purely software engineering to a wider range of software disciplines. Research areas will combine core research with targeted projects in hot sectors including cyber security, Internet of Things, cloud computing, medical devices and smart cities.

Lero already works with multinational industry partners such as IBM, Fidelity Investments and Microsoft. Indigenous research projects are being implemented with local companies including S3 Group, Statsports and Tullow Oil.

ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

The University of Limerick Alumni Association's highest honour was bestowed on three of the University's outstanding graduates at the 10th Annual UL Alumni Awards Gala Dinner held in Dromoland Castle. The 2015 honourees were acclaimed Irish artist Ms Alice Maher (BA in European Studies '78); Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of BD-GenCell; Dr Kieran Curran (BEng in Mechanical Engineering '02 & PhD '05), and award-winning former Cork Camogie Captain Ms Anna Geary (Bachelor in Business Studies '09). The awards are sponsored by Bank of Ireland.





1



2

IGC CONFERENCE

Over 450 guidance counsellors from second and third level schools and colleges across Ireland gathered recently at the University of Limerick for the Annual Conference of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC), on what was the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of the Institute.

1 | Joanne Logan **2** | Donal Ryan, author in residence UL addresses the Annual Conference of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors
3 | Pictured are UL Vice-President Academic and Registrar, Professor Paul McCutcheon, President of the IGC Betty McLaughlin and Colm O'Gorman, Executive Director of Amnesty International Ireland.



3

100,000 VOTERS USE UL APP

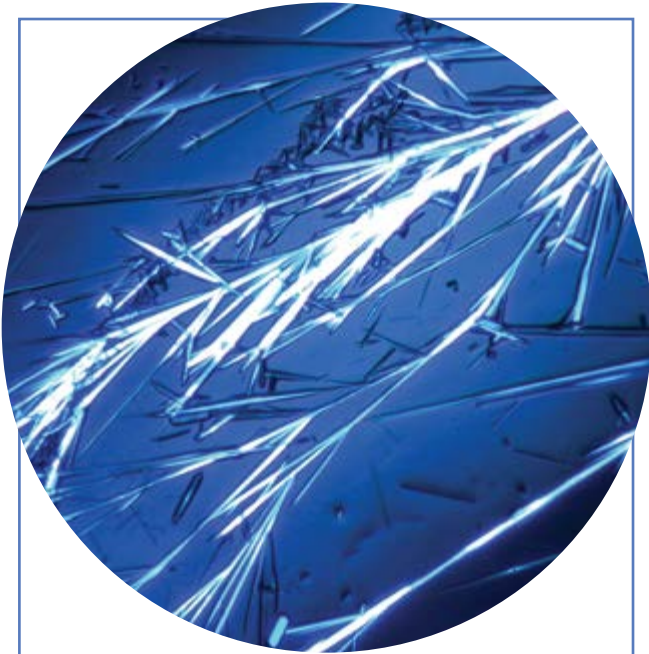
The 2016 election provided voters with an unprecedented level of choice, with several new political parties and over 150 Independent candidates. To help voters with their decision, members of UL's Democratic Performance research group set up the online voting advice application **www.WhichCandidate.ie**. Run in partnership with The Irish Times and local media outlets, the site was visited by over 100,000 voters over the course of the election campaign. WhichCandidate was initially piloted for the local elections in Limerick in 2014, and the 2016 general election was the first time it has run on a nationwide basis. The idea behind the site is simple. All election candidates were invited to fill out a personal profile page on the website and to indicate where

they stand on key policy issues such as housing, health, taxation and abortion. Some candidates chose to complete the survey personally, while others preferred to have the survey completed by their party. Voters who visited the site could take the same survey (anonymously) to discover which candidates in their constituency best matched their views.



Dr Rory Costello, founder of WhichCandidate.ie says it is designed to meet the challenges of contemporary Irish elections. There is also a significant research dimension to the project. Funded by the Irish Research Council, the site is used to gather data on the views

of candidates and their constituents, which the researchers are using to assess the quality of political representation in Ireland.



MSSI RESEARCHER IS WINNER OF THE SFI IMAGE OF THE YEAR

MSSI researcher and PhD student Matthew Gleeson is the winner of Science Foundation Ireland's Research Image of the Year competition for his picture 'Lightning Wires'. The winning image was selected from over 40 submissions and will appear on the front of the SFI Annual Report. Matthew's winning entry is of hydrothermally synthesized sodium niobate micro-wires. The image was taken using differential interference contrast on a light microscope, the image being about one hundred microns across. The sodium niobate micro-wires were grown using a method similar to pressure cooking called hydrothermal synthesis. The image shows the largest of the wires which have widths fractions the diameter of a human hair.

KBS - THE ONLY IRISH SCHOOL ON A NEW LIST OF UN PRME CHAMPIONS

Responsible education at the Kemmy Business School has been recognised by the United Nations by the recent inclusion of the School on a new list of PRME Champions published by the UN in February. The KBS is the only Irish School to be included on this prestigious list.

PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education) is a UN initiative to foster and develop responsibility in management education, and more than 600 Business Schools worldwide are signatories. However, there are only 29 PRME Champion schools globally, of which KBS is now one. The Champion schools have been identified as designated leaders in this area with a mission to contribute to thought and action leadership on responsible management education in the context of the United Nations sustainable development agenda.

"The inclusion of the Kemmy Business School as the only Irish institution in the group is a recognition of our long-term engagement on issues of responsibility, ethics and sustainability", said Dr. Sheila Killian, Director of PRME at the Kemmy Business School. "Our students and faculty are engaged across a range of activities that relate to the UN sustainable development goals, including research on poverty and decent work, on social media for social good, curriculum development on ethics, sustainability and responsibility as well as dialogue with civic authorities, local business, the arts and secondary schools to name a few areas. It's good for our business students to be exposed to these issues, Ireland in recent decades has really shown what can happen when very technical business disciplines are seen as something separate from governance, ethics and responsibility. We aim to make sure our graduates make better decisions and are equipped to respond, and create value both inside and outside of the companies where they will work" she added.

In October of this year, the Kemmy Business School will host a meeting of the PRME Champions, the first such meeting to take place in Ireland.

A full list of the PRME Champion Schools is available at www.unprme.org

TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL NO PICNIC FOR SOME ATTENDEES

David Maher from Milford National School is put through his paces as 'lead surgeon' on a recent operation on Bart Simpson with assistance from Maaz Mirza Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) at this year's GEMS Teddy Bear Hospital at UL. The GEMS students welcomed over 500 Limerick primary school children from seven different schools and their teddy bears in an effort to alleviate childhood anxiety about the medical environment, its procedures and the professionals that work within it.



SSPC ANNOUNCED AS PHARMA RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE YEAR

Pictured is the team from the Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) at UL which was recently announced as Pharma Research Centre of the Year and Research & Development Achievement Award winner, at the Pharma Industry Awards. The Awards acknowledge and celebrate the most original and innovative individuals, research centres and companies in the Irish Pharma sector. SSPC is a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and industry funded research centre which focuses on research innovations and developments for next generation medicine manufacture.





BRAVO WORKING TO PIONEER STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY



KBS/BSTAI JUNIOR CERTIFICATE **BUSINESS STUDIES AWARDS CEREMONY**

Over 230 students from schools in Clare, Limerick, and North Tipperary were recently presented with Certificates of Achievement at the Business Studies Awards Ceremony hosted by UL's Kemmy Business School and the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (BSTAI). The award recognises those who have achieved an A Grade in Higher Level Business Studies at Junior Certificate level in 2015.

This is the 4th year of the awards and the KBS were delighted to welcome graduate and Ireland's Fittest Family coach Anna Geary to UL as the guest speaker.



Caoimbe Roughan, Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis, Ireland's Fittest Family coach Anna Geary and Conor Murphy, CBS Ennistymon attending the Kemmy Business School Junior Certificate Award Ceremony.



The University of Limerick is playing a key role in developing the next wave of leading edge research with aluminium value chain partners.

BRAVO, a UL led European consortium of research organisations and enterprise, will work with Aughinish Alumina and over €1.3m in total funding for the Added Value Alumina Refining (AVAR) project, a process and feasibility examination to look at the potential for a pilot build of technology 'on site' for critical metal recovery from Bauxite Residue. The manufacture of aluminium, used in many everyday products, creates various waste streams on its journey from raw material to final product. In Ireland, the part of the value chain that is most familiar is Bauxite Residue known as red mud which results from alumina refining. Landfill residue facilities are used in Western Europe to dispose of the residue with minimal environmental risks.

BRAVO is currently looking at how this 'waste material' can be re-used on-site for commercial purpose. Dr Lisa O'Donoghue, BRAVO Co-ordinator explains, "AVAR proposes to recover Critical Raw Materials from the bayer liquors in bauxite residue through a unique process – an application of combined techniques to yield a high quality and volume of high value metals. Those materials will be suitable for every day applications including manufacturing metals and alloys that go back into our cars, aeroplanes, buildings and ICT equipment such as PC s and laptops". The raw material metals are also used as alloying elements to improve physical and mechanical projects of bulk metals as well as coatings and thin films for ICT sector applications.

H.E. MR DOMINICK CHILCOTT ON REFORM, RENEGOTIATION, AND REFERENDUM

The Department of Politics and Public Administration recently welcomed His Excellency Dr Dominick Chilcott for a public discussion event entitled "The UK, Ireland, and the EU: Reform, Renegotiation, and Referendum". The event was organised in association with the British Embassy and Communicating Europe. Welcomed by UL's Associate Vice-President Academic, Professor Sarah Moore, Britain's ambassador to Ireland, gave a keynote speech outlining the UK's strategy to renegotiate its relationship with the EU. The ambassador was also joined on the panel by member of the European Parliament Marian Harkin, Dr Órlaith Borthwick, Director of Policy, Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Dr Patricia Conlan from UL's Centre for Irish-German Studies, and Professor Emeritus Edward Moxon-Browne from the Department of Politics and Public Administration, UL.



Attended by students, faculty, and members of the public, the contributions by speakers and the ensuing debate shed light on the complex political, legal, and economic issues at stake in the UK's forthcoming EU referendum and the implications of a possible Brexit for Ireland.



SHOULDER PAIN

THE FOCUS OF NEWLY LAUNCHED WEBSITE

Shoulder pain is the focus of a new Community of Practice for healthcare professionals established by a UL lecturer in the Department of Clinical Therapies.

Funded by the Health Research Board, Dr Karen McCreesh, developed a Community of Practice, particularly for physiotherapists, who have a special interest in the management of shoulder pain. The Shoulder Community of Practice facilitates the dissemination and translation of research findings directly to clinicians, through teleconference and face-to-face meetings, journal clubs and a jointly-developed website.

"This partnership between researchers in the Department of Clinical Therapies and clinicians enables a bidirectional exchange of expertise. As well as helping clinicians to use evidence based practice in the management of shoulder pain, it also provides guidance for researchers in the Department of Clinical Therapies to stay closely aligned and relevant to clinical practice" said Dr McCreesh.

Evidence of success recently presented itself in a clinical project which involved the development of group-based classes for people with shoulder pain in primary care. A 4th year PhD student, Eva Barrett, supervised by Dr McCreesh, collaborated with the Community of Practice to undertake a clinical study investigating the effectiveness of these classes. The study demonstrated significant improvements in shoulder pain and disability after six weeks, which was maintained at the six month follow-up. Qualitative analysis highlighted the very positive impact of the class on patient motivation, knowledge and exercise adherence. Based on her research Ms Barrett has recently been awarded an Irish Research Council New Foundations Award, valued at €7,000, for a project entitled 'Enhancing the Delivery of Physiotherapy in People with Shoulder Pain'.

'IF AND WHEN' EMPLOYEES LEFT VULNERABLE

A recent study by academics at the Kemmy Business School has found that 'If and When' employees are vulnerable because they may not be defined as employees in employment law and therefore may not have many employment rights. Commissioned by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the findings are a result of a study and subsequent report into 'zero hours' contracts in Ireland, particularly in the hospitality, retail, health and education sectors. This is the first study of its kind in Ireland and it contains a number of significant findings. For instance, the report found that zero hours contracts are just one type of contract with non-guaranteed working hours but that zero hours contracts are not prevalent. A second type of contract with non-guaranteed hours is known as an 'If and When' contract and these are prevalent. The fundamental difference between the two types of contract is that individuals with a zero hours contract are contractually required to make themselves available for work with an employer, while individuals with an 'If and When' contract are not contractually required to make themselves available for work with an employer. The report makes a number of recommendations many of which centre on the introduction of new employment legislation stipulating that: (i) employees should receive a statement of their terms and conditions of employment by the first day of their job, (ii) that individuals should get minimum guaranteed hours of work after the first 6 months of a job and (iii) that employees should get longer notice for being called into work or for the cancellation of work.

The report, entitled 'A Study on the Prevalence of Zero Hours Contracts among Irish Employers and the Impact on Employees' by the Kemmy Business School was presented to the then Minister for Business and Employment Ged Nash TD late last year. Further information is available at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.



*Dr Pat Kiely with
Catriona Dowling*



UL TEAM MAKE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN COLON CANCER

A UL research team has made a significant breakthrough in the fight against colon cancer. Catriona Dowling, a final year UL PhD student has conducted research that has advanced our ability to predict the survival outcome for colon cancer patients.

The research was supervised by UL's Dr Pat Kiely whose cancer research laboratory is based in the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) and was done in collaboration with Professor Calvin Coffey at GEMS and the University Hospital Limerick. Catriona's research is focused on how a group of proteins called Protein Kinase Cs (PKCs) become dysregulated in colon cancer patients and the work has revealed how we may be able to use normal tissue from the same patient to predict how the disease will progress. Funded by the Irish Cancer Society, the research has also revealed a new way to target colon cancer which may influence the design of treatments in the future. These exciting findings have just been published in *Oncotarget*, a leading cancer research journal.

As part of this work Catriona spent time working with close collaborators at the University of California San Diego and she has received numerous awards including the Roche Gold Medal for excellence in Research at the University of Limerick and prizes at the Irish Epithelial Society and Irish Association for Cancer Research annual meetings. Catriona presented these findings at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting held in New Orleans. Dr Kiely's group in the GEMS are engaged in several colon cancer and breast cancer projects ranging from the most fundamental, where the development of a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms regulating cell migration is the goal, to the very applied, where the identification of novel therapeutic targets is the desired endpoint.



SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of scholarships are presented to UL students each year with funds that are administered through the UL Foundation.

€100,000 in Scholarships Awarded to UL Students

Last academic year UL presented almost €100,000 worth of scholarships to its first year students in recognition of their achievements at Leaving Certificate. UL awarded 49 first year students €2,000 entrance scholarships for the fourth year running. The entrance scholarships were established in 2012 as the University celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Awardees were joined at a special presentation ceremony in UL by their parents and former school principals. The scholarships were on offer across all disciplines including Science and Engineering, Kemmy Business School, Education and Health Sciences, and Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. There were also two scholarships for the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and two scholarships for Inter-faculty programmes such as BA Law and Accounting and BA International Insurance and European Studies.

In addition ten scholarships were awarded to incoming mature students and five Women in Engineering Awards were also presented to top scoring female applicants to programmes in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

The following annual Scholarships were also presented on the day:

University Mature Student Scholarship, sponsored by the University Club, was awarded to two students this year Michael Boland and Anthony Cogan.

The Microsemi Scholarship was awarded to Wiktoria Malicka. Established in 2012/2013 by semiconductor developer, Microsemi Ireland, the scholarship supports excellence in engineering at UL and provides €50,000 in funding to the University of Limerick Foundation to help support excellence in engineering at UL. The company, which has been based in Ennis, Co. Clare for 20 years, is the largest employer in the town with over 300 staff.



1 | Wiktoria Malicka is this year's recipient of the Microsemi Scholarship Award pictured here with Denise McCoy, Director HR at Microsemi, Ronan Dillon, Director of Technology at Microsemi and UL President Don Barry. **2** | Jenna Bromell with Claire McBride, HR Director Stryker and UL President Don Barry.



The Stryker Scholarship, sponsored by Stryker Medical, was awarded to three recipients this year Jenna Bromell, Co Limerick, Eoin O'Brien, Co Limerick and Mary Quill, Co Cork on the basis of their performance in the Leaving Certificate.

The Edith and Leslie Downer Scholarship, established in the memory of the parents of UL President Emeritus, Professor Roger Downer, was awarded to Chloe O'Connell, Co Limerick.

The Elaine Fagan Scholarship was awarded to Aaron Mullane from Limerick. The Elaine Fagan scholarship is sponsored by the Fagan family in memory of their daughter Elaine who died at the age of 25 but whose life inspired and touched those who knew and loved her. The scholarship is open to first year undergraduate students from the Mid-West region who enter college through the DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) process.

The Paddy Dooley Scholarship, in honour of Olympic Rower Paddy Dooley, was awarded to Alan Murtagh, Co Galway. The scholarship, valued at €2,500 is awarded on the basis of rowing prowess and academic achievement. The Paddy Dooley Rowing Scholarship was established by the Dooley family from Limerick in honour of their father who captained the Irish Olympic eight in the 1948 Olympic Games in London.



Engineering Firm Arup Fund New Scholarship and Award Programme

Engineering firm, Arup, has generously agreed to fund a new scholarship and awards programme in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at UL.

The initiative sees the establishment of the Arup Scholarship for Women in Engineering and the Arup Integrated Design Project Awards in Civil Engineering. Eoghan Lynch, Director, Arup said: "Arup is delighted to sponsor this new scholarship and award programme at UL. Arup has a long established commitment to diversity and encouraging more females to study engineering and STEM subjects generally. Supporting further education is hugely important to us as a firm."

The Scholarship will award an amount of €5,000 to the female first year student with the highest Leaving Certificate points who is registered in the Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering and is a very positive development in cementing the University's commitment to advancing gender equality. In addition, four Awards valued at €1,500 each will be made to third year students in the Civil Engineering programme who undertake an "Integrated Design Project". These include:

- Best Engineering Design (Group Award)
- Best Engineering Designer
- Sustainable Project Award
- Outstanding Collaboration Award

UL President's Access Scholars Awards

At a special ceremony in the University of Limerick UL President Professor Don Barry awarded six of UL's brightest students an Access Scholarship Award. The awards were first launched in 2011 under the President's patronage to acknowledge the highest standards of academic achievement and to inspire all students to continue to strive for excellence. The programme receives funding through the UL Foundation with support from private and corporate donors, including the University Club and Aramark. The awards include six scholarships of €2,500 each and were presented to Access students who achieved the highest annual QCA for the academic year 2014/15.

This year's recipients of the President's Access Scholars Awards are:

- Jhabi Kharel a 4th year Bachelor of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering student from Limerick.
- Paula O'Donnell a 4th year Bachelor of Science (Education) in Biological Sciences student from Co Donegal.
- Brian O'Mahony a 3rd year Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering student from Co Cork.
- Paige Kemp a 3rd year Bachelor of Arts in New Media and English student from Co Kerry.
- Joseph Greaney a 2nd year Bachelor of Science in Computer Games Development student from Co Kerry.
- Anthony Kavanagh a 2nd year Bachelor of Science in Technology Management student from Co Mayo.



President Don Barry and Deirdre O'Connor, Access Officer with the Access Scholarship Awards Recipients.



GRADUATE LIVES



PAUL ADAMS

MA Interactive Media 2002

A Dublin native, Paul is VP of Product at Intercom, where he oversees the Product, Design and Research teams. Previously, Paul worked as Global Head of Brand Design at Facebook (running design projects with partners like Nike, Coca Cola, and Starbucks) and as a Product Manager. He was one of Facebook's foremost speakers on the future of marketing and social design. He also worked in the UX team at Google (working on Google+, Gmail, YouTube and Mobile) and was an Industrial Designer at Dyson. Paul published his first book, *Grouped*, in 2011.



DR ELAINE BYRNE

BA History, Politics and Social Studies 2001 & PhD 2007

A Carlow/Wicklow native, Elaine has held academic appointments at Trinity College Dublin and the University of New South Wales. She is currently a governance consultant with the European Commission. Her best-selling book on the history of Irish corruption, *Political Corruption in Ireland 1922-2010, A Crooked Harp?*, was published in 2012. Elaine also writes with the *Sunday Business Post* and is a regular contributor to Irish public life.



BARBARA JONES

Graduate Diploma in Computing 1983

Born in Co. Wexford, Barbara is Consul General of Ireland in New York, a post she took up in 2014. In a career at the Department of Foreign Affairs spanning almost 30 years, she has worked primarily on Anglo-Irish and European Union issues. Previous roles include: Head of Humanitarian Aid Policy (1994-1997) during which time, Barbara travelled extensively in Africa. Her overseas postings also include assignments in San Francisco, Luxembourg and in London dealing with political relations and the Northern Ireland peace process (in September 2012, she was appointed Joint Secretary at the British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat in Belfast). Barbara is married with three children.



DERIC Ó H'ARTAGÁIN

BA Languages with Computing 2004 & Graduate Diploma in Languages 2005

Originally from Inchmore, Co. Limerick, Deric is a Weather Presenter & Documentary Producer with the TV3 Television Network. Among his career highlights to-date has been producing & presenting a documentary about Calcutta 'The Real Slum Dogs: Journey of Hope'. Deric has also been Men's Editor with RSVP Magazine and is Founder of TRI10 whose mission is to undertake 10 triathlons with 10 newcomers to raise €10,000 for charity.



EMMA D'ARCY

BBS 2010 & MSc Marketing Consumption and Society 2011

Emma is a Business & Marketing consultant and coach with over 20 years' experience in a variety of industries. She was a retail manager (with German giant Lidl), sales manager, market researcher, worked in the agricultural & bloodstock industry, and the warehouse & logistics industry. Emma has also worked extensively in training small-to-medium business owners on how to leverage their social media platforms for business and was Chief Marketing Officer for parent and children's app 'FunKidDays'. More recently, Emma has launched an online version of her work and runs 'Webinar' training.



STEPHEN EDWARD WALSH

BBS Marketing 1992 & MBS 2002

Having built a career at the business end of software, Stephen established software services operation, Keeper Solutions in 2012 and more recently, spin out tech start-up MyTalengi.com, a talent acquisition platform for scaling tech firms that is focused exclusively on software developers. With a keen interest in architecture and Munster Rugby, Stephen also holds "a special affection for the University". He recently returned to Newport where he grew up and now lives there with his wife and three daughters.



GRADUATE INTERVIEW

As CTO and Chief Development Officer for a multi-national software company with annual revenues in excess of US\$6 Billion annually, Ray O'Farrell BEng 1986 & MEng 1990 happily recalls his time as a student at UL and gives us an insight into his challenging role at VMware Inc., his life in California and his thoughts on the future of the ICT sector...

Ray, why did you choose UL?

Well, I always had an interest in science and technology and for me engineering and electronics in particular was a sector I was determined to pursue a career in. Because of its obvious focus on technology, I placed UL at the top of my CAO choices and I went on to complete both a BEng in Electronics and an MEng in Computer Systems there. Apart from its engineering focus, I also liked the way the University was adopting the US system of modules, each taught over a ten-week period. Finally, I liked the connection between NIHE and industries in the area. I was hoping that would make it easier to get a job later.

Tell us about your time as a student here

I remember being very interested in the core course work in electronics and hands-on experience in software. However, one of the most powerful parts of the curriculum for me was the Cooperative Education (work placement). I worked at a smaller company in Nenagh called Reliability Nederland. I really liked working there and returned for a few summer gigs later.



Silicon Valley, due its super strong venture community, is a constant engine of new ideas and constant innovation – and that's exciting.

Tell us about your career journey so far:

I have worked at startups (some of them in Plassey, close to UL, including Industrial and Scientific Imaging (ISI) and Ashling Microsystems) and in large multi-national companies but always in the electronics or software sector. After I moved to the US in 1990, I worked for a relatively small but fast growing company called Microtec Research which was later bought by Mentor Graphics. After a decade there, I got the startup bug and joined a small digital signal processing company called Improv Systems. As often happens with startups, Improv did not really take off and after a few years I moved on to join an emerging startup in the systems software space - "VMware" - in early 2003. I joined as software team manager for a 6 person group driving what was at that time a fledgling VMware storage technology. Over the years I have managed many different products and teams, reported to several CEOs, worked as general manager for different business units,



managed large global R&D teams and driven hundreds of product releases. We currently employ close to 20,000 people, with offices worldwide and today, I am part of the executive leadership at VMware (I report to the CEO) in my role of Corporate CTO and Chief Development Officer. I am responsible for R&D orchestration across all of VMware's R&D Business Units and I also lead VMware's CTO team.

Why the move to the US?

I really think the core reason was adventure. Two months before I finished my Masters, my wife Marianne was fortunate to get a work visa for the US. After I finished my Masters, we both quit our jobs, sold our house and got on a plane to San Jose in California and started looking for work. A few weeks later, my wife started working for a Software Development company and I joined Microtec Research as Senior Software Engineer. Twenty-five years later, I feel this was an excellent career move for me, we settled here and Marianne and I have two daughters (one in high school, the other at University of California, a Biomedical Engineering Major), and we also get to visit "home" to Ireland about once a year.

What excites you about the ICT sector?

The most exciting thing is the constant change, new companies, new technologies, new products, new innovations. Silicon Valley, due to its super strong venture community, is a constant engine of new ideas and constant innovation— and that's exciting.

Finally, do you have advice for future University students?

Since my older daughter is in her second year of college, I should be advising "stay out of trouble, focus on your studies" etc. However, the reality is that university is likely the first time that a student is away from home and is an opportunity to make new friends, take advantage of social, sporting and other opportunities being part of a university community. So, it is about working hard but also making sure to enjoy and leverage the opportunities which come from being part of a modern university.



CONFERRINGS

The University of Limerick saw 1,714 students graduate in the January Conferring, including 45 PhD graduates. Many were excited about their career choice while celebrating that UL still maintains its exceptional employment rate which is 20% higher than the average for the other seven Irish universities, with 7 out of 10 UL graduates going into direct employment.

Dineshika Gamage from Sri Lanka who was conferred with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

UL Sports Scholarships



For those who want Gold



www.ul.ie/sportsscholarships

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Sanyam Chawla, MEng in Information and Network Security.

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