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ULSTER

THE ULSTER GRADUATE

Issue 24 SPRING 2006

The magazine for alumni
and friends of the
University of Ulster

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THE ULSTER GRADUATE

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 24th edition of *the Ulster Graduate*, in which you can learn about property development from Ulster graduate Gary McCausland or rock music journalism from another talented graduate Paul Brannigan, editor of *Kerrang!*

Gary, Paul and many other UU graduates have kindly given interviews or allowed us to print details of their latest projects and career choices.

In this edition we also give readers an insight into e-learning with the University of Ulster through the experience of one graduate of an e-learning degree – why not see if we have any programmes on offer that would interest you at <http://campusone.ulster.ac.uk>

Many Coleraine graduates will remember Professor Peter Roebuck who has recently stepped down from the post of Provost after 14 years in that role. We are pleased to include a profile of Peter's contribution over the many years he has been with the University.

We hope you enjoy the selection of articles and news we have provided for you. Please let us know of any developments in your life which would be of interest to *Ulster Graduate* readers.

Best wishes

Sue Rees, Alumni Relations Manager

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The Alumni Relations Office, The University of Ulster, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, BT37 0QB. Tel **08 700 400 700** (Switchboard), or **028 9036 8350** (Direct Line), Fax **028 9036 6085**, e-mail alumni@ulster.ac.uk
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Cover Story

Graduate Gary McCausland, presenter of Channel Five's *How to be a Property Developer*. An interview with Gary is featured on page 24.



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Celtic Studies Research Institute Launched



From left: Pádraig Ó Baoighill, Monsignor Liam Mac an tSagairt, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett, Professor Séamus Mac Mathúna (Director of the Research Institute for Irish and Celtic Studies), Charles Dillon and Proinsias Ó Conluain.

Four leading Irish language activists received honorary degrees at the launch of the University's Celtic Studies Research Institute in October 2005.

The new Institute brings together international research and will build on the top five-star rating achieved by Irish and Celtic Studies in the last Research Assessment Exercise.

During the official launch, authors and journalists Proinsias Ó Conluain and Pádraig Ó Baoighill, churchman Monsignor Liam Mac an tSagairt and educationalist Charles Dillon, were conferred with the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of their significant contribution to Gaelic cultural life in the region.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, said: "Irish and Celtic Studies at the University has an excellent record of achievement in both research and teaching at national and international levels. In the most recent nationwide research assessment exercise it was awarded the highest possible grading of five-star, placing it amongst the top departments in the subject area. Additionally, Irish and Celtic Studies has been awarded the maximum score of 24 out of 24 in the Teaching Quality Assessment Exercise.

Gradam á Bhronnadh ar Cheannródaithe Gaeilge ag Seoladh Institiúid na Gaeilge agus an Léinn Cheiltigh Bronnadh céimeana oinigh ar cheathrar de cheannródaithe na Gaeilge ag seoladh Institiúid Gaeilge agus Léinn Cheiltigh na hOllscoile i nDeireadh Fómhair 2005.

Tá an Institiúid nua ag tabhairt taighde idirnáisiúnta le chéile agus beidh sí ag tógáil ar an ardghrád cúig réalta a ghnóthaigh Roinn na Gaeilge agus an Léinn Cheiltigh san Mheasúnú Taighde (RAE) is déanaí.

Le linn sheoladh oifigiúil na hInstitiúide, bronnadh céim Dochtúra le Léann (DLitt) as ucht a saothair ar son an chultúir Ghaelaigh sa tír ar Phroinsias Ó Conluain agus Pádraig Ó Baoighill, údair agus iriseoirí; ar an Mhoinsíneoir Liam Mac an tSagairt, eaglaiseach; agus ar Charles Dillon, oideachasóir.

Dúirt an Leas-Seansailéir Gníomhach, an tOllamh Richard Barnett: "Tá taifead gnóthachtála den scoth ag an Ghaeilge agus an Léann Ceilteach san Ollscoil sa taighde agus sa teagasc araon, ar leibhéal náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta. Sa mheasúnú taighde is déanaí, gnóthaíodh cúig réalta, an grád is airde is féidir a fháil, rud a dheimhníonn an Roinn ar na ranna is láidre san ábhar. Lena chois sin, bronnadh an t-uasmharc 24 as 24 ar an Ghaeilge agus an Léann Ceilteach sa Mheasúnú ar Cháilíocht an Teagaisc."

SCIENCE IN SOCIETY



Professor Jack Crane, Dr Declan McKenna and Professor Valerie McKelvey-Martin

The School of Biomedical Sciences at the Coleraine campus has been producing a series of public lectures entitled "Science in Society" sponsored by the Bank of Ireland. This new initiative aims to promote science to people in an accessible and informative way by introducing topical scientific issues in a straightforward, entertaining manner.

So far, talks have been presented on *Binge Drinking and the Licensing Laws*, *Music, Pleasure and the Brain*, *Physics and Music*, *Mobile Phones and Health* and *Forensic Dentistry in Criminal Investigation*. In addition to this, a special treat was organised for schools at Christmas to attend a guest lecture by Professor Jack Crane, State Pathologist for Northern Ireland. Jack presented an illustrated lecture on *Silent Witness - The Role of the Pathologist in the Investigation of Murder*.

The last Science and Society lecture, which has been rescheduled from January, will now take place on 25 April at 7.30pm in Lecture Theatre 8, UUC. The lecture will tackle the topical issue of *The Psychology of Cosmetic Surgery and Face Transplantation* delivered by guest speaker, Dr Nichola Rumsey. All are welcome to attend. The series has been enormously successful and well-received and it is anticipated that a new series of lectures will begin in the autumn.

For further information see the Science and Society website www.ulster.ac.uk/scienceinsociety/

Dr Garret FitzGerald visits Magee

Former Taoiseach Dr Garret FitzGerald hailed the European Union as a model of modern peace-making and urged the EU to influence the United States to embrace its positive values whilst delivering the Tip O'Neill Lecture at Magee in December.

"In the longer run, only a cohesive European effort to promote globally its new value system offers a hope of influencing the US to develop similar values. The same is true in relation to Russia and, eventually, China," he said.

Dr FitzGerald, who served two terms as Taoiseach in the 1980s, praised Ireland's leading role in EU peace-keeping operations. But he questioned one aspect of its stance on neutrality which, he said, some member states must view as "eccentric", namely Ireland's opt-out from the peace initiative that prevented civil war in Macedonia two years ago, because of a Chinese veto on peace-keeping action there due to Macedonia's recognition of Taiwan.

The distinguished statesman, who led Fine Gael for 10 years, was speaking on "Europe's Role in World Peace" at the invitation of Nobel Peace Laureate Professor John Hume, who holds the Tip O'Neill Chair of Peace Studies.

The Tip O'Neill Chair, which is supported by The Ireland Funds, commemorates the late Speaker of the US House of Representatives, who was renowned for his commitment to the promotion of peace, reconciliation and justice in Northern Ireland.



Walking in the Air at the Belfast Campus

The redevelopment of the Belfast campus moved another step forward in January with the assembly of a link bridge high above York Street.

The 28-metre long bridge links the Warwick and Orpheus buildings and involved a delicate lifting operation to put it in place. York Street was closed to traffic as two heavy cranes lifted the three sections of the bridge which were then bolted into place by engineers from the Patton Group construction company.



The fitting of cladding, floor sections and glass panels to the 43 tonne structure will make it a permanent walk-way in the air between the two campus buildings, due for completion in May of this year.

Professor Bill Clarke, Provost of the Belfast campus, said:

"I am very pleased to see this firm evidence of the rapid progress we are making in the redevelopment of the campus.

"The construction of our new six storey building is well under way and will be ready for occupation by students and staff by the end of June this year. This will provide a much needed expansion and enhancement of the learning and teaching facilities available, primarily for the School of Art and Design.

"We anticipate the new facilities will be of major benefit in terms of consolidating the School's place in the Top 10 art and design schools in the UK", Professor Clarke added.

Overall some £30m has been earmarked for development of the Belfast campus in three phases, with the first phase costing around £12m.

POSITIVE AUDIT OUTCOME FOR UNIVERSITY

Last year the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) conducted an institutional audit in the University. The QAA works with higher education institutions to define academic standards and quality, and carries out and publishes reviews against these standards.

Institutional audit is a review process introduced in higher education institutions in England and Northern Ireland in 2002-03. Between 2002 and 2005, all higher education institutions in England and NI would have taken part in an audit.

Institutional audit aims to ensure that institutions are providing higher education, awards and qualifications of an acceptable quality and an appropriate academic standard, and exercising their legal powers to award degrees in a proper manner.

The report published by the QAA as the result of the University of Ulster institutional audit is very positive in tone, highlighting a number of areas of good practice, and confirming as appropriate the quality of the learning opportunities available to students in the five subject areas selected for more detailed consideration, that is, Built Environment, Computing, Education, Environmental Studies, and Social Policy and Administration. A small number of recommendations for action have been made for the University to consider.

The QAA publishes reports of institutional audits on its web site <http://qaa.ac.uk/reviews/reports/institutional>

UU Academics Shed New Light on Irish History

Academics at the University are playing a key role in a major cross border project which will shed new light on the history of Ireland in the 17th Century.

They are spearheading the project to translate a record of life in Ireland in the mid-1600s compiled in Latin from the correspondence of Papal Nuncio Extraordinary, Giovanni Baptist Rinuccini who was sent to Ireland at that time by Pope Innocent X.

The researchers from the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages at the Magee campus also uncovered a previously unknown manuscript history of Ireland which will also be translated from the original Latin and published for the first time.

The project will see *Commentarius Rinuccinianus* - one of the most important primary sources for information about seventeenth century politics, military history and personnel in Ireland, Britain and in Europe – translated into English and made available online.

During the course of initial research the project team discovered a previously unknown manuscript history of Ireland, the *Historia* which was written by Robert O'Connell in the seventeenth century and which will now be translated and published.

The English translation of the *Commentarius Rinuccinianus* will be completed by October 2007 and will be made available online.

The translation project has been funded by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism.

UU Celebrates 30 years of Nursing

Over 400 staff, students and graduates celebrated 30 years of Nursing at UU during a special award ceremony on the Coleraine campus in November 2005.

Professor Martin Bradley, Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Ireland, was the guest speaker at the event, which marked the successes of this year's cohort of graduating nurses and recognised the outstanding achievement of one former student.

The first Olly McGilloway Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Transcultural Nursing was presented to Catherine Henshaw for her work with Latin American street children in Bolivia.



Catherine Henshaw

Olly McGilloway was the founder member of the Department of Nursing at UU in 1975. He pioneered the developments within nursing and made a major contribution to national and international nursing literature until his untimely death in 1994.

Catherine Henshaw, moved to Bolivia shortly after completing her nursing degree in 1999. She began working with an Irish organisation called LASCO (Latin American Street Children Organisation), and is currently Assistant Director of an orphanage with 26 boys and girls from the age of six to twenty years old.

The eldest boy in her care is currently in Northern Ireland, living with the family of an ex LASCO volunteer, and hopes to eventually study at the Magee campus. Catherine is also the volunteer co-ordinator for Espacio Alternativo Ayni, which helps take children off the streets of Cochabamba.

Carol Curran, Head of the School of Nursing said:

"The current School of Nursing developed from the Ulster Polytechnic and the New University of Ulster. In 1984 the two came together to form the Department of Nursing at UU. The first head of school was Olly McGilloway and all those who were taught or worked with him remember his gentle wit and kindness. The school also produced the first Professor of Nursing on the island of Ireland and the first female professor at UU – Professor Jennifer Boore.

"The School of Nursing has grown rapidly and we now have 110 members of staff and nearly 2,000 students across the University's campuses. We now have an international reputation for quality in both educational and research activities."

Other awards presented at the ceremony included the Princess Macha Award, the Northern Bank Shield, the Bank of Ireland Award, the Donald Dawson Memorial Trust, the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust Management Award and the North and West Housing Caring for Older People Award.

Honorary Degree for Brian O'Connor



Belfast born Brian O'Connor, received an honorary degree during the winter graduations.

After beginning his career in the travel business, he left Northern Ireland in 1974 for the Isle of Man. Using the island as a base, he has developed his career as a consultant, manager and/or investor in both private and public companies.

He has worked in the UK, the US and lived in Hong Kong for eleven years.

Brian has gained experience as a company doctor in a variety of industries and professions, and has raised significant sums for companies through both private equity structures and stock exchange listings.

He has founded a number of companies in the healthcare services area in the UK, Hong Kong and most recently in Ireland. Brian is best-known as founder of the CrestaCare nursing and healthcare group, which was launched in 1987 and grew into the country's third-largest provider of care for the elderly with 4,500 beds in 60 homes.

A decade later he enjoyed similar success in Hong Kong after bringing together doctors, dentists and surgeons under the banner of Quality Healthcare Asia, which now has around 1.7 million patients.

Formerly chairman of the University of Ulster Foundation, Brian is now chairman of UUTECH, the University's technology and knowledge transfer arm.

The honorary degree of Doctor of the University (DUniv) was conferred on Brian in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the University.

UU Hosts International HIV/AIDS Photographic Exhibition



Community Relations Officer Chris Johnston with some of the photographs.

UU and Concern Worldwide organised an internationally-renowned exhibition of photography on the theme of HIV and AIDS at the Jordanstown Campus earlier this year.

Featuring the work of distinguished international photographers, the Positive Lives exhibition documented the social and emotional impact of HIV/AIDS across the world, illuminating positive human responses to this global issue.

The exhibition formed part of an extensive programme of education and awareness-raising activities about HIV/AIDS across Northern Ireland. It was the largest photographic exhibition in Northern Ireland exclusively focusing on HIV/AIDS, according to the organisers.

Appointment of Vice-Chancellor

Professor Gerry McKenna stood down as Vice-Chancellor of the University on 31 July 2005 and retired from the University on 28 February 2006.

The University is in the process of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor and hopes to be in a position to announce the name of the appointee in the next few weeks.

We will be including a profile of the new Vice-Chancellor in the next issue of *The Ulster Graduate*.

Student finance from 2006

In the last *Ulster Graduate* we outlined how UK universities have changed the way they charge course fees. This new regime has been called 'top-up' or variable fees.

These arrangements affect all full-time home and European Union students only.

From September 2006, new full-time undergraduate students at UU will NOT HAVE TO PAY the course fee when they enrol each year. Instead, the fees become due when they graduate and are then paid back as a percentage of income once they earn over a certain limit, currently £15,000 p.a. After 25 years, the debt is cancelled. You can think of it as 'learn now, pay when you're earning'. This arrangement is effectively the same as that for English universities; Scotland and Wales have different arrangements.

These new fees and payment arrangements have been developed partly to generate more money for universities to spend on increasing the opportunity for all to have a university education. We are required to publish what is called an Access Agreement which sets out in plain terms what we charge in tuition fees and how that money gets back to the students who need it most by way of bursaries and scholarships. You can find the link to our Access Agreement below

Grants

Money to help students live – maintenance grants as you may have known them – are being reinstated and are administered by Education and Library Boards. These will be means-tested and how much students get depends on their family income. They may be eligible for a bursary of up to £2,500 which is extra money to help them live and does not have to be paid back.

How are fees paid?

Students can take a loan from the Student Loan Company (SLC) although the applications are made through Education and Library Boards. The interest on this loan will be fixed to the rate of inflation, so in real terms it is interest-free. The SLC pay the fees directly to UU and the graduate pays them back when they earn over £15,000 p.a.

Loans for maintenance

Students can also apply through the Education and Library Board for a Student Loan to help find the money to live on. However should a student be entitled to grants their entitlement to maintenance loans will be reduced.

This loan and the fees loan will be combined into one sum for repayment purposes.

Bursaries and scholarships

A bursary is money paid to the student by the University to help them get through the academic year. It should go towards supporting them while they study. How much they get is means tested, depending on their family's residual income. They can receive somewhere between £300 and £1000 a year. This does not have to be paid back and can be reviewed annually.

A scholarship is support in cash or kind to meet an identifiable need and is awarded for what we call 'scholarly achievement'. Our Sports Scholarships, for instance, help students who have already reached a high level of achievement in their chosen sport and need extra help in balancing the demands of studying and training. Scholarships vary and are not necessarily just cash handouts.

At UU, scholarships can be up to £1,500 and will be awarded independently of bursaries. This means that students who are eligible to avail of the maximum bursary and who also secure the maximum Scholarship, will receive £2,500 in support.

Summary

- The scale of fees has changed from approximately £1175 a year to £3000 a year for Honours programmes and £2000 for Foundation degrees.
- These tuition fees will **NOT BE CHARGED UPFRONT** by UU from September 2006 but can be deferred until completion of the student's course.
- Students can take an interest-free loan to pay these fees and only have to pay this back when they are in work after graduating and are earning over £15,000 a year.
- Students can apply for a grant from their Education and Library Board. How much they get depends on their family income.
- UU will also give students a bursary between £300 - £1000 if their parental residual income is less than £37,000. They are not required to pay this back to the University.
- Students may be eligible for a UU scholarship of up to £1500 which they can use to support their studies.
- Scholarships will be limited to £1,500 and will be awarded independently of bursaries. This means that students who are eligible to avail of the maximum bursary and who also secure the maximum scholarship, will receive £2,500 in support.

More information

University of Ulster Access Agreement
<http://prospectus.ulster.ac.uk/access>

Nlstudents.org
www.nlstudents.org/sections/finance/

Department for Employment and Learning info on student finance
www.delni.gov.uk/index.cfm/area/information/page/StudentFinance

UCAS advice on student finance
www.ucas.ac.uk/studentfinance/index.html

E-Learning Opens International Doors

An innovative business programme at the University's School of International Business is pulling in students from far and near. The first intake in September for the Postgraduate Diploma and Masters of Science in International Business by E-Learning included students from Canada, Ghana, Japan, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway as well across the UK.

The appeal of the new web based programme is its flexibility, says Programme Director Helen Shiels.

"E-learning allows people to reach their full academic potential in an innovative and creative way, without having to sacrifice their careers or put their family life on hold. The programme is available to anyone, anyplace, anywhere.

She continues: "The PgDip/MSc in International Business by e-learning gives students an opportunity to learn about international business at their own pace, but in a very structured and supported way. Students can undertake either one or two 12-week modules per semester, depending on their schedules, with the opportunity to complete the full programme within two calendar years. Additionally, a 'blended option' is available, which allows students to study some modules in the traditional classroom environment at the University's Magee campus."

www.ulster.ac.uk/intbusiness

New Hotel, Leisure and Tourism Programmes

The School of Hotel, Leisure and Tourism has developed and validated two new Masters Degrees to complement the on-line MSc in Cultural Management (e-learning):

- MSc in International Hotel and Tourism Management
- MSc in International Tourism Development

The development of these international programmes is timely as we have to recognise and address the requirements of the rapidly changing field of not only international hotel and tourism but also of domestic tourism. Travel and Tourism, one of the world's largest industries, is responsible for 214 million jobs and over 10% of global GDP. WTTC's latest projection for the industry is that a quarter of a billion people will work in travel and tourism (directly and indirectly) worldwide by the end of the decade.

The tourism industry has developed into a highly competitive, complex global industry, which requires well educated, professional managers who have the knowledge, skills and ability to meet the new challenges and demands of tomorrow.

The MSc International Hotel and Tourism Management will enable students to acquire an understanding of the policy, strategy and leadership aspects of international hotel and tourism industry.

The MSc International Tourism Development will enable students to acquire an understanding of the economic, social, environmental and political aspects of international tourism in the developed, emerging and developing countries.

The MSc Cultural Management is an innovative programme designed specifically for those employed in a management role in the cultural sectors of arts, heritage and museums. This unique programme is delivered entirely by e-learning.

Further information is available at www.business.ulster.ac.uk/hospitalitytour

Shaping the Future of Computer Games

A new BSc Computing (Digital Games Development) programme has been introduced at the Coleraine campus.

The programme is designed to combine the core elements of a traditional computing degree with the specialist skills in programming, graphics and multimedia for a career in the fast growing computer games industry.

Dr Darryl Charles, lecturer in Games at Coleraine, said:

"Games development is already one of the major growth areas in computing in the UK and Ireland, and this exciting new programme aims to put Coleraine at the centre of the Northern Ireland games community.

"This programme will provide a pathway into the games industry or into postgraduate research. In many ways gaming is one of the pinnacles of the computing industry and it is estimated that the sector will be worth around \$40bn by 2008."

FACULTY OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

SCHOOL OF HOTEL, LEISURE & TOURISM

- MSc in International Hotel & Tourism Management (FT/PT)
- MSc in International Tourism Development (FT/PT)
- MSc in Cultural Management (delivered entirely by e-learning)

For entry requirements and further details contact portrush@ulster.ac.uk, www.business.ulster.ac.uk or telephone 028 70323999

Mission to India



Professor Hugh McKenna, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD and Joan Reilly

Representatives from the University have taken part in an Enterprise Ireland Trade Mission to India – the first all-Ireland overseas trade mission.

The large delegation – made up of a broad range of companies and many educational institutions, north and south – was led by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, and delegates participated in official functions, visits and meetings in Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai. The University took part in the mission at the invitation of Invest Northern Ireland.

The education programme for the Trade Mission included visits to leading institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and the University of Mumbai.

UU participants, Professor Hugh McKenna, Dean of Life and Health Sciences, and Joan Reilly, Head of the International Office, met educationalists, and visited high profile companies such as Biocon and Wipro in Bangalore.

Discussions also took place with UK Trade and Investment and the British Council.

New contacts were also made and further collaborative ventures are being explored in consultation with Faculty colleagues.

International Experts Celebrate UN Day at University of Ulster

Experts in peace and conflict research from around the world met at the Magee campus in October 2005 to participate in a series of events organised by INCORE to celebrate United Nations Day and the sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the United Nations.

INCORE, UU's conflict research project, is a joint initiative of the United Nations University and UU which addresses the causes and consequences of conflict, promoting conflict resolution and peace and reconciliation processes via research, practice, teaching and training.

The inaugural meeting of the INCORE International Advisory Group (IIAG) was held on October 24, United Nations Day. The Advisory Group includes leading international statesmen and stateswomen, current and former politicians, academics, practitioners and others with an active role in peace and conflict issues.

The Group Advises INCORE on its role in peace and conflict research in Northern Ireland and overseas. Its input has helped to shape INCORE's future research, training and best practice agenda and to provide advice on how INCORE can put its findings into practice.

Saudi Nursing Agreement

The University signed a long-term contract to deliver nurse education in Saudi Arabia.

The ten-year agreement, signed between the University and SAAD Nursing and Allied Health Science College of Al-Khobar, will support the growth and development of the nursing profession in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States.

Students will follow a five year programme (including a year long internship) blending e-learning with traditional nurse education techniques, leading to the award of a BSc (Honours) in Nursing from the University of Ulster. The students will undertake clinical placements in their home country.

The agreement followed a worldwide search by the Saudi college to find a preferred supplier, ultimately choosing UU over stiff competition from institutions in the USA and continental Europe.

Welcoming the agreement, Professor Richard Barnett, Acting Vice-Chancellor said;

"This agreement creates a strong educational partnership and promotes a strengthening and enhancing of nursing skills and practice throughout the Middle East."

The first cohort of a minimum of 25 students is to be recruited by September 2006. The programme is to be jointly approved by the Saudi Arabian Licencing Authority and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education.



Jackie Simpson, Dr Carol Curran, Prof Richard Barnett, Michael Beckley, Dr Sabah Abu-Zinadah.

Graduations in China, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka



The Graduation Ceremony in Shenyang

The Chancellor, Sir Richard Nichols, presided over two Graduation Ceremonies in November in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China and in Hong Kong. Professor Tom Fraser, Provost, presided over a third ceremony in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Ceremony in Shenyang celebrated the success of students who had completed postgraduate courses in the Faculties of Business and Management and Social Sciences.

In Hong Kong the University was delighted that the Minister in the Northern Ireland Office with responsibility for higher education, Angela Smith MP, was the Guest of Honour at the Graduation Ceremony and gave the keynote address. The Minister was in Hong Kong to lead an Invest Northern Ireland Trade Mission to China and Hong Kong. The University was also pleased to formally demonstrate the importance placed on our partnerships in Hong Kong by the awarding of Honorary Doctorates to Dr Chan Cheuk-hay, Principal, Hong Kong College of Technology (HKCT) and Professor Enoch Young, Director of the School of Professional and Continuing Education, University of Hong Kong (SPACE HKU). Both institutes have been partners of the University for nearly ten years and many of the graduates at the ceremony had completed their University of Ulster awards at HKCT and SPACE, HKU.

The graduation ceremony in Sri Lanka marked the achievements of graduates from courses in the School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences. The Guest of Honour at the ceremony was Mrs Dhamaraltha, Chief Commissioner for Teacher Education.

The three overseas Graduation Ceremonies demonstrate the University's growing number of international alumni, the Alumni Association in Hong Kong forming the largest overseas group with more than 1,000 alumni.



Professor Enoch Young, Angela Smith MP, Sir Richard Nichols and Dr Chan Cheuk-hay

Boston Scholars



Professor Hugh McKenna, James Lawson, Professor Jim Allen and Dr Damian O'Kane.

Two students from Derry have been announced as this year's recipients of the Boston Step-Up to the University of Ulster Scholarships.

James Lawson is a first year BSc Hons Biomedical Sciences student at Coleraine and Nicole McIntyre is a second year Radiography student at Jordanstown.

This is the second year the Scholarships, funded by the University of Ulster New England Alumni Association (UUNEA) have been presented. The Scholarship is worth \$1,500 per year, payable for each year the recipient is a full-time undergraduate, and is awarded to a UU student who has come through the Step-Up programme.

In addition to financial support the UUNEA provides mentoring, assistance in finding internships in the Boston area and networking opportunities for the successful candidate after graduation.

James said:

"This scholarship has already helped to relieve the financial burden of life as a student. Without it life would have been a lot more difficult. I am able to focus on my studies. I'd like to thank all those at Step-Up and the UUNEA for their ongoing support."

The Step-Up programme has been identified in an influential Universities UK report as an example of best practice in the area of widening participation.

The report entitled, *From the margins to the mainstream: embedding widening participation in Higher Education*, highlights the activities of a small number of universities and colleges who are successfully facilitating the inclusion of underrepresented groups in Higher Education.

The Re-Mortgage Phenomenon

Marguerite McGarry, Bank of Ireland

Property prices in Northern Ireland have continued to make headline news over the past few years. Prices of homes across Northern Ireland have risen at an unprecedented rate, with the latest snapshot showing average growth of over 22% during 2005, resulting in the overall average price soaring to almost £146,000.

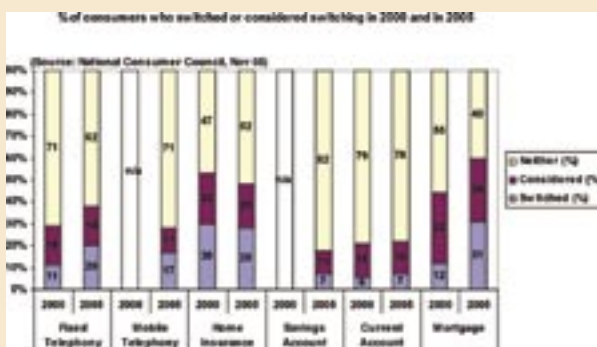
(source: The Quarterly House Price Index, produced by Bank of Ireland in partnership with the University of Ulster and the NI Housing Executive, Q4 2005).

In line with this another area that has witnessed dramatic growth in recent years (especially if you take the time to analyse the UK mortgage market in its entirety), is the business of re-mortgaging - when a borrower does not move house, but instead 'switches' their mortgage from one lender to another.

The National Consumer Council has recently carried out research into the concept of 'switching'. Results indicate that 'switching' has increased most significantly within the mortgage market, followed by other service sectors, for example telecommunications, utilities and insurance,

This is hardly surprising when you consider the steady increases in the price of properties in Northern Ireland since 2000. The average house now costs £139,520 in the region (source: Bank of Ireland / University of Ulster Quarterly House Price Index) and this has led to many homeowners re-mortgaging to release the valuable equity in their homes. This can be for a number of reasons. It can range from home improvements to the purchase of large consumer goods, debt consolidation or to help purchase second properties.

It's also a great way to save money, as new lower interest rates or discounted rates may now be available in the current economic climate that were not when purchasers took out their existing loan.



Going back to 1993, re-mortgages accounted for just 16% of the mortgage market. Almost 80% were taken out for the purchase of a property. By 2004, re-mortgages had increased to 42% of the total market and this continues to grow, while loans for house purchases had fallen to around 47%.

The general perception is that 'switching' can be problematic and expensive; however this is no longer the case. In fact, Bank of Ireland has a range of award winning mortgages specifically designed for people who want to switch lender, including EasySwitch fixed or discounted re-mortgage products. The expense is greatly reduced as the standard legal fees are paid using a Bank of Ireland nominated solicitor, there is no valuation fee to pay for properties valued under £500k and there is no arrangement fee.

The figures certainly don't lie. Since the year 2000, the UK re-mortgage market has grown by a massive 256% compared to 143% for the UK mortgage market overall and switching in the mortgage market has increased by 158%.

Switching may seem like hard work but with a combination of Bank of Ireland's EasySwitch products and over fifty mortgage advisors across Northern Ireland, we promise that it may well be time well spent.

Bank of Ireland was recently awarded 'Best Discounted Rate Mortgage Provider' at the 2005 Moneyfacts Awards. The bank was also recognised as Best Remortgage Lender' by Moneywise magazine, the largest personal finance consumer magazine in the UK which has over 60,000 subscribers.

Bank of Ireland are proud to offer UU Alumni a range of preferential personal financial products (see advertisement on back cover), including our extensive range of award winning mortgage products.



University of Ulster Knowledge Club

The University of Ulster Knowledge Club is a networking initiative that promotes activities and events to encourage stronger links between the University, business and the community.



There are many benefits associated with joining the Knowledge Club including:

- Being informed of forthcoming events
- Receiving the new University Business Newsletter, U2B
- Increasing your networking opportunities with other businesses and academics in your field
- The opportunity to suggest potential seminars/workshops in your area

Knowledge Club events focus on innovation, enterprise and competitiveness for the benefit of the SME businesses including social enterprises and the wider community. Seminars are delivered by high calibre representatives from the University as well as the business world.

Future events include:

- **Date/Time:** 12 April 2006, 12 noon
- **Seminar** **Contributing to Innovation in Existing Businesses**
- **Venue:** Centre of Molecular Biosciences, Coleraine campus

- **Date/Time:** 18 May 2006, 6:30 pm
- **Seminar** **Working with India**
- **Venue:** Loughview Suite, Jordanstown campus
Organised with the Alumni Association, see page 15 for further details

- **Date/Time:** 14 June 2006, 12 noon
- **Seminar** **The FFast Route to Innovation (Functional Food And Smart Technology)**
- **Venue:** Centre for Molecular Biosciences, Coleraine campus

To join the Knowledge Club, register for an upcoming event or receive a copy of the new Business Newsletter, U2B contact Karen Gwilliam, kj.gwilliam@ulster.ac.uk or register on our website at <http://knowledgeclub.ulster.ac.uk>.



Why you?

Unfortunately we were not all born with Extra Sensory Perception, which is why we often have to make difficult and life-changing decisions. Through years of experience Grafton ESP understands that those individuals who work best within our environment are those who crave knowledge, ambition and challenge. Grafton ESP is about people, building lifetime relationships and developing our capabilities together.

What do we offer?

Established in 1982 Grafton ESP has become one of Ireland's leading recruitment companies with a branch Network of 28 offices on the Island of Ireland and employing over 400 in-house staff and 6000 contractors in 60 offices across three continents. Over the past 23 years we have established an outstanding reputation for providing recruitment solutions across a wide range of industry sectors.

What Next?

Should Grafton ESP appeal to your sense of ambition simply visit our website www.graftonesp.com

Knowledge Transfer Partnership Awards



Professor Bernie Hannigan, UU, Mr Antonio Lupari, Cregagh Concrete products, Professor Fabian Monds, Invest NI.

Fifteen of Northern Ireland's most dynamic and innovative small firms were honoured at this year's Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) awards event, held in Magherafelt's Terrace Hotel in December.

Companies from sectors as diverse as construction, software engineering, electronics, leisure vehicles, automotive and civil engineering took part in the prestigious event.

The KTP concept focuses on the transfer of knowledge from the university sector into the business world, concentrating on bringing together academic skills and expertise with small business entrepreneurship, drive and savoir-faire to help build the firms that will power tomorrow's Northern Ireland economy. The University of Ulster, Queen's University Belfast and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise represent the higher education investment in the programme.

Guest of honour at the event – hosted this year by the University of Ulster – was Professor Fabian Monds, outgoing chairman of Invest Northern Ireland.

"We at Invest Northern Ireland remain committed to helping our companies and our universities and colleges to achieve the very best they can. By placing innovation and investment in R&D at the top of every agenda, they can work together to create a more competitive and profitable NI economy – a marketplace where we lead when possible, and compete at every opportunity.

"KTP has a wonderful track record. The evidence of success is all around us tonight. The challenges are great – but the prizes are huge" said Professor Monds.

Congratulating the winners, associates and partners on their awards, the University of Ulster's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett said: "The promotion of innovation is a core objective of the University: and it's important to recognise that 'knowledge transfer' is not just a one-way process of transferring knowledge from the University to the KTP associate firms – the knowledge we gain from our participation in the partnership is vital to our own processes of innovation."

The event also heard a special presentation from Mr Seamus McKeague, Managing Director of Cregagh Concrete Products Ltd, who gave an in-depth account of how his firm's participation in KTPs with the University of Ulster had been an important component in helping take the business to a new level of excellence.

NI Companies who received awards were as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Anderson Manning Associates Ltd | ■ Texthelp Systems Ltd |
| ■ Cregagh Concrete Products Ltd | ■ Warmflow Engineering Ltd |
| ■ Hagan's Leisure Ltd | ■ Waste Water Controls Ltd |
| ■ Indicators International Ltd | ■ Webtech (NI) Ltd |
| ■ JPM Contracts Ltd | ■ Wrightbus Ltd |
| ■ Keystone Lintels Ltd | |
| ■ Langford Lodge Engineering Ltd | |
| ■ Leslie Stannage Design Ltd | |
| ■ McAvoy Group | |
| ■ T G Eakin Ltd | |

To find out how your business could benefit from a Knowledge Transfer Partnership, please contact the KTP Office, telephone **028 7137 5236** or e-mail ktp@ulster.ac.uk.

Awards for Di@I-log

A unique healthcare tool created at the University has secured two major prizes for its inventors.

Lesley-Ann Black, a PhD student in the Faculty of Engineering, won the prestigious Irish Software Association's Software Student of the Year award for her involvement with the project. The award was sponsored by Trinity Venture Capita. Lesley-Ann was presented with a medal and a €5,000 cheque.

The ISA awards took place in Dublin and are designed to honour software and IT professionals, both in established and early-stage companies.

Lesley-Ann is part of the Faculty of Engineering team which, along with Dr Roy Harper, Consultant Endocrinologist at the Ulster Community Hospitals Trust, developed Di@I-log, a software solution which collates and monitors key disease indicators for Type 2 Diabetes. It allows doctors to monitor and track diabetes patients from home using intelligent spoken dialogue technologies which can relay patient data directly to the clinic through telephone conversations.

In October the team won the Investment Belfast £25K competition. They picked up the top prize of £10,000 at the ceremony which was sponsored by PwC, Invest NI, NI Science Park and NICENT.

The innovative product is now in advanced stages of development and should be market-ready in a few months time.



ALUMNI FUND

Alumni Fund Scholarships and Awards

A number of Scholarships and Awards have been made this academic year from the Alumni Fund, which is supported by alumni, staff and friends of the University. The Alumni Fund supports scholarships and grants in the areas of Travel, Financial Hardship, Sport, Academic Excellence and students with a disability.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the fund so far. To make a donation please see the website at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/alumnifund.html or contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Alumni Excellence Awards

Five first year students were presented with Alumni Fund Academic Excellence Awards at a ceremony on the Coleraine campus in November 2005. The awards are made to the first year student with the highest average mark in each Faculty.

This is the first time these awards have been made. The Awards are for £500 (half of which is in the form of book tokens).

The students who received the awards and the programmes they are studying are:

- Gary Marrs, BSc Hons Computing, Coleraine campus
- Lisa Donnell, BSc Hons Business Studies with Computing, Coleraine campus
- Naomi Telford, BSc Hons Languages and Linguistics, Jordanstown campus
- Sean Brown, BA Hons Irish Language and Literature, Magee campus
- Aidan O'Neill, BSc Hons Optometry, Coleraine campus



Jenny Eagleson

Alumni Fund Travel Scholarships

The first Alumni Fund Travel Scholarship has been awarded to Jenny Eagleson, who is a first year PhD student in the area of Linguistics. Jenny graduated from UU in 2005 with a first class honours degree in Languages and Linguistics.

Jenny will use her award to help with the costs of travelling to South Africa to study writings and records in Afrikaans.

She will be visiting the National Library in Cape Town, Durban and, hopefully, the Language Museum in Pretoria. She will also be collecting data on native speakers during her visit.



Aidan O'Neill, Sean Brown, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, Naomi Telford, Lisa Donnell and Gary Marrs

Convocation - what are we and what do we do?

Convocation AGM and Reunion of Members

Tuesday 25 April 2006 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom at the Jordanstown campus.

All Graduates and Diplomates of the University are welcome to attend.

The Convocation is the graduate body of the University of Ulster. Convocation comprises all graduates of the University, all academic members of staff and certain Officers of the University.

According to the University's Statute XX, Convocation has "the power to discuss and declare an opinion on any matter relating to the University, including matters which may be referred to it by the Court".

Convocation also makes a number of awards; it presents the Convocation Rose

Bowl and the Merit Award to University sports teams, and the Student of the Year Award.

Convocation is seeking to elect four new members to serve for a period of four years. It is currently chaired by Mr Henry Nicol and meets approximately monthly at University campuses.

For further information and an agenda, please contact Abbey McCartney in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at Coleraine on **028 7032 4390** or email a.mccartney@ulster.ac.uk



A LASTING LEGACY . . . THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Since the University's earliest days, contributions and gifts - both large and small - donated by alumni, friends and supporters have contributed greatly to the University of Ulster's vision to be a model of an outstanding regional university with a national and international reputation for quality.

Whether in general support for the University or to support its continued success in teaching and learning, world-class research, capital projects, sports facilities, scholarships and prizes or student welfare projects, leaving a legacy to the University of Ulster can make a real and lasting difference.

A legacy gift to the University of Ulster is . . . the gift of a lifetime.

**For further information on leaving a legacy to the University of Ulster, please contact the Legacy Officer, Development and Alumni Relations Office, University of Ulster, Cromore Road, Coleraine, BT52 1SA
Tel: 028 7032 4390; email: development@ulster.ac.uk;
web: www.ulster.ac.uk/development**



Reunion – Coleraine campus 18 – 19 August 2006

A reunion is being organised for alumni who graduated from the Coleraine campus in the years 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1996. Invitations will be sent out to all relevant alumni for whom we have an address, but please put the date in your diary now. Tickets will cost £35 each.

Why not contact your classmates and arrange to come as a group.

Provisional Programme:

Friday 18 August

- 7.00pm Drinks Reception in the Senior Common Room

Saturday 19 August

- 9.45am Coffee
- 10.00am Talk about developments on campus
- 11.00am Tour of campus
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.30pm Tour of Arboretum
- 7.30pm Reunion Dinner in the Academy Restaurant at the Portrush site

Sports reUnion

Get your kit back on!

Saturday 17 June 2006, Jordanstown campus

All alumni who participated in sport at UUJ are invited to take part in the first Sports reUnion. A full day of sporting activities, for both team and individual participation will be followed by a gala dinner with good food, wine and a chance to catch up with former classmates and team mates.

There will be the opportunity to participate in tag rugby, five-a-side football, gaelic football, hockey, tennis, volleyball, basketball, squash and a fun-run. There will also be the chance to try something new with taster classes in Tai-Chi and Spin. Even if you don't want to participate you can cheer on your friends from the sidelines. Golfers can make this a sporting weekend by entering the UU Alumni Golf Challenge at Galgorm on Friday 16 June.



Alumni are being offered a special price for the day of just £50, which includes lunch, dinner with wine and all sports activities.

Accommodation in campus Halls of Residence is available for £20 per person, per night (room only). This is a day not to be missed, and we advise early booking. Further information and a booking form are available at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsandreunions.html or from the Alumni Relations Office.

If you would be interested in sponsorship or affiliation opportunities for this event please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Alumni Association AGM

The AGM of the Alumni Association will take place on Tuesday 23 May at 6.30pm Coleraine Campus. All alumni and staff of the University are welcome to attend.

This is an ideal opportunity for you to find out more about the Association and how you can become involved, and to share your ideas about what the Association should be doing.

Please let the Alumni Relations Office know if you are planning to attend on 028 9036 8350 or at alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Working with India

Thursday 18 May 2006, at 6.30pm, Jordanstown campus

The Alumni Association, in partnership with the University's Knowledge Club, is organising a seminar on Working with India.

This seminar is aimed at organisations and businesses who are interested in joint ventures with, and exporting to, India. The seminar will cover cultural and legal issues and sources of help and information as well as examples from the personal experiences of businessmen who have lived and worked in India. Each speaker will give a presentation, which will be followed by a panel question and answer session.

Speakers will include

Lord Diljit Rana, Director and CEO, Andras House and Honorary Indian Consul-General for Ireland, Professor Vani Borooah, Professor of Applied Economics, University of Ulster, Barry Clarke, Invest Northern Ireland.

For more information see www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsandreunions.html or contact the Alumni Relations Office. For details on the Knowledge Club see page 11.



Mount Everest Gavin Bate's Nemesis

1 June 2006 Jordanstown campus

University of Ulster graduate Gavin Bate lifts the lid on the myth that surrounds the highest mountain in the world.

Gavin, BA Hons English 1987 Coleraine, has climbed Everest three times, twice without bottled oxygen. He achieved the furthest non-stop ascent without oxygen by a Westerner and has also climbed the mountain by the north side again without bottled oxygen. A full profile of Gavin is on page 26.

In this highly illuminating talk he discusses what it means to climb Everest without oxygen and offers a frank behind-the-scenes look at how Everest expeditions are organised and run, the dangers and pitfalls, and how the mountain has been used and abused. The talk gives a deeply personal account of being alone at over 8000 metres and the reasons for going back to Everest so many times.

Tickets are £5 each and all proceeds will go to 'Moving Mountains' which is the charity Gavin started to help street children in Kenya and carry out projects in East Africa and Nepal.

For more information and to book contact alumni@ulster.ac.uk



Bangladesh Chapter event

Over 40 alumni from the University's Bangladesh Chapter joined staff and a number of high-profile guests at a seminar on Sustainability of Financial Management Reform in Bangladesh at the Financial Management Academy in Dhaka on 4 December 2005.

The keynote paper was presented by Mr Kazi Golam Towsif (MA Government Financial Management 2003) and was discussed by Dr Mohammad Tareque, Additional Secretary; Mr Mujibur Rahman Howlader, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Establishment and Mr Ranjit Kumar Chakaraborty, Deputy Financial Adviser, Finance Division.

Following an open discussion the seminar was addressed by the Chief Guest Mr Asif Ali, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh and by Special Guest Mr Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Secretary Finance Division.

Chief Guest Mr Asif Ali then presented certificates to the third cohort of UJ graduates. Mr Ali said "I am delighted that the UUA, Bangladesh, formed in 2002, has been promoting follow up interactions among themselves as well as with other stakeholders across the government".

Alumni Relations Manager, Sue Rees and Course Tutor of the MA Government Financial Management, Leslie Carswell were delighted to be able to join alumni at the seminar.

The seminar gave an interesting insight to the challenges faced in implementing the reform programme, and the organising committee under Mr Ekram Ahmed, and Mr Elias Ahmed, the President of the Bangladesh Chapter, should be congratulated on organising such a successful event.

The seminar was supported by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh; Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh; Financial Management Academy (FIMA); University of Ulster; DFID, Bangladesh; FMRP.



Sue Rees and Leslie Carswell with alumni and Special Guests.

Third University of Ulster Golf Challenge

Friday 16 June 2006

Galgorm Castle Golf and Country Club

The third University of Ulster Golf Challenge will be held on Friday 16 June 2006 at Galgorm Castle Golf and Country Club. This exciting event is being organised by the University of Ulster Alumni Association, supported by the University's Golf Bursars. The event is open to graduates, students, staff and friends of the University.

A BBQ will be provided on the 9th green, as well as a two course meal and prize presentation in the club-house in the evening. The entry fee is a very reasonable £35 (with a reduced rate of £30 for students).

The competition is an individual and a team event (Stableford format), in which both males and females will compete for the same trophy. There will also be a number of other prizes.

Booking forms are available at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsdiary.html or from the Alumni Relations Office on 028 9036 8350, alumni@ulster.ac.uk

10, 20 and 25 Year Reunion Magee campus

Saturday 22 April 2006

A reunion is being held for alumni of Magee who graduated in 1986 and 1996.

Programme:

- 3.30pm Tea/Coffee in Minor Hall
- 4.00pm Presentation about developments at the campus
- 4.30pm Tour of Campus
- 7.00pm Pre-dinner drinks
- 7.30pm 3 Course Dinner in Great Hall

Tickets are £27 per person (including drinks).

For further information and a booking form contact alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Twenty-Five Years On

The University is celebrating the first 25 years of its Master of Fine Art course with a stunning exhibition of work at the Ormeau Baths Gallery in Belfast. The exhibition includes work from each of the 25 years since the course's inception in 1979 and is a testament to the significant influence that its alumni have etched on the cultural landscape in Ireland and far beyond.



Course Directors and graduates of the MFA programme.

Alastair Wilson the current course director said:

"I am one of only three staff who has had the privilege to lead this course over its first 25 years. In that time the students from the MFA have played a huge role in helping to reshape the visual art scene in Belfast and beyond whilst also exercising significant influence as professional artists across the world.

This exhibition, along with its accompanying glossy anthology publication, is not only an historical snapshot of young emerging artists, but it also represents a route-map of the evolution of Irish contemporary art."

The exhibition has pieces ranging from paintings to video work. It is an intriguing combination of work from artists who are now well known and respected, alongside others whose work represents influential landmarks in the direction and shaping of the visual arts scene.

Many alumni from the course attended the opening night and partied afterwards at Alto's. Graduates are now scattered far and wide across the globe and the exhibition includes work from artists from as far afield as New York, Budapest, London and Barcelona.

The spectacular publication complementing the show has been compiled by the three directors of the Masters course is a remarkable collection of the first 25 years of work from all the students. It is in itself a work of art, and is on sale for £10 plus post and packing.

The exhibition runs to Saturday 8 April. www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsdiary.html

Alumni Association Table Quiz

3 November 2005

Eleven teams took part in the Alumni Association Table Quiz at the Wellington Park Hotel on 3 November 2005. By the mid-way stage there were three teams neck and neck, with only one point between them. The second half saw the ultimate winners pulling ahead and the final score gave 'The Smokers' a clear victory.

The evening proved to be very enjoyable, and our thanks to everyone who participated. Thanks also to those who provided prizes. Nearly £200 was raised for the Alumni Fund.

Many thanks to: Lord Diljit Rana, The Europa Hotel, Tatu, Tyrone Crystal and UU's Catering Services and Sports Centre.



Winning team, The Smokers

For further information on these, and other, events see www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsandreunions.html

We would welcome suggestions for other events we could hold in the future

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

University of Ulster Alumni can benefit from a 5% discount on the registration fee for an international congress this autumn.

The XVII World Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates will be held in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast from 28 August 2006 to 1 September 2006 and will play host to a variety of world renowned speakers such as President Mary McAleese, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and the Principal Youth Court Judge for New Zealand – Judge Andrew Becroft.

The aim of the World Congress, which comes to Ireland for the first time this year, is to promote the welfare of children. Local, national and international representatives from the legal profession as well as social scientists, academics, human rights organisations and community groups are invited to come together to listen, network, and have their voice heard in a number of important areas regarding the protection of children's rights and the progress of youth justice.

For details on the Congress programme and how to register, please visit www.youthandfamily2006.com or contact conference organisers, Ovation Group on +44 2890 456 451.

Life Coaching - An Introduction

7.00pm, 4 May 2006 Magee campus

- Do you want to achieve your true potential and turn your dreams into reality?
- Do you want to become who you really are?
- Do you want to move out of the comfort zone and live the life you desire?

change, personal developments, and spiritual growth, lifestyle, business. The field of personal coaching has grown dramatically in recent years and it has become common place in blue chip companies, and with individuals and no longer the preserve of celebrities such as Bill Clinton and Madonna. It is life coaching!

If yes, then coaching is for you

What is coaching?

Coaching by definition encourages development, invites creativity, and delivers high performance. It is the art of facilitating the performance learning and development of another. Coaching looks at the reality of where you are now as an individual in your life and compares this to where you ideally want to be in the future. It looks at the space in between and identifies what is needed to close this gap by exploring new initiatives building on your strengths and resources.

Who uses coaching

Life coaches work with individuals on a range of issues including stress, career

The session is presented by Patricia Caldwell, a graduate of UU and a former hotelier. She is now a Professional Executive and Personal Coach. She runs her own coaching business and has had many years experience of coaching individual and business clients through a wide range of subjects, specialising in personal development and the process of individuation. She is an innovative speaker and has spoken at various alumni events at Coleraine, Jordanstown and London and also to BT Women's network (BTWN) in Northern Ireland.

www.individuationworks.com

See our website, www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsdiary.html

David Dinsmore, BA Hons English 1978, Coleraine

Following postgraduate work in medieval literature, I found myself in the Sudan teaching English at a technical school near the Chad border. This was the start of a career in TEFL, which took me to Kuwait, Japan and Saudi Arabia, as well as the UK and Scandinavia. Along the way I picked up an MA in Language studies from Lancaster University.



I subsequently switched careers and worked in the financial services industry in the UK, both as a regulator and for several leading companies in the field of regulatory compliance. I qualified as an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute during that phase.

My wife (who's from Fermanagh) and I decided to return to Ireland three years ago and settled in a small village in Co Mayo at the foot of Nephin and on the shores of Lough Conn. I worked as an angling guide and coach, achieving qualifications in both areas.

After writing articles for *Irish Angler* magazine for about two years, I became editor on 1st December last. The first issue with my name on as editor will be the May issue, published early April. This is the first job I've had that my degree actually qualifies me for!

Irish Angler is Ireland's largest selling angling magazine, covering coarse, sea and game angling throughout the island. I'm based in Castlebar, Co Mayo but will be travelling the country extensively as part of the new role.

Blockone Theatre Company



Gemma Doorly

Blockone was formed in 1999 by UU Graduates Sonja Byrne (BA Hons English and Theatre Studies) and Gemma Doorly (BA Hons Theatre Studies). The Company is primarily interested in the production of new writing from Ireland, the UK, and abroad that is innovative and theatrical.

Previous productions include *Coq Au Vin* (1999 Dublin Fringe & 2001 Edinburgh Fringe) *The Girl Who Swallowed Her Tongue* (Crypt Arts Centre, Dublin & O.M.A.C 2001) and *The Robb'd That Smiles* (Dublin Fringe 2004 Focus Theatre). They have been nominated for the Jayne Snow Award & Stewart Parker Award. Check out their website for future productions.

www.blockonetheatre.com

David Hume, BA Hons Humanities 1985 and DPhil 1994, Jordanstown

Far From the Green Fields of Erin by Dr David Hume was published by Colourpoint Books last year. The book examines the stories of Ulster emigrants who found a new life for themselves and their families around the world from the 18th century to the 20th century. It was compiled after several years of research and includes details of emigrants and their descendants in Canada, Australia, the USA, New Zealand, India and elsewhere.

Dr Hume has been a journalist for 15 years and is currently Director of Services with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

Far From the Green Fields of Erin, Colourpoint Books, Newtownards £14.99

Paddy Gray, Diploma Housing with DIS 1984 and MSc Applied Social Research 1988, Jordanstown

Paddy Gray, Senior Lecturer in the School of Built Environment at Magee, delivered his guest lecture 'The University in the Community: Practical Examples' at Magee in November.



From left: Professor John Hume; Paddy Gray; Eddie Friel; Joan Casey; Patrick McIntyre, CEO NI Housing Executive; Jacqueline Gallagher, Citizens Advice Bureau; Professor Jim Allen; Carmel Malone, BSC Housing Management 2003.

The audience included Nobel Laureate John Hume, Paddy McIntyre, the CEO of the NI Housing Executive and a number of leading academic and community figures.

An academic and practitioner of housing matters, Paddy's expertise and commitment is also demonstrated in his chairmanship of the Open Door Housing Association, the National Committee of the Chartered Institute of Housing(NI) as well as his Chairmanship of the Policy and Professional Practice of the UK Council and Chairmanship of the local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Paddy was awarded the University of Ulster Community Fellowship in 2004 in recognition of his outstanding commitment to public and community sector organisations and his commitment to the provision and study of housing in Northern Ireland.

Paddy is also a visiting professor with Spiro Hared University in Bucharest.

Congratulations

Professor Tom Fraser, Provost of the Magee campus, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours lists. The accolade recognises his contribution to museums in Northern Ireland.

Dr Mickey Keenan, BSc Hons Psychology 1976 and DPhil 1982, Coleraine, has been elected Fellow of the British Psychology Society for his pioneering research into the treatment of Autism.

He was honoured for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of psychological knowledge.

Dr Keenan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology having joined the staff at UU in 1985.

Dr Keenan has pioneered new interventions for the treatment of Autism in Ireland, using his scientific discipline, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). ABA had helped thousands of autistic children around the world transform their lives, but the treatment was not previously available to children living in Ireland.

As a result of Dr Keenan's efforts, ABA has become the treatment of choice in Ireland, north and south, for increasing numbers of families and professionals.

As a result of Dr Keenan's commitment, the University has approved a Masters programme in Behaviour Analysis, with a first intake of students expected in Sept 2006. Dr Keenan's new book on ABA and Autism (2006, Jessica Kingley Publishers) was launched at the recent Facing Autism: Ireland 2005 conference held at the Coleraine campus in December.

www.science.ulster.ac.uk/conference



Dr George Wilkie, Director of the University's Centre for Software Process Technologies (CSPT), has been awarded the IT Professional of the Year Award for 2006 by the British Computer Society.

This prestigious award is made for a contribution of major significance in the advancement of the Information Technology industry within the BCS Northern Ireland Region.

Dr Tom Maguire, Lecturer in Theatre Studies, was elected Vice-Chair of the UK's leading body on drama, theatre and performing arts in higher education in November.

The Standing Conference of University Drama Departments (SCUDD) acts as a mediating body with organisations such as funding councils, the AHRC and the Arts Councils and consults on matters of future policy.

The Chair of SCUDD is also a member of the University's drama team – Professor Carole Anne Upton.

Alan Strong is the fifth academic to fill the prestigious role of Northern Ireland Civil Engineering Chairman. He says that one of his priorities during his term of office will be to put sustainability to the top of the agenda

"Sustainability is a live issue and it should be seen as such by all our members. Building is not just about meeting immediate needs; we have to consider the quality of design, construction and maintenance so that we can leave something for our children and our children's children."

To raise awareness about the need for sustainability among members, Mr Strong has launched a new awards scheme 'Celebrating Civil Engineers'.

Professor Peter Flatt has been chosen as the first recipient of the prestigious Biochemistry Medal presented by the Irish Area Section of the Biochemical Society. Over the past 30 years, Professor Flatt has built up a strong track record of research achievements and discoveries and is an internationally recognised leader in the diabetes field.

Dr Tara Moore, a lecturer in Immunology in the School of Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship. National Teaching Fellowships recognise and reward the most innovative and inspiring teaching in Universities throughout the United Kingdom. National Teaching Fellows each receive £50,000 to use on a project that will make a significant contribution to the further advancement of University teaching and opportunities for student learning. Dr Moore will use her money to further develop novel e-learning programmes.

Pete Snodden, BSc Hons International Business 2002, Coleraine

Cool FM DJ Pete Snodden paid a visit to the Coleraine campus recently to tell prospective students how a business degree put him on a path to success.

Pete was speaking at an open day hosted by the School of Business, Retail and Financial Services.

The event was planned to help students make the decision on their first choice of University and course.

"In 2006/07 the School will be introducing a range of new business degrees including a BSc Hons Business and further degrees in Business along with new subjects such as Marketing, Retail Studies, and Accounting," said Dr Barry Quinn, Head of School.

"This event gave applicants the chance to meet staff and current students. The Coleraine campus has a lot to offer prospective students and we hope that this event will help to get that message across."



The following awards were made at the Winter Graduation ceremonies in December:

Senior Distinguished Research Fellowships:

Professor Richard Bradford
Professor John McCloskey
Professor Rosalind Pritchard

Distinguished Research Fellowship:

Dr Victor Gault

Distinguished Teaching Fellowships:

Professor Ken Houston
Dr Tom Maguire

Distinguished Business Fellowships:

Dr Pauric McGowan
Mr Peter Mitchell
Dr Adrian Moore

Former staff who have left the University since the last issue include:

Mrs Isobel Murdock, Administrative Assistant in Student Support

Mr Fred Dargan, Lecturer with the School of Accounting

Dr Jill Eaton-Evans, Senior Lecturer in Dietetics

Nurse Lelia Burns and Mrs Marie McAllister Student Health, Coleraine Campus, Before her time at Coleraine, Lelia spent many years as Senior Nurse at Jordanstown.

Dr Keith Adams, School of Health Sciences.

Ms Roberta Lyttle, Office Manager in the Catering department at Jordanstown

Mavis Tolland. Mavis worked in Accommodation Office before joining Academic Registry.

Professor David Sturdy, School of History and International Affairs, Coleraine campus

Professor Peter Roebuck

Professor Peter Roebuck, Provost (Coleraine) has retired.

Professor Roebuck was Head of the History Department from 1984-88, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities 1988-92 and, alongside his duties as Provost, was also the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) from 1992-2000.

His achievements are in many ways a narrative to the development of higher education in the past three decades.

Amongst his accomplishments as Provost has been his cross-campus handling of the highly sensitive Community Relations portfolio, the establishment of the University's first archives and latterly as co-ordinator of the Seven Year Review process, which caused him to extend his tenure until the end of January.

In his own words, much of this work has been achieved only through "the magnificent support and dedication of so many talented colleagues and also the student officers". He paid tribute to all of them: "I have been privileged to be able to call upon so many gifted people."

A Yorkshireman who has made his home here, Professor Roebuck joined the then New University of Ulster in 1970 as a Lecturer in Economic History, was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1974 and became Professor in 1985, the year after the merger.

Academic expansion, research innovation, physical refurbishment and dramatic woodland development during his tenure

as Provost have cemented Coleraine's reputation as a go-ahead campus.

The Academic Affairs role opened the door to a development of which he is particularly proud – the launch of Access Courses and an extensive network of collaborative activities with the further education (FE) sector.

Professor Roebuck is keen to focus minds on the role of the contemporary university. "As a university we have a mission to work for the good of a community that has suffered so much. That is the University of Ulster's main task. It wants to become a model of an outstanding regional university.

"Remoteness in the 21st century means alienation from the students and the communities which our universities exist to serve".

He reaffirms his conviction in the University's *raison d'être*. "It is a deep privilege to have spent my working life among young adults at the start of their careers and mature students who are seizing a life-chance that they missed out on earlier.

"The main thing that I want for this University is that it goes from strength to strength as a place where people come to learn, improve their skills, meet and form new and often lifelong friendships and become better equipped to face the demands that life places on each of us."



Fiona Roebuck, Professor Peter Roebuck and Louise McGarry with two of the children from the crèche.

First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award



Amanda Graham (left) and Maureen Muldoon from First Trust Bank with Billy Mawhinney and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett.

The University in association with the First Trust Bank presented this year's First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award to Mr William JP (Billy) Mawhinney.

Billy came to the then Art College after working as a draftsman for the Ordnance Survey and in the design group of the NI Housing Executive. He says that he only ever wanted to do three things – play for Manchester United, drum for the Beatles and what he called "Colouring in". By his eleventh birthday he was getting 2/6- (121/2p) for a strip cartoon in the Newtownards Spectator.

Billy loved every minute of his time at college. He says: "I was hungry to learn and there were some great people there to help me - Ralph Dobson, Carl Thornton, Eric Whitaker and Norman Lawrence, who couldn't have been more generous with his time and his talents."

Since graduating with a First Class Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Graphic Design in 1978, Billy Mawhinney has become well known for his creative genius in the advertising world. He is currently Creative Director with Leo Burnett Ltd in London, which is part of the fourth largest communications company in the world. He has held a number of key posts in other top creative agencies in the UK including J. Walter Thompson and Bartle Bogle Hegarty.

During his career, Billy has managed accounts for clients including the giants of creative advertising campaigns such as

Levi, Audi, Jaguar, Rover, Kit Kat, Liberty's, Ford, Barnardo's and the Independent. The quality of his work has been recognised through a number of prestigious awards including the Irish Film Festival Gold, Computer Animation Awards, British Television and IRL Radio Gold, Rank Cinema awards, three Film and TV Festival of New York awards and two Cannes Silver awards among many others.

Billy is a great believer in supporting new, young designers and has personally dedicated time and energy in the School of Art and Design through his four-year stint as a Visiting Professor. He has also helped many graduates from Northern Ireland secure their first big break into this highly competitive profession in London. Billy is highly regarded in the advertising industry and his frankness and zealous commitment to encouraging and producing creative work have gained him many admirers across the UK.



The University of Ulster Conference Facilities

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Northern Ireland and to The University of Ulster.

The University can offer conference facilities on three of its four campuses: Jordanstown, set in a leafy suburb just 6 miles from central Belfast, Coleraine, on the beautiful North Coast, Magee, in the historic city of Londonderry.

We can offer

- State of the art meeting rooms
- Auditorium for up to 1200 delegates
- 700 en-suite rooms (mid June-mid September)
- 600 standard rooms (mid June-mid September)
- Excellent catering services
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- Organisation of your social programme

For further details visit our web-site <http://conference.ulster.ac.uk> or contact Laura Hernberg on **028 7032 3058** l.hernberg@ulster.ac.uk Frank Halpin on **028 7032 4412** f.halpin@ulster.ac.uk

Honour for Leading PR Practitioner

Graduate Avril Fox reflects on the achievements of Lecturer and UU alumnus Andy Purcell.

It was with great admiration and pride that I read about Andy Purcell's professional achievement - awarded the highest honour granted by the professional body in the UK public relations industry. Andy has just been made a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) - which has over 8,000 members across the UK.

Andy Purcell is currently Course Director of the BSc Communication, Advertising and Marketing and BSc Public Relations programmes at the University.

He used to teach me History when I went to Friends' School Lisburn in the 1980s. He taught me Advertising and Public Relations when I studied on the BSc Hons CAM at Jordanstown in the 1990s. So it is of great pleasure to chat with Andy about his varied and colourful career to date, and how he has come to achieve such an accolade from his professional peers.

Andy studied Modern History at the New University in Coleraine, as it was known in the 1970s. He describes that time in his life as very special, "A dream three years". A number of his lecturers seemed to have great influence on his university experience including historians Peter Roebuck, Tom Fraser and Ken Ward and rugby coach Jos Lapsley. Andy loves sport and played rugby and hockey throughout his time at Coleraine.

Upon graduation, Andy went to Loughborough University to study Physical Education. On completion, he returned to Northern Ireland and was offered two jobs teaching history at Friends' School Lisburn, and teaching PE at another local school. Andy accepted the job at Friends'.

He describes the time that he spent in secondary education as a time when education was going through many changes concerning curriculum development. He was involved in curriculum development at Friends' and

was encouraged by a renowned inspector to apply to one of the education boards to advise on curriculum development. He applied, got the job and spent two years on secondment.

Andy describes this time as 'an amazing two years', developing curriculum content and assessment criteria, pastoral care programmes and enterprise and entrepreneurship.

At the end of his secondment, in the late 1980s, he was approached by the Industrial Development Board and left teaching for conference management and lecturing. After one year he moved to Morrow Communications/Fast Forward productions. This was the start of Andy's successful career in public relations. He soon went on to become a director of Morrow Communications.

Timing again was absolutely perfect. Public Relations was about to blossom into its fastest growth period. This was another sector that Andy excelled in representing several of Northern Ireland's leading entrepreneurs. He worked for many well known clients and helped to set up a second office for Morrow Communications, in Dublin.

"Whilst working with Morrow Communications, I got involved with a PR initiative with the University's BSc Hons Communication, Advertising and Marketing degree. This was the start of my relationship with CAM. A job came up as a lecturer in PR and Advertising. I got it. I've been involved with the programme for ten years."

Andy's professional recognition has been largely because of his work relating to consultancy and the development of professional public relations educational programmes. Recently the BSc Hons CAM, MSc Communication, Advertising and Public Relations and MSc Lobbying have been accredited by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. Andy also launched a new BSc Hons Public Relations programme in 2004-5.



His commitment to improving education provision underlines his approach to student welfare. "Our students have considerable ability entering the courses with a minimum of AAB at A level. Many are now key players in the communications industry and I am very proud of their achievements. My concern for university education is that it is becoming more impersonal as our classes get larger and larger. This is making it difficult to nurture individual talent and is clearly becoming detrimental to the student experience. The challenge in the future will be to manage the large numbers of students who want to study public relations and advertising – what a fabulous challenge that is!"

His enthusiasm and competitive spirit are also visible in his personal life. He has a passion for sport. Andy has coaching qualifications for swimming, life saving, wind surfing, hockey and rugby and recently managed the Ulster Under 16 Boys Hockey team to two Irish Championships.

Andy is married to Ingrid (nee Smeaton) BA Hons Geography and Education 1981, Coleraine, who teaches geography and special needs. They have two sons, Michael and Peter who have both played hockey for Ulster and Ireland. Michael is currently taking a gap year in Australia and Peter is doing his GCSEs next year.

An interview with Gary McCausland

Chartered Surveyor, Gary McCausland, BSc Hons Estate Management 1991 (now known as Property Investment and Development) and Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy 1992, is best known for presenting Channel Five's flagship programme *How to be a Property Developer*.

This is a fly on the wall account of attempts to make as much money as possible by buying and selling property, an absolute must for anyone interested in property development. Gary has two more Channel Five series in the pipeline – *Call yourself a Property Manager* and *Buying a House in the Sun*.

Gary was born in Belfast and grew up in Dungannon. The eldest of seven siblings, he has had an amazing career to date. Avril Fox caught up with him after Christmas to chart his success.

Why did you become interested in property development?

From an early age I was fascinated with property, actually architecture. I went to work at an architects practice for my work experience during A levels and at a meeting a cool, sophisticated guy in a sports car drove up and told the architects what he wanted to create, including timescales and budget. I asked who is this guy? Oh he's the 'property developer' was the reply and from then on I realised I had to be the property developer, the person who made things happen, the person who called the shots. Thereafter I studied a four year degree in Estate Management, and then I completed a postgraduate diploma in Accountancy. After a few years I became a chartered surveyor. I worked in the corporate end of the sector for 10 years (buying and selling property all over the world) and five years ago I started my own property development company, Richland Development.

Why did you study Estate Management and then Accountancy?

I wanted a degree that actually gave me practical knowledge about property; I still use a lot of what I learnt to this day. Accountancy was an obvious route, when you're dealing in property the amounts of money are huge so knowing how to account and manage it is really important.

Did you enjoy your time at UU?

Yes of course. I really enjoyed studying Estate Management and Accountancy at Jordanstown. I would like to send all my lecturers my regards.

You have had such an interesting career. How did it all start?

I worked as a Management Accountant for a year in the early 1990s, and then as a Property Manager for Cable and Wireless, moving to London to take on a senior UK management role (1993-1998). I then moved to US telecoms giant MCI and became their International Estates Manager. After two years I moved to another American company, Carlyle, as European Sales Director. After that it was time to start my own company and I didn't look back.

Was it ever your ambition to become famous?

No, but it has its perks.

How did you get involved with television presenting?

A phone call out of the blue, I told them I was NOT interested. Anyway they kept calling, I agreed to meet up and the rest is history.

How do you prepare for your television work?

Semi-scripted but usually off the cuff, it works better that way. Although I have a seriously long way to go before I'm Jonathan Ross material, in fact light years!

Are you pestered by people looking for advice about property investment?

Yes but I don't mind, I am a people person. However remember property developing isn't like cooking a recipe from a celebrity chef cookery book. It's much, much more important and difficult and if you get it wrong it potentially could leave you broke for the rest of your life or even bankrupt! Dabble in this game at your peril.

Everyone seems to think they are property developers these days just because their house has gone up in value with the rising market, my advice - get real! Property developing means adding value, developing value not sitting back and waiting for the market to rise and there are so many pitfalls. Don't pay over the odds and think you will make it back in the long run, remember you make your money when you buy not when you sell.

Someone once said to me 'You never regret the deals that you don't do' and they are right because there is always another, better, deal just around the corner, so never be in a rush to buy. 'Buy at haste repent at leisure'. Also be careful of buying anything with structural issues, HAC, Asbestos.

Always be sure of the area you are buying in especially noisy neighbours, they can ruin a sale. Make sure legalities are ok, are there any restrictive covenants, is the garden included?

How do you cope with your celebrity status?

Very easily, no-one recognises me apart from the odd person in Marks and Spencer.

Would you ever consider taking part in a reality TV show?

For a life experience I may consider it, but at the moment I'm not fussed.

What is your next challenge?

I am launching a new web site called www.mine4.com which empowers people to buy, rent, sell and let their own properties and I have commissioned an architect to design the world's tallest self-sustaining building called K1 (the ark), keep on developing property and having loads of fun. Oh and I want to become a billionaire.

Do you ever come home to Northern Ireland?

Yes, I go out with Orlaith from Big Brother (don't tell anybody) and we go home quite a lot together. I love Belfast and Ireland, the best country in the world by far!

If you were advising Ulster Graduate readers to buy property in the sun, which country would you suggest?

North Portugal - close to the UK, cheap and really stunning.

How do you spend your spare time?

Having fun with Orlaith. I like Jazz, classical and funky house. I play the guitar, golf and squash. I also go fly-fishing and mountain biking.

Favourite bevy?

A pint of Guinness, of course.

Can I be really cheeky and ask for a signed photo - please?

Yes, send me your address!

Louise Gibbons, Entrepreneur



Louise Gibbons with John McGowan, Chief Executive of NW Marketing

Louise Gibbons, BSc Hons Occupational Psychology 1998 Magee, is a former President of the Students' Union and is Director of the Cocoon Group. She won the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2003 and the Small Business Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2004.

The Cocoon Group opened for business in September 2002, operating as a small business providing a variety of services to 16-18 year olds preparing to leave secondary education, as well as undergraduates, graduates, professionals, and the recent and long term unemployed. The Cocoon group offers a wide range of mentoring services targeted at enabling people to better prepare for employment, re-employment, vocational training or third level education opportunities. We work directly with individuals to highlight the growth of their unique skills developed through work, academic and personal life experiences. We also source the availability of training and educational options tailored for individual needs, flexibility and choice.

Since 2004 we have been operating an Internship program alongside AIPT to provide 18-month training opportunities throughout the USA for students or individuals who can display two years consecutive training in a chosen profession or a qualification in their related field. This is an excellent

opportunity for anyone interested in broadening his or her skills and qualifications while providing in-depth training and rotation round their field of interest not to mention the cultural experience. And in 2005 The Cocoon Group developed a range of training focusing on the social and emotional learning and careers and are currently providing training, mentoring and workshops to 650 16 – 18 year olds across the North West.

When I first started at Magee in October 95 studying Occupational Psychology, I never realised that Derry would become my home for the next 11 years. I didn't think it was Derry that captured all of me, but Magee that firmly placed that area in my heart. When I first landed at Magee I thought the University of Ulster was Magee and I was shocked to realise that in fact that there were three other campuses scattered around the North.

Magee has always been unique, not just in its historical buildings but also in its camaraderie and cohesive nature of the student population. I know that it took the first weeks in '95 in Duncreggan until Christmas to realise that there was life outside the student Union and in fact the town had a number of popular venues to tempt you away from your studious life!

I have always been a dedicated follower of the Student Movement since my first week of first year and I worked within the Bar Committee for three years as a volunteer. I eventually ran for Site Vice President in '98. This was a role that I loved and thoroughly enjoyed as it allowed me to help those who needed their corner fought but it allowed me to develop skills, which I would later on use in the development and ethos of my business. I have many memories and photos which I intend to display at the up and coming alumni events to bring us all back to our youth but also to those fond memories that anyone who studied at Magee will have. (Anyone wishing to display his or her photos can get in touch with me through the Alumni Relations Office, and if you're anything like me, you enjoy many a red face of embarrassment!!)

I re-ran for election in '99 and I was proud to be the first Magee student to be elected over the four campuses for Overall President in '00. For many years I had sat and fought for Magee at Student Union meetings and it was known by many as the "satellite campus". Purely because it had its own way of running things and they worked! That's why Magee stands out from the crowd and is in a league of its own when you are discussing student's participation.

Enough of me, I would like to leave you with a few momentous memories of Magee. Lets take a walk down the psychedelic corridor of The Students' Union, greeted by Pat at the door to the echoes of DJ Phil with his vast amount of music ranging from The Stone Roses to Nelly the Elephant. Our days of Freshers Fayres when you did receive a survival pack with copious amounts of tea bags and Pot Noodles! Or maybe the snowball fight down Argyle Street, which left us all, battered bruised and wet!

When you received a grant to help you through rather than being crippled by tuition fees and loans and in the days when you had the right to a free education! Or maybe it's the memories of Mr Moguls and the obligatory gravy and chip. The Freshers Soccer team winning the Hardington Cup, Magee ladies Dowd Cup and the many victories they had. The men's GAA who played as hard as they trained.

Indeed we all have great memories that have ensured that Magee and its students have and will always look back with a smile.

The Alumni Reunion for Magee graduates from the years 1986 and 1996 is taking place at Magee on the 22 April and I would like to encourage everyone to come along, register on the Alumni Site and (may I say better than Friends Reunited) and come up for the night!! I will guarantee a night full of friends and memories and a serious amount of craic; I hope to see you all there.

Louise is a member of the Alumni Association Executive Committee.

Top of the World

Gavin Bate, BA Hons English 1987, Coleraine



Many people dream of climbing the highest mountain in the world, but few get to actually achieve it. Gavin Bate has not only climbed Everest three times, but he has done it twice without support and supplementary oxygen. Amongst other achievements he has also walked alone across the Sahara, and set up his own business and a charity helping street kids in Kenya and Nepal. And all before his 40th birthday.

Gavin was born in England but brought up in Australia. After completing his schooling he returned to the UK, and found himself in Northern Ireland, where he enrolled on the English degree. He spend every vacation hitching around the world, and on the day of his graduation he left Coleraine to hitch to Piraeus in Greece, where he got a job on an oil tanker and worked his way to China.

He spent the next seven years travelling around the world, working on oil tankers and working his way up to supervisor on tankers which were being sent to be scrapped. This took him to places such as Gujarat in India, Chittagong in Bangladesh and FooChow in China. He was supervising up to 30 staff and organising the logistics of the journeys on tankers which were often recalcitrant rustbuckets.

When not working he continued to indulge his passion for travel. His first major expedition was when, at the age of 22, he walked 3,600km across the Sahara. He undertook this journey, which took him six months, alone and with just a Michelin road map and a compass – he didn't even have a tent and his training

had been done on Portrush Beach. Before he set off he was imprisoned for three weeks in an Algerian jail as a suspected spy, but he bribed his way out and set off to the south. When he arrived at the border with Niger he discovered that it was closed, so he had to walk back, crossing into Western Sahara and the Atlas mountains of Morocco. When he got home it took him three months to get used to being around other people.

Gavin had always been interested in expeditions and mountaineering, so he began to take courses and acquire qualifications in mountaineering and guiding. Over a three year period he travelled around Africa, driving tourists on overland trucks and visiting all but two of the countries on the continent. He was also working freelance in outdoor management in the UK during this period. While he was at UU, Gavin was working with youth groups, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, leading expeditions. One of these was broadcast on television as 'Expedition Fire and Ice' which in turn led to Gavin co-presenting a UTV series called Adventure Ireland with fellow UU alumnus Mark Robson.

His experiences of dealing with staff, corrupt and incompetent bureaucrats and tourists led on to him beginning to organise his own expeditions. He believes that the key to successful expeditions lies in painstaking preparation and ensuring that the group dynamics are working correctly. If the dynamics aren't right, especially in highly stressful situations, people can get seriously hurt.

The truck driving led on to working with a number of aid agencies working in Africa, which prompted Gavin to set up his own charitable projects. Although maintaining a base in Belfast, Gavin also lives a large part of his life in Kibera, the largest slum in Africa (and the setting for much of the recent film *The Constant Gardner*). He became involved in helping street children and set up his charity Moving Mountains.

In 2000 Gavin decided to lead a group attempting to beat the world record for climbing the highest peak on every continent in the fastest time. The trip involved 140 people in total, and a significant amount of money was raised for Comic Relief. They achieved the record, but there was not sufficient oxygen available to let all six of the group reach

the summit of Everest, so Gavin turned back 100m from the summit to enable the others to go on.

In 2002 Gavin returned to Everest with a friend from Omagh, Will Canning and they set off to climb the North Face of the mountain without support or supplementary oxygen. Unfortunately Will dislocated his kneecap just 80m from the summit, and Gavin had to make the agonising decision whether to leave his friend and go on alone or turn back and try to get the two of them off the mountain alive. After three days (to complete a journey which normally takes 10 hours) they made it back to base camp. Gavin knew then that he had the strength and willpower to carry on with further big mountain expeditions. He also found that he had an exceptional ability to deal with high altitude.

Gavin returned to Everest in 2005 and climbed alone and without oxygen or support. He started out from the 1953 base camp (which has not been used since Sir Edmund Hillary's expedition) and achieved the furthest non-stop climb by a westerner without oxygen, taking 32 hours to complete the journey. He is also the only Briton to have climbed both sides without oxygen. He intends to return in 2007 to tackle the North-South traverse with no oxygen or camps.

Gavin undertakes these high profile climbs to raise the money to enable Moving Mountains undertake projects to improve the lives of thousands of children in Africa and Nepal. His most recent climb was undertaken to raise £50,000 to build a hydro-electric plant and renovate a Buddhist monastery in a Sherpa village in Nepal, and he has raised over £35,000 so far by writing articles, selling photographs and giving talks around Ireland and the UK. Part of the profits from Adventure Alternatives, which arranges small group expeditions to countries where other companies don't go, are also donated to the charity.

If there was a prize for the most-travelled graduate of UU, there is little doubt that Gavin would be the winner. Gavin will be talking about his experiences on Everest at the Jordanstown campus on 1 June 2006. See page 16 for further details. Find out more about Gavin at www.movingmountains.org.uk and www.adventurealternative.com

Let there be rock! UU's Kerrang! Connection

Whether you like rock music or not, it's here to stay. For those who love rock music of all kinds, there is only one publication – Kerrang! – and its editor is UUU alumnus Paul Brannigan, BaHons Humanities 1993, Jordanstown, who took time out to take part in our email Q & A ...

Paul, were you a good student?

I was pretty anonymous in lectures and seminars but I did enough to get by. I read at least half the books I was asked to read...

Did you always know you wanted to be a music journalist?

At the time I applied to UUU I had no idea what I wanted to do. The plan was to kill time at college until I'd figured something out...and my course had the attractive offer of a year at college in America. I'd bought music magazines religiously since I was 15 and hanging around with rock stars seemed like a pretty easy job. But I hadn't really done anything to pursue that vague goal until I saw an advert in Kerrang! looking for new writers after I'd graduated.

How did you feel when you first saw your name against a published piece?

I was chuffed. I'd read Kerrang! every week since I was 15 so I was delighted to actually have my name in the magazine. I still am...

Were you involved in student journalism?

Not at all. I was way too lazy to bother with something so time-consuming.

What would be your advice to those aspiring to a career in music journalism?

Every music journo I know lives for music so they spent their teenage years/early 20s buying as many albums as they could afford, going to see as many gigs as they could afford and devouring music magazines. My advice to aspiring music journalists would be to target the magazine you'd like to work for, send in some sample reviews written in the house style and be passionate but patient.



Were you an avid reader of the music weeklies?

Yep. I read Kerrang!, NME and Melody Maker every single week through college. One of those mags doesn't exist any more, the other I have no interest in reading any more...

What was the first single you bought?

I can count the number of singles I've bought in my life on the fingers of one hand, I always bought albums. The first single I bought may possibly have been AC/DC's 'Who Made Who' but I genuinely can't remember.

Which was the first band you ever saw live, and where was it?

It was the mighty WASP at the Ulster Hall in Belfast. A life-changing night, obviously. I wish I could say my first gig was Metallica at the Ulster Hall in 1986, but stupidly I didn't go because none of my friends were interested in seeing them. I never made that mistake again.

Why do you think so many great bands come out of Northern Ireland?

Probably because bands are allowed the time to develop in NI without hype, Irish bands do their own thing without getting caught up in the bullshit of the business which is ideal.

Are you a frustrated musician?

Nope. I played in a couple of bands with friends during college, but having seen the realities of life in a rock band I can assure you that I'm happy with how life's worked out so far.

How did it feel to be appointed editor of such a prestigious publication?

I was delighted obviously. Like I say, I've read Kerrang! since I was 15 and I've worked for the mag since 1994 so Kerrang! has been a huge chunk of my life. It's my dream job basically.

Do you still have time to write?

Yeah. I write pieces for Q when I can and I still write for Kerrang! when I can find time.

Rock music is scandalously under-represented on radio and TV – how frustrating is that?

It's embarrassing. It makes us laugh when you see the hype and fawning media coverage that certain bands get while there are bands that we write about who're selling ten times as many albums and selling out big shows throughout the UK. Thankfully Kerrang! TV and Kerrang! Radio are helping give our bands a platform but really mainstream radio and TV are shamefully clueless when it comes to our bands.

Is illegal downloading really killing the music business?

Did home taping kill the music business? Draw your own conclusions.

If you could make your own rock supergroup out of musicians living or dead, who would be in it?

AC/DC's late, great Bon Scott on vocals, Thin Lizzy's Phil Lynott on bass/backing vocals, Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin and Angus Young from AC/DC on guitar and my mate Graham Hopkins (ex-Therapy?) on drums so I could hang out at rehearsals, soundchecks and aftershow parties!

'Rock' is a very broad church. Do you think the perception of rock music among non-fans is of a clichéd world that doesn't really exist?

That clichéd world of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll still exists and it's still as much fun as it ever was. But anyone who thinks that rock music is just 'Spinal Tap' is an idiot.

Have you kept in touch with any of your student friends?

I had good friends at UUU and I'd be happy to hear from anyone but I'm not big into nostalgia.

www.kerrang.com

A day in the life of a Campus One learner



Hi, my name is Alison Sweeney. I am 34 and married with a three and a half-year-old daughter. I completed a BA Honours degree in Humanities as a part-time mature student in 1994-97.

In 2002 I enrolled on the PgCert/Dip/MSc in Lifelong Learning. Study had to fit around other events in my life, as I had a young baby and job commitments. However, I had excellent support from my family who would baby-sit during my online study periods. I also have a flexible and understanding employer who believes in investing this time in his staff.

Encouraging

I have worked full-time since 1988. My present role is HR Manager. My employer was extremely encouraging towards my return to study. I thought online learning would be an excellent method to continue education, with limited or no on-campus attendance avoiding travel time. After discussing the teaching methods with the course director, I felt assured online learning would suit my lifestyle.

Challenge

One challenge with online learning was adapting to limited face-to-face contact. However, I found that the amount of contact is actually enhanced with online learning in comparison to attended classes, as I was able to contact either class members or lecturers when I required - even, at times, on a day to day basis and not on a weekly basis as with previous types of learning. Online access enabled me to recap on areas discussed in tutorials, coursework, and chat to other learners during the day.

Routine

I established a study routine, based on

the course modules and their individual assignment deadlines. I was able to go online on a daily basis due to the facilities provided for me at my work place. On a typical day, I would allocate approximately thirty minutes to an hour to enter WebCT and read mail discussions that had taken place within my class. I would also allow time to digest any new reading or reference material set by the lecturer.

I usually left WebCT chat rooms and live discussions until I was at home in the evenings, as one could be online in these situations with the tutor and class for up to an hour – requiring uninterrupted concentration.

Advantage

Another advantage of Campus One was the online access to the electronic library and Athens system for academic papers, resources I found essential for an online learner. The most surprising element, however, was the fact that I was able to work through the summer months. This, albeit not suitable for everyone, suited my timetable for the year. Lectures, tutorials and seminars all played a large role in the curriculum, even during those summer months, and assignments were in turn well guided by the course tutors.

Advice and guidance was always available via the WebCT mail tools – tools I frequently used to communicate with the tutor and fellow students.

Distinction

I made a lot of friends while studying with Campus One. Each tutor was very supportive to the class, being aware of the different approaches to learning and the flexibility required when learning online.

I graduated with a distinction in December 2004. Campus One is an excellent and very rewarding learning experience. I really could not have achieved my MSc so quickly if not for the online access. I also feel I have learnt a skill in addition to the actual course.

Want to find out more about online learning opportunities? Visit <http://campusone.ulster.ac.uk> for details.

Obituary: Rev Fr Brian Mullan

The sudden and unexpected death of Father Brian Mullan on 24 January 2006 deprived his many friends in the University of someone for whom they had great respect and affection.



Brian was born in Saintfield, Co Down on 6 October 1945. He went to the local primary school, Saint Mary's, and then to Saint Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick.

After qualifying as a teacher at Saint Joseph's College of Education in 1967, he briefly joined the diocesan seminary at Saint Malachy's in Belfast before proceeding to Rome, where he studied Philosophy at the Lateran University, and then Theology both there and at the Gregorian University.

He was ordained at Saint Peter's Cathedral, Belfast in 1973. For ten years he worked in Saint Colman's Parish in Greenisland before being appointed Chaplain and part-time Lecturer in Religious Education at the University's Coleraine campus in 1983.

He held these posts, together with that of Chaplain to the Dominican College in Portstewart, for the next sixteen years.

He left the University in 1999 to take up his last appointment, as Parish Priest of Saint Mary's Star of the Sea, Portstewart.

Brian led a very active life and never spared himself. No chaplain has done more for students and staff. Beyond his work he was a keen cricketer and a very competitive footballer.

He played the guitar and sang well. Above all, he was an immensely kind and thoughtful man, unfailingly helpful and a very good listener. His attitudes and behaviour were thoroughly ecumenical.

Latterly he ran one of the liveliest parishes in the diocese of Down and Connor and, predictably, Saint Mary's Star of the Sea was full and overflowing for his funeral.

The Midas Initiative

'Drogheda Mobile Virtual Tour Guide'

The Midas Initiative, a joint venture between the University of Ulster, Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Dream Ireland is a Creative and Digital Media Cluster established to support cross-border economic development and competitive advantage for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the East Border Region, particularly in sectors such as film making, television and video production, multi-media, computer games and animation and music/music technology.

One of the main remits of the Midas Initiative has been to foster and support the development of strong collaborative research and industry linkages between academic researchers and the digital industry and, to date, five collaborative partnerships involving UU academics have received funding from Midas to assist with the further commercial development of their projects.

One such project is the development of the 'Drogheda Mobile Virtual Tour Guide', which is being progressed by UU academic Dr Terry Wright, from the School of Art and Design, in partnership with MorSolutions Ltd, a Drogheda based web development agency.

Funded by Midas to a level of €20,000, Dr Wright and Graham O'Rourke, Director of MorSolutions, are developing a virtual tour guide, utilizing the series of Wi-Fi multimedia 'Hotspots' installed around the Drogheda area to provide content which can be viewed on mobile devices.

Initially the content of the productions will provide the user with access to both original and created historical images, in the form of photographs and/or moving images that can be viewed through mobile devices and seen in their original locations. The project will also use live actors and/or animated characters who will act as tour-guides (or ghost characters relating to specific historical periods) to explain historical aspects of the sites to the viewers.

For example, on visiting one of Drogheda's existing town gates, the viewer will be able to point the mobile device in the direction of the gate and see a reconstruction of troops from the Battle of the Boyne marching along the street in their original environment. A 'ghost' character will describe the scene from the point of view of a seventeenth-century citizen. Motion tracking sensors, placed at strategic positions on site, will pinpoint the location and position of the viewer to sync-up the 3D models with the actual environment.

It is intended that the project will have a strong tourism/heritage/educational application and that the technology could be applied to other towns and locations in Ireland and beyond.

Further information on this and other Midas projects is available from <http://www.midasinitiative.com>

Midas is funded through the EU's INTERREG IIIA Programme and the International Fund for Ireland as well as the private sector.

Leading Ladies

Internationally renowned actress Fiona Shaw and voice-coach to the stars Patsy Rodenburg visited the Magee campus in December 2005 as part of the Bank of Ireland Leading Ladies series

Equally acclaimed for her performances on stage and on screen, Fiona Shaw famously played the male lead in a production of Richard II and has most recently appeared in the Harry Potter movies as Aunt Petunia.

During her visit Fiona directed a two-hour master class with the students and presented a public lecture later that evening, featuring some of her favourite writing from Shakespearian times to the present day.

Born in Cork, Fiona studied philosophy before moving to London to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA). During the 1980s she won critical acclaim for her work at the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. She also has an eclectic array of film credits including My Left Foot, Three Men and a Little Lady, Jane Eyre and most recently Harry Potter. She received an honorary degree from UU in 2004 in recognition of her services to theatre and theatre education.

Patsy Rodenburg, who has coached world famous actors including Dame Judi Dench, Daniel Day-Lewis and Sir Ian McKellan, shared the secrets of her trade with drama students in an afternoon workshop.

She also presented a Voice Masterclass, which was open to the public, in the evening.

Patsy is currently Director of Voice at the Royal National Theatre and also the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She is recognised as one of the world's leading voice and acting coaches.

Her contribution to British Theatre was recognised earlier that month when she received an OBE.

Patsy's workshops and masterclasses are designed to encourage actors to free their natural voices and find their true vocal personality. Dame Judi Dench said: "The best thing you can possibly have is a class with Patsy."

Eugene Kearney, Senior Manager at Bank of Ireland, Derry, said: "Bank of Ireland has a long history of supporting education and has had an excellent relationship with the University of Ulster for many years. In supporting events like these we hope we are encouraging talent which will benefit both individual development but in the long-term be returned to the local community."



Patsy Rodenburg

Artists on campus and in the community



The Cultural Development Department, in partnership with colleagues from the Faculty of Arts, presents a varied programme of outreach activities, involving schools, arts organisations and community groups throughout the year. As part of this ongoing outreach programme the Cultural Development Department have facilitated a number of artist-in-residence schemes across the University in a wide range of art forms including dance, drama, music, and art and design. These residencies bring staff and students from all faculties in direct contact with creative artists and a wider audience also has an opportunity to benefit from the experience and creativity of the visiting artists through public workshops, demonstrations and performances.

Justine Scoltock, from the Nerve Centre in Derry, was engaged recently as a 'Designer/Photographer-in-Residence' at the Coleraine campus. Justine collaborated with staff in the Centre for Media Research on their research into early Irish photography and the development of an online creative photographic project exploring issues on the archive, history and discourses of photography. She also worked with students on the University's degree in Media Arts to produce online photographic projects.

Creative digital photography design is an emerging area in the creative industries and one of the main features of Justine's engagement was the presentation of a series of community and schools workshops in the Flowerfield Art Centre which gave participants a rare opportunity to access skills training in this new art form.

Participants on the workshop programme, including A level Media and Arts students from Dominican College and North Coast Integrated College, worked with historical images, family photographs and magazine shots to create a final manipulated photographic print montage that visually explored the theme of personal history and identity. An exhibition of this work - entitled 'Our Memories' - was on display in Flowerfield Arts Centre in December 2005.

Details on further outreach activities can be found on www.culture.ulster.ac.uk

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Get a Better Degree of Fitness at UU Sports Centres!

The modern fitness suites across UU campuses, installed with the most up-to-date fitness machines, are open and available to graduates and the general public alike. Fun fitness classes to tighten and tone the body, as well as some super calorie burners such as the indoor 'Bike Spin' classes and the circuits classes are also open and available to all, through a range of unbeatable membership packages, specially tailored for UU Graduates, families and associate. A Graduate Individual membership is only £31 for a year, and a Graduate and Family membership is £62, outstanding value!



Qualified fitness instructors at our sports centres can do simple health checks and fitness assessments for new members, looking at areas of fitness that need particular attention, and design a personalised fitness and exercise programme based on this. This is an effective way of ensuring that your work-out is more likely to make a real difference to your fitness and well-being.

The fitness classes are a superb and fun way to get fit in a friendly environment with all ages and abilities taking part! 'UU Bike Spin' classes have begun recently at Jordanstown, with pilates and yoga still popular at the Coleraine campus and cardio-circuits at Magee.

For more information on the fitness suites and great fitness classes at the University of Ulster, as well as information on the range of superb membership packages, visit www.ulster.ac.uk/sportscentre.

Sports Scholarship Scheme 2005/2006 Recipients

Twenty of Northern Ireland's most promising performers in a wide range of sports were awarded scholarships from the University. The Sports Scholarship are worth up to £1,000 for world-class performers and will assist them with travel expenses in training and competing, the purchase of specialist equipment and clothing. The Sports Scholarship Scheme is operated by the University's Sports Development Unit.

The Sports Scholars will be able to avail of the University's support services, including fitness testing, nutritional and biomedical advice and sports psychology. They can also call on the expertise of staff at the Sports Institute of Northern Ireland which is based at the Jordanstown campus.

Those awarded scholarships included performers in athletics, badminton, cycling, fencing, hockey, karate, netball, sailing, soccer, swimming, rugby, surfing and squash. All have competed at international level.



Acclimatisation Chamber at Jordanstown Sports Centre

January evenings were generally cold and wet – not so for the Irish U19 Cricket team! They were working out two evenings a week in the month of January in a very warm humid environment in the sports centre at Jordanstown. How could that be?

The team has been using the University's newly constructed state of the art Acclimatisation Chamber in preparation for the U19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka. They were training in 32 degrees with 80% humidity. Irish Team Manager Brian Walsh said 'It's been really tough going for the players but I have no doubt that training in these conditions will pay real dividends'.

The acclimatisation chamber is one of the biggest in the UK and the only one of its kind on the island of Ireland. The chamber has been constructed in partnership with the Sports Council Northern Ireland and will be part of the High Performance Centre. The chamber simulates some of the most inhospitable places on the planet, with a temperatures ranging between -20°C and 40°C and humidity levels of up to 95%.

It can also manipulate oxygen levels to reproduce conditions at high altitudes of up to 15,000ft/4,600m. The chamber will be used not only by students and researchers but also by external organisations and professional athletes.

The large capacity of the chamber makes it a very versatile facility, allowing the user to simulate climatic conditions in order to retrieve essential qualitative and quantitative information. The temperature, humidity and altitude can be controlled and the internal climate can be set to mimic nearly any environment in the world. This obviously enables the acclimatisation of athletes competing abroad without the need to travel to the site weeks before competing.

Sports Development Unit

The University of Ulster has launched a project which is unique in Irish University sport, to develop sport from beginner to high performance level throughout its four campuses and also in neighbouring communities.

The University has established a Sports Development Unit that aims to provide opportunities for people of all ages, levels of interest and ability to take part in, improve or excel in their chosen sport.

Alison Moffitt, the newly appointed Sports Development Manager at UU, appreciates that the creation of the Sports Development Unit is a reflection of the University's commitment to supporting sport at all levels. "The Unit is set to make a significant impact not only on the participation and performance levels of individuals, clubs and groups directly involved but also on sport across the province. Sports Development is all about providing opportunities and maximising potential, something the University believes wholeheartedly in."

The Sports Development Unit has recently appointed a Sports Education and Training Development Officer and four Sports Development Assistants to develop and deliver sports programmes across the University's campuses. The Unit in partnership with I.R.F.U. Ulster Branch has also appointed a Rugby Development Officer, Chris Galway, to improve participation and performance in the sport and a Basketball Development Officer has recently been appointed in association with Ulidia Integrated College in Carrickfergus.

Future appointments in Gaelic games in association with the Ulster Council of the GAA and the Comhairle Ardoideachais Uladh are also being considered. In the long-term the Unit hopes to appoint Development Officers for a number of other sports in partnership with their respective governing bodies or key sports agencies.

The unit will strive to make our strategic ethos of "be active, be involved and be outstanding" a reality for students, staff and the wider community. This requires individual effort and commitment – most of all it means that the Sports Development Unit has a key role in creating the conditions for sport to be supported and developed.

For further information please contact Alison Moffitt, Sports Development Manager, Telephone - **028 90 3666049** Email – a.moffitt@ulster.ac.uk

BE ACTIVE BE INVOLVED BE OUTSTANDING

Anna Sweeps Gold and Sets New Record



Anna Boyle, University of Ulster Sports Scholar and student of Sport and Exercise Sciences, smashed the Irish 60 metres indoor record on her way to winning gold at the Irish Indoor Championships in Belfast recently.

The 22 year old from Dunloy, Co. Antrim, recorded a blistering time of 7.32 seconds, beating Amadine Aliou Affoue of the Ivory Coast, and Emily Maher, as well as the outgoing title and record holder, Ailis McSweeney.

Meanwhile, other UU Athletics Club members put in some sterling performances in other athletics disciplines, with Eva Massey taking the gold medal in the shot putt with a distance of 15.52 metres, and Lindsey Monteith set a personal best of 2 minutes 12.70 seconds in the 800 metres to sweep the gold medal too. Lesley Leung won gold in the triple jump to set a new Irish Junior record of 14.09 metres, also jumping 6.89 in the long-jump to take the bronze medal. Jeremy Harper won the bronze medal in the shot-putt and Mandy Gault lifted silver in the long-jump, while super sprinter Jonny Davis took a bronze medal in the 60 metres.

UU Students, Graduates and Staff at the Commonwealth Games

Athlete and current UU Student Anna Boyle, shot putter and UU graduate Eva Massey, boxing graduate Eamon O'Kane, Coleraine Sports Centre Manager Anne Paul, and Sports Development Manager Alison Moffitt, are all representing Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Anna has been in the form of her life in recent months, as has Eva, with both ladies taking home Gold medals at this year's Irish Indoor Athletics Championships, held in the Odyssey Arena in Belfast in February.

Anne Paul and Alison Moffitt are two of Northern Ireland's most experienced athletes and sports administrators. Anne has competed in international triathlons on many occasions, and Alison is a former Northern Ireland record holder at javelin throwing. Both individuals have very important roles to play at the 'Games'.

Alison will be a member of Headquarter's staff for the entire Northern Ireland team's. She will be based in the teams' administrative office in Melbourne for 4 weeks during March, taking care of logistics, press relations and results services. She has previous experience of the Commonwealth Games, having been to Kuala Lumpur and Manchester in recent years.

Anne Paul, meanwhile, will be acting as manager of the Northern Ireland Triathlon team at the games. Gavin Noble (24), Heather Wilson (23) and Brian Campbell (29) make up the team which will be under the expert guidance of Anne, who has competed at previous games in New Zealand in 1990, and managed the Triathlon Team in Manchester in 2002. Anne has been involved with the selection criteria for the team, as well as being engaged in much of the planning and preparation of logistics for the event.

Alumni from UU and Queen's University Belfast had the opportunity to meet with the Northern Ireland Team and wish them well at a reception organised by the Sports Council Northern Ireland and the NI Commonwealth Games Council. The reception was held at Melbourne Town Hall on St Patrick's Day.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE

A large part of our lives is spent at work. Our identity and well-being are intrinsically linked to our job role and the organisation we work for. In making our choice of employer we want to work for an organisation that is able to challenge us as a professional, develop us to progress through a structured career path and who will recognise our abilities and achievements through a competitive remuneration package.

GRAHAM is one of Ireland's oldest and most respected construction companies. Our focus is on building and maintaining the infrastructure we all rely on every day for sectors such as business, health care, education, transport and the environment. We recognise that our current and continued success is fully dependent on recruiting the best staff, challenging them to be better and in following progressive human resource policies, which encourage staff retention. This cultural ethos has led to a rapid expansion of business across the UK and Ireland.

We have been successful in obtaining high profile, prestigious contracts in the Civil Engineering and Building industries. These projects stretch and challenge the abilities of those staff who work on them, whilst providing both personal and professional satisfaction and rewards. Such projects require a substantial staff resource and we wish to enlarge our team by recruiting more construction professionals who feel they can meet the personal challenges these projects will set. This is a great opportunity to work on projects that can fast-track your personal career ambitions, and which will be a much sought after addition to a professional's CV, whatever stage of their career they are currently at.

Being selected to participate in our exciting future begins with a simple application for one of our vacancies, either by completing a company application form or by submitting a CV to the HR department. If we believe you have what it takes to succeed on our projects then we will offer you an interview, where we can elaborate on the benefits and challenges of a GRAHAM career and afford you the opportunity to convince us of your abilities and aptitudes.

We can assure you that making an application to GRAHAM will be one of the most important decisions you will make in your career as a construction professional.

Application forms can be obtained from the Human Resources Department, John Graham (Dromore) Ltd. Lagan Mills, Dromore, Co. Down. BT25 1AS.

Tel. 028 9269 2291 or by email to applications@graham.co.uk

Alternatively application forms can be downloaded from www.graham.co.uk

CV's will also be accepted.



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