

THE **ULSTER** **GRADUATE**



Reaching out
The University of Ulster around the world.

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Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, welcomed US Economic Envoy Declan Kelly to the Belfast campus, where he received a briefing on the University's Greater Belfast Development plans.

A word from the Editor...



Welcome to *The Ulster Graduate* issue 34. The University of Ulster's vision is "to be a university with a national and international reputation for excellence, innovation and regional engagement". I hope that this issue demonstrates how well we are achieving this aim.

We have focused on the international reach of the University, highlighting our links with overseas partners and the geographical spread of where our students come from and where our alumni live and work (see pages 18–19). Stories featured in this issue focus on our links across the world, including with Canada, Malawi, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and the USA. This year one of our alumni reached the summit of Everest (page 33), another

completed the Great Ethiopian Run (page 26), whilst a third took up a new post in Bergen, Norway (page 31). We also feature alumni in the USA, China, and India. Our supporters are also international. On page 13 you can read about the American Friends of the University of Ulster inc, our fundraising body in the USA, which enables donors there to give tax effectively.

As this issue goes to press, we are looking forward to welcoming students from 17 countries to our Summer School in conflict resolution and peacebuilding run by INCORE, our International Conflict Research Institute.

As always we hope that you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to hearing your views. Don't forget to keep us updated with your current contact details, including your email address, so that we can keep you informed about news and events. You can use the carrier sheet, or www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni.

Sue Rees

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Cover photograph
Gavin Bate summits Everest. For full story see page 33

Photographs
courtesy of Gavin Bate



Ulster researchers have been making the news since *The Ulster Graduate* 33. Here is a selection of some key stories. For more information on research, see <http://research.ulster.ac.uk>

Preparing for the Worst, Training for the Best

When senior lecturer in Nursing Pat Deeny advised planners in South Korea about disaster response and preparedness, no-one had an inkling of the horror looming on the doorstep.

Experts on healthcare disaster preparation had travelled to the government-sponsored conference last November from the UK, United States, Hong Kong and mainland China, Philippines and, tellingly, Japan.

Preparing to return for a second conference in October 2011, Pat is anxious for feedback from the Japanese nursing participants about how they and their colleagues coped with the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in March and the threat of nuclear disaster.



He says:

“My impression from this distance is that Japan was well prepared in its nursing and primary care provision, but it will be illuminating to hear from people who came face to face with nightmare consequences just how their plans performed in action.”

Simulation

Student nurses at Ulster receive training in nursing in disasters. This is achieved through a combination of lectures, tutorials and participation in simulated disaster situations. Scores of nursing students from the Magee and Coleraine campuses took part in a simulated air crash disaster at City of Derry Airport recently and there are plans for another big exercise, with British Red Cross and other Emergency Response teams, this July.

Frontline

Pat tells international gatherings of nurse educators, healthcare practitioners and government officials that nations all too often ignore a vital link in their disaster preparedness. That is the role of nurses in assessing community vulnerabilities and preparing vulnerable groups such as older people to survive disasters. He champions nurses being intrinsic to the planning process, not an ‘add-on’:

“There is no explicit role for nurses in disaster planning in many countries,” Pat says. “And this is in spite of what the World Health Organisation has said – that it is a major public health issue and that nurses should be involved at the early stages of disaster preparation.”



Dr Neale Blair, lecturer in the School of the Built Environment (right) reports on a unique partnership aimed at enhancing employability amongst planning graduates in Malawi

Into Africa

Since 2009, the University of Ulster, Mzuzu University and Malawi Polytechnic have been working together through a partnership funded by the Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, and administered by the British Council as part of the ‘Education Partnerships in Africa’ programme.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, and is experiencing rapid urbanisation. It is vital that urban and regional graduates have both the generic

skills, such as communication, to enhance their employability opportunities as well as the discipline-specific skills necessary for a career in land-use planning.

The partnership is making a difference to third-level education in Malawi, for example a number of initiatives first designed at Ulster are now being implemented in Mzuzu University. The project will conclude in summer 2011 with a further visit from Ulster to Malawi and a series of workshop events.

Going Global – Bamford Mental Health Centre

Researchers at Ulster’s Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Well-being, led by Professor Brendan Bunting, are collaborating with over 40 countries worldwide in a World Mental Health Survey Initiative to achieve a clearer understanding of the nature of mental disorders.

The initiative, led by the Universities of Harvard and Michigan under the auspices of the World Health Organisation, involves large population surveys in each country to determine the rates of disorders, the factors associated with mental health problems and the treatments used. The total sample worldwide will be in excess of 150,000.

The Northern Ireland study of over 4,300 people found that in any year around one in four people will show symptoms that could be related to a mental disorder. The NI rates were among the highest, when compared with some 17 other countries. Rates of post-traumatic stress disorder in NI were among the highest worldwide.

Improved understanding

The research identifies a need for further research for an improved understanding of mental health issues and how they may be prevented and treated. The study’s co-ordinators are currently involved in workgroups to examine cross-country data on issues such as the effects of family violence, gender, suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Further information:

www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/wmh

Building Bridges

Lecturer and faculty E-Learning Coordinator Dr James Uhomoibhi is on a mission – to build bridges between Europe and Africa, bridges of knowledge and skills paved with hope, bridges that will stand the test of time.

SEFI, a powerful Brussels-based academic professional organisation comprising engineering educators and researchers all over Europe and which advises the European Commission, has elected James to lead a drive to share engineering know-how with African nations and universities. SEFI is the French acronym for the European Society for Engineering Education. One of its key goals is to nurture a new generation of African engineers whose professional training and education matches worldwide quality standards.

James says:

“What African countries really lack is a strong engineering education base. We know what role engineering can play in national development and capacity building. The story of America, Korea, Japan, Malaysia etc. is a reminder of the fact that for any country to be developed, its engineering education base needs to be a sound one. Working as equals with our co-professionals in Africa, we hope to achieve something great strategically. By reaching visible



From left: Dr Win Aung, iNEER Secretary General; Professor Denise McAlister, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning; Professor Farana Radim, Dean, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, VSB Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic; Professor Tomáš Cermak, iNEER General Chair; Dr James Uhomoibhi, Faculty of Computing and Engineering; Dr Aileen Moore, Vice-Chancellor's Office; Jim Hanna, Head of Computing and Engineering Services; Dr Colin Turner, Head of School of Engineering

goals and engaging in activities mutually beneficial to both continents, we want to make a difference in Africa.”

Engineering education

It is a theme that he will emphasise in August when Belfast hosts the annual International Conference on Engineering Education. It is jointly sponsored by Ulster and the International Network on Engineering Education and Research. James, who is a laser physicist, a member of the Institution for Engineering and Technology and a fellow of the British Computer Society, the Chartered Institute for IT, and is the Conference Chair.

Boost

A Nigerian, James gained his first degrees in both Nigeria and Italy, his postgraduate degrees in the UK and joined Ulster in 2004. His election as Head of the SEFI Task Force on

European Co-operation with Africa last November has provided a significant boost internationally to Ulster's engineering teaching and research profile. African study programmes and accreditation procedures vary widely. South Africa has highly organized and long-established systems that make it the continent's leading engineering nation. Nigeria and some other African countries, although resource-rich, lack the presence and input of internationally accepted professional accreditation bodies.

Maximise potential

The Task Force's challenge is to map how European knowledge might help embed lasting structures of engineering teaching, learning research and training so that African nations maximise vast under-utilised potential in both natural resources and the personnel needed to develop them.

Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership



Declan Kelly with Former US President Clinton during his visit to the Magee campus in September 2010

Former US Economic Envoy Declan Kelly gave an inspirational address on entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership to University of Ulster business students and academics at Jordanstown in January 2011.

Mr Kelly paid tribute to the University and its contribution to the development of Northern Ireland's economy and society:

“I applaud those who have established the University of Ulster's reputation as a world-class facility for research and academic excellence,” he said.

“Your efforts have provided hundreds of students with a genuine

opportunity to fulfil their potential, and you have helped Northern Ireland better position itself for inward investment.”

Mr Kelly was welcomed to the campus by University Council Chairman Gerry Mallon, Professor Alastair Adair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Communication and External Affairs), and Professor Marie McHugh, Dean of the Ulster Business School.

To hear what the US Envoy had to say, see:

<http://news.ulster.ac.uk/podcasts/KellyLecture.mp3>

Documenting Ireland's Past

Visitors from as far afield as North America, Australia, Canada and India have inundated a new website which focuses on the history of Ireland and its migration from the 19th century to the present day.

During its first month online, Documenting Ireland – Parliament, People and Migration (DIPPAM) recorded 3,645 visits from 51 different countries with Britain topping the table followed by the USA and Canada. The website was created as the result of a joint partnership between the University of Ulster, QUB, the Centre for Migration Studies in Omagh, Co Tyrone and Libraries NI.

Dr Johanne Devlin Trew from the School of Criminology Politics and Social Policy helped devise the initiative and said she was overwhelmed by the level of interest:

“The results have been incredible considering we only launched publicly in March and it just shows how much people are fascinated by the past,” she explained.

“We hope DIPPAM will continue to help reconnect Irish/Northern Irish people around the world with this island and each other, whether they are in Boston, Brisbane, Bombay or Brazil, as we all stand to benefit from bringing our collective experiences together.”

Free access

DIPPAM offers free access and is divided into three searchable databases – Enhanced Parliamentary Papers on Ireland, the Irish Emigration Database and Voices of Migration and Return. It provides fingertip access to 200 years of official documents and records through emigrant letters and audio clips.

To find out more visit www.dippam.ac.uk

West Coast Booster

Intelesens, a wireless health monitoring company that started life as a University of Ulster spin-out, has scooped a top prize in the 2011 ITLG/*Irish Times* Irish Technology Leaders Group Awards.



Belfast-based Intelesens won the 'Most Promising Technology Company' at the prestigious ceremony held at Stanford University in San Jose, California. It is the second year in a row that a company with links to Ulster has won the award. Belfast-based biotech company, SiSaf won it in 2010. In March SiSaf became the first Northern Ireland biotech company to secure a Silicon Valley investment.

Tim Brundle, the University's Director of Innovation, who attended the ITLG ceremony, said:

"This is a wonderful follow-on to SiSaf's success last year at the awards evening and this will now open a range of wider interests for Intelesens."

Fast Forward

Developments in the field of motorsport have seen the University bolster its position as an international research leader in the area.

He was joined by the UAE Ambassador to the UK His Excellency Abdul Rahman Ghanim Al Mutaiwee on their first ever visit to Northern Ireland.

Collaboration

Dr David Hassan, from the Sport and Exercise Sciences Research Institute, was central in securing the UAE deal and his expertise resulted in being commissioned to carry out the first academic study of a motorsport event in the Middle East region at the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge in April.

Last December Ulster signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Arab Emirates' motorsport federation, as the University welcomed Mohammed Ben Sulayem, the Vice President of Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) to the Jordanstown campus to establish the joint UAE-Ulster Institute of motorsport research.

Degenhardt Scholarships



From left: Patrick Tierney, Andrew Cooke, Conal McShane, Dr Linda Beard and Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor

Celtic studies scholars Conal McShane and Patrick Tierney, along with ceramics artist Andrew Cooke, are the 2011 winners of the Richard K Degenhardt Belleek Collectors' Scholarships.

The awards, now in their tenth year, are named in memory of the late Richard Kennedy Degenhardt, who was instrumental in establishing the Belleek Collectors' International Society.

Dr Linda Beard, founder and chair of the Richard K Degenhardt Endowment, presented this year's successful students with their £500 awards at a special ceremony at the Coleraine campus in May. The scholarships have so far been awarded to 24 students.

Scholarships are funded through the generosity of many individuals and groups, including Belleek Collectors worldwide, international Belleek Chapters, special friends and family of Richard K Degenhardt, the Belleek Pottery and the Belleek Collectors' International Society.

Canadian Connection

Over the last five years, Ulster has developed strong and enduring connections with Canada.

A Canadian Studies Research Programme (CSRP), supported by the Government of Canada, was set up in 2006 to develop links with universities in Canada and our expertise on Canadian issues. The initiative has been led by Dr Susan Hodgett (Sociology and Applied Social Studies) who was the President of the British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS) between 2008–2011.

The successful initiative has attracted leading social science scholars from Canada to work with academics in our Faculty of Social Sciences. Well known names have included Professors Will Kymlicka and Keith Banting from Queen's University Kingston. The focus of most of this collaboration has been in the area of managing diversity, multiculturalism and social inclusion and involves several members of staff at the Social Sciences Research Institute.

Ulster's contribution in this domain is clear to see. Dr Hodgett has been responsible for organising the last three annual conferences for BACS. Subjects have ranged across Multiculturalism and Social Cohesion, Democracy as a



Dr Susan Hodgett with the Executive of the International Council for Canadian Studies, from left: Professor Stewart Gill, University of Queensland; Professor Patrick James, University of Southern California; and Professor Klaus Dieter Ertler, University of Graz

Work in Progress, and Peace and (In) security. Speakers have included those from the Supreme Court of Canada, The Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Government of Canada. Dr Hodgett stepped down as President of BACS in April.

International work

However, Susan's international work with the Government of Canada continues. Last summer she was invited to participate in the Finance Minister for Canada's Annual Policy Retreat and was the only European academic to take part.

In May 2011 she was asked to speak to Canada's Rural Development Network composed of 240 members – mainly

policy-makers, analysts, researchers and economists – from 38 federal and provincial/territorial government departments and agencies. She also serves as Secretary to the International Council for Canadian Studies based in Ottawa.

Finally, the University is in the process of developing an institution-wide Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Ottawa which will begin next year. The Memorandum will offer students the opportunity to undertake study in Canada as part of their degree and encourage exchange of faculty as well as collaboration on research.

Heritage and Education

Harvard professor Gary Owens met students on the Masters in Innovation Management in the Public Service programme during a visit to the Magee campus in March.

Professor Owens, Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, also took time out to visit the Ulster Scots - Scots Irish Heritage & Education Centre at Monreagh, near Carrigans in County Donegal. Located in the beautifully restored 19th century Monreagh Manse, this innovative tourism project celebrating the shared history of the Scots settlers in Ulster was spearheaded by the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies at Magee.



It's Traditional

Dr Liz Doherty, lecturer in Traditional Music at the School of Creative Arts and organiser of the successful International Council for Traditional Music (Ireland) conference at Magee, is pictured with keynote speaker Professor Thomas Turino, Professor of Musicology and Anthropology at the University of Illinois. Professor Turino is an internationally renowned academic with specialist research knowledge of the music of Latin America, South

Africa and Zimbabwe. He is also an accomplished musician and plays the five-string banjo and the accordion.

The three day event – held for the first time in the North-West – had a truly international flavour with scores of researchers attending to hear specialist analysis from contributors from Ireland, Britain, Greece, USA and elsewhere.



Engineering Friendship



Collaboration between the School of Engineering and the Electrical/Electronic Engineering Departments in the Universities of Applied Sciences in Augsburg and Kempten in Bavaria goes back to 1986 when Jack Godfrey and Hasley Mitchell established contact with Professor Benedikt and Professor Eder in Augsburg and Professor Steinbrunn at Kempten.

At this time, the European ERASMUS Programme for university student exchange had just been launched. All parties used this unique opportunity to nurture their growing visions of the benefits of transnational cooperation in education and used their natural enthusiasm within their respective departments to promote the programme

and to encourage their students and colleagues to join and embrace the scheme. In the following year the first group of German exchange students came to the Jordanstown campus to undertake project work, take lectures and enhance their English language skills. In turn, Ulster engineering students took up industrial placements in German companies, learned the German language, attended German lectures, and experienced Bavarian life and culture.

Joint courses

In 1990, the collaboration developed further with the establishment of a joint MEng course in Electronic Engineering (Electronic Systems). This allowed the coming together of local and German students from the Universities of Applied Sciences in Augsburg and Kempten to study for the MEng degree awarded by Ulster but taught at campuses across the institutions. In 1994, the course was modified and enhanced to allow

local students to obtain the double degree of MEng from Ulster and the degree of Diplom Ingenieur from the Bavarian partners.

This was one of the first examples of European transnational cooperation to mount a course which provides a unique educational experience for all participating students. It greatly enhances their employability, and confers on them a greater freedom to practice their profession throughout Europe. The benefits for students of learning to adapt to other industrial and social cultures are immeasurable and many local Ulster graduates are enjoying rewarding professional positions in Europe and further afield as a direct result of their academic and professional training in Germany.

Accreditation

This collaborative double-degree programme, now Ulster MEng/ German Masters, has recently been expanded to include electronic engineering, mechanical engineering and mechatronic engineering, and has been redesigned to meet the requirements of the European Union standard for engineering courses, the so-called 'Bologna Model'. It continues to thrive, and typically produces an output of 20 to 25 graduates every year. All of the joint MEng programmes are now accredited by the Institutions of Engineering and Technology and Mechanical Engineering.

Rewarding Excellence

A number of exceptional students have been presented with awards from the Alumni Fund by Professor Marie McHugh, Dean of the Ulster Business School.

Guests at the April ceremony heard from this year's Alumni Fund Sports Scholar, boxer Mark O'Hara, and one of last year's Academic Excellence Scholars, Shweta Agarwal, about the importance of these awards to current students.

The Alumni Fund Awards

The Alumni Fund supports scholarships and grants in the areas of sport, the libraries, scholarships for students from the developing world, academic excellence and the Opportunities Fund.

Since the inception of the Alumni Fund scholarship scheme in 2004, a significant number of students have received grants. The generosity of our alumni has enabled for example, 26 students to undertake research and study visits abroad in countries as far afield as the USA, South Africa and China.



From left: Noreen McHolland, Nicola Stirling, Professor Marie McHugh, Aaron Allen, Clare Donaghy, Marta McIntyre

Eight individuals have been Alumni Fund Sports Scholars, and the fund also supports a scholarship for students from the developing world. This has so far enabled students from India, Malawi and Brazil to travel to Ulster to work with our academics.

Academic Excellence Awards

Alumni Fund Awards for Academic Excellence are made to the undergraduate student with the highest average mark in each faculty at the end of their first year.

The current recipients of the awards are:

- Aaron Allen, BSc Hons Biomedical Engineering
- Andrew Hamilton, BSc Hons Community Youth Work

- Marta McIntyre, BSc Hons Optometry
- Noreen Mulholland, BSc Hons Building Surveying
- Nicola Stirling: BSc Hons Business with Accounting
- Rachael Thompson, BA Hons French and Spanish (Applied Languages)

Boston Step-Up Scholarship

The Boston Step-Up Scholarship is awarded by the University's New England Alumni Association to a student who participated in our Step-Up Programme. The award is worth \$1,500 per year for up to four years. The Scholarship for 2010/11 was presented to Clare Donaghy, a first year BSc Hons Biomedical Engineering student from Belfast, at the awards ceremony in April.

Our American Friends

The American Friends of the University of Ulster Inc. was established in 1999 by supporters of the University

Its mission is to support higher education in Northern Ireland and the USA, with a particular interest in supporting the work of the University of Ulster. The American Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation and donations made to it are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Ireland. The programme is called 'Sport for LIFE' (Living Integration Fun Education) and is run by the Sports Outreach Unit based in the School of Sports Studies in the Ulster Sports Academy.

Funding for the Richard K Degenhardt Scholarships, featured on page 8, has mostly been raised in the US. The alumni in New England have raised over £10,000 to date to support the Boston Step-Up to the University of Ulster Scholarship, worth \$1,500 per year, which is awarded to a student who has participated in our Step-Up Programme – which provides an opportunity for pupils from areas of social and economic disadvantage to access higher education.

Independent

The American Friends is governed by an independent board of directors, headed by the President Paul Hanna (MBA 1992). After working in Boston, Massachusetts and at the Jordanstown campus, Paul moved to Chicago, Illinois and worked for eight years with Invest NI in the Midwest US office. In 2005, he joined Corporate Express as a Business

Development Executive focused on the US Federal Government. In 2008 Corporate Express was acquired by Staples Inc, and he now manages all of Staples' business with the Federal Government in Illinois and Wisconsin.

The other Board members are New York based Margaret Molloy, BA Hons European Business Studies 1993; Boston based Paul Jennings, BSc Hons Human Communication 1986 and Mark Mathers, BA Hons Business Studies 1988 and Kate Bond, Head of Development and Alumni Relations. For more information see www.americanfriendsofulster.org

Please contact the Development Office if you would be interested in getting involved with the work of the American Friends. **Email development@ulster.ac.uk or phone Debbie Caulfield on +44 (0)28 7012 3208.**



Paul Hanna

Having such a body in the USA has enabled the University to attract a number of significant donations. In 2009 the Coca-Cola Foundation awarded the University \$326,100 (£240,040) to support a physical activity and health programme for 3,000 eight to nine year olds in the most disadvantaged schools in Northern

How to Give



If you would like to support the fund you can use the donation form on the reverse of the carrier sheet or make a donation in one of the following ways:

Cheque: made payable to the 'University of Ulster Foundation'. (USA Donors – cheques should be made payable to the 'The American Friends of the University of Ulster').

Credit card: donations can be made over the telephone by calling the Alumni Relations Office on 028 9036 8350 or through our web pages at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni

Direct Debit: we can send you a form or you can download one from www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni.

giftaid it

Just £11.11 a month for three years, with Gift Aid, is worth £500 to us. By using Gift Aid, your gift will be increased by the Inland Revenue by 25p for every £1 you give. If you are

a higher rate taxpayer you can also claim back 20p in every £1. This means that a donation of £100 from you is worth £125 to us, and if you are a higher rate taxpayer only costs you £75.

All you need to do is tick the Gift Aid box on the Donation Form. Further details of Gift Aid are on our website. (USA Donors – Donations to the American Friends are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law).

Sigerson Cup Reunion

2011 marks the 25th Anniversary of the University of Ulster's Sigerson Cup victory when captain Colin Harney lifted the coveted trophy in 1986 for the first time. This remarkable feat was repeated in 1987 when the double was achieved by capturing the Sigerson and Ryan Cups captained by DJ Kane.



Last year 25 former members of the Redbranch Morris met for a weekend in Derbyshire of reminiscing and dancing

The Gaelic Alumni are planning to have a reunion celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the 86 and 87 panels and management and the 20th Anniversary of the 1991 Sigerson winning panel in the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast on Saturday 8 October.



Orla Toman, Alan Lee and Patricia Caldwell at the London Alumni New Year party in January. The event is held each year to enable graduates from universities across the island of Ireland to meet and socialise

All members of the panels are asked to contact TJ by email at johnfarrell@hotmail.com or www.jordanstowngaa.com or [jordanstowngaa](https://www.facebook.com/jordanstowngaa) on Facebook.



Graduates in Bavaria enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends at a reunion in Munich in May.

Talks and Tours

We are delighted to be able to share details of our ever-popular summer series of Talks and Tours.

Talks (7.30pm, Flowerfield Arts Centre)

- Tuesday 19 July – Alex Blair: Work and Leisure In Rural North Antrim in the Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries
- Tuesday 26 July – Thomas McErlean: The Irish Townland: Origin, function and identity
- Tuesday 2 August – Melvin Lyons: Jazz: The Crafty Art

Tours

- Friday 15 July – Paul Quinn: Roaming Round Rathlin
- Tuesday 19 July – Alex Blair: A Day with The Cistercians And The Moravians
- Saturday 23 July – The Causeway Coast By Sea
- Thursday 4 August – Brian Rushton: The Arboretum (Coleraine campus)

For further information on these events and to book contact 028 7012 4449 or email cn.bleakley@ulster.ac.uk

For more information on alumni events, contact the Alumni Relations Office on 028 9036 8350, email alumni@ulster.ac.uk or book online at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni

Alumni Events

September

New York, Boston and Washington DC
Events will be held for alumni in New York on 27 or 28 September and in Boston on 29 September. There will also be a reception in Washington DC during September.

November

2 November Belfast campus
3 November Coleraine campus
On Top of the World
Alumnus Gavin Bate talks about his recent ascent of Everest.

December

6 December, 7.00pm
Dinner in the Academy Restaurant, Belfast campus
Treat yourself to a relaxing night out at the award-winning Academy Restaurant, where you can enjoy a gourmet meal for only £15 per person.

February

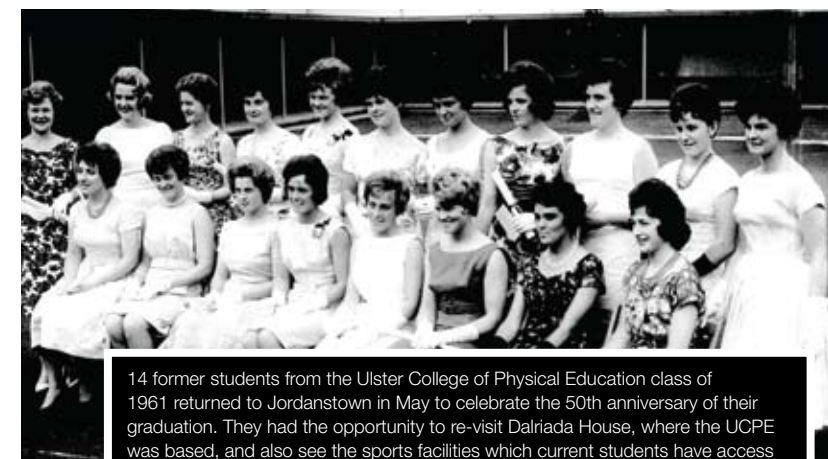
2 February, 5.45pm
Tour of the Old Bailey, London
Alumni are invited to a tour of the Old Bailey with Charles Henty, the Secondary of London and Under Sheriff, followed by refreshments.

There will be a charge of £10 per person, which will be donated to the Sherriffs' and Recorder's Fund, which looks after the families of prisoners.

There will also be a number of events in Northern Ireland enabling alumni to find out more about the Greater Belfast Development Plans and a reception at the Groucho Club in London.



Over 30 graduates enjoyed a tour of Belfast City Hall in January. The tour was followed by refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour, courtesy of the then Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Pat Convery



14 former students from the Ulster College of Physical Education class of 1961 returned to Jordanstown in May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. They had the opportunity to re-visit Dalriada House, where the UCPE was based, and also see the sports facilities which current students have access to. Pictured are the class in their first year in 1958, and in May 2011



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THE ULSTER GRADUATE

| People

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SET for BRITAIN

Gabriel Deak, Karla Munoz and Snaider Carrillo, three international postgraduate students from the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems at Magee represented Northern Ireland at the prestigious SET for BRITAIN event at Westminster.

Snaider started his PhD research in 2009, having previously worked as a researcher in the USA. His research investigates building novel computer architectures similar to the human brain systems.

Karla, who is originally from Mexico, came to Magee in 2007 to complete an MSc in Computing and Intelligent Systems. She finished first in her class and started her PhD the following year. Her research investigates an emotional student model for educational gaming to assist in making the learning environment more adaptive to the user.

Gabriel, who is from Romania, commenced his PhD in ambient intelligence in September 2009. His PhD project relates to the estimation of location indoors – a person's location can be readily identified outdoors using GPS but this does not work well indoors.

High quality

Congratulating all three on their success in reaching the national finals of SET for BRITAIN, Head of

School of Computing and Intelligent Systems Professor Liam Maguire said:

"The competition was an excellent platform to present their own research and to hear from other leading researchers from all around the UK. Their success also recognises the high quality research carried out in the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems."



Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn

University of Ulster Alumni has a Facebook page <http://tinyurl.com/32bc8av> and an alumni group on LinkedIn



<http://tinyurl.com/2w2emra>



Twitter

Follow us on Twitter @UlsterUni

All Around the World

Six students from the School of Communication have travelled to the USA to study.

Instead of finishing up their second year studies at the Jordanstown campus, five students studying Communication with PR or Communication with Counselling spent their second semester at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, whilst the sixth, a Communication with Advertising student, was at Kent State University, Ohio.

Also off to the USA is BSc Hons Biomedical Engineering student Shweta Agarwal, winner of the Alumni Fund Academic Excellence Award for the Faculty of Computing and Engineering in 2009, who is off to Harvard.

Shweta is from Jhansi in India and is currently a placement year student working at Heartsine Technologies Ltd, Belfast. Her placement has helped her to gain experience in cardiology, at the same time developing her interest in cardiovascular sciences, and she now wishes to pursue further studies in this field. This summer she will be working at Brigham Women's Hospital (affiliated to Harvard Medical School) on cardiovascular stem-cells, tissue explants and microfluidics.

Meanwhile the Alumni Fund Opportunities Fund helped two students – Victoria Hogg and Hannah Barr – to participate in the 'Study China' programme over Easter. The programme enables students from across the UK to travel to China to learn about Chinese culture and business methods and to undertake an intensive mandarin language course.

Reaching Out

For a university in one of the UK’s further-flung regions, we are proud of the range and depth of our international reach.

This derives from:

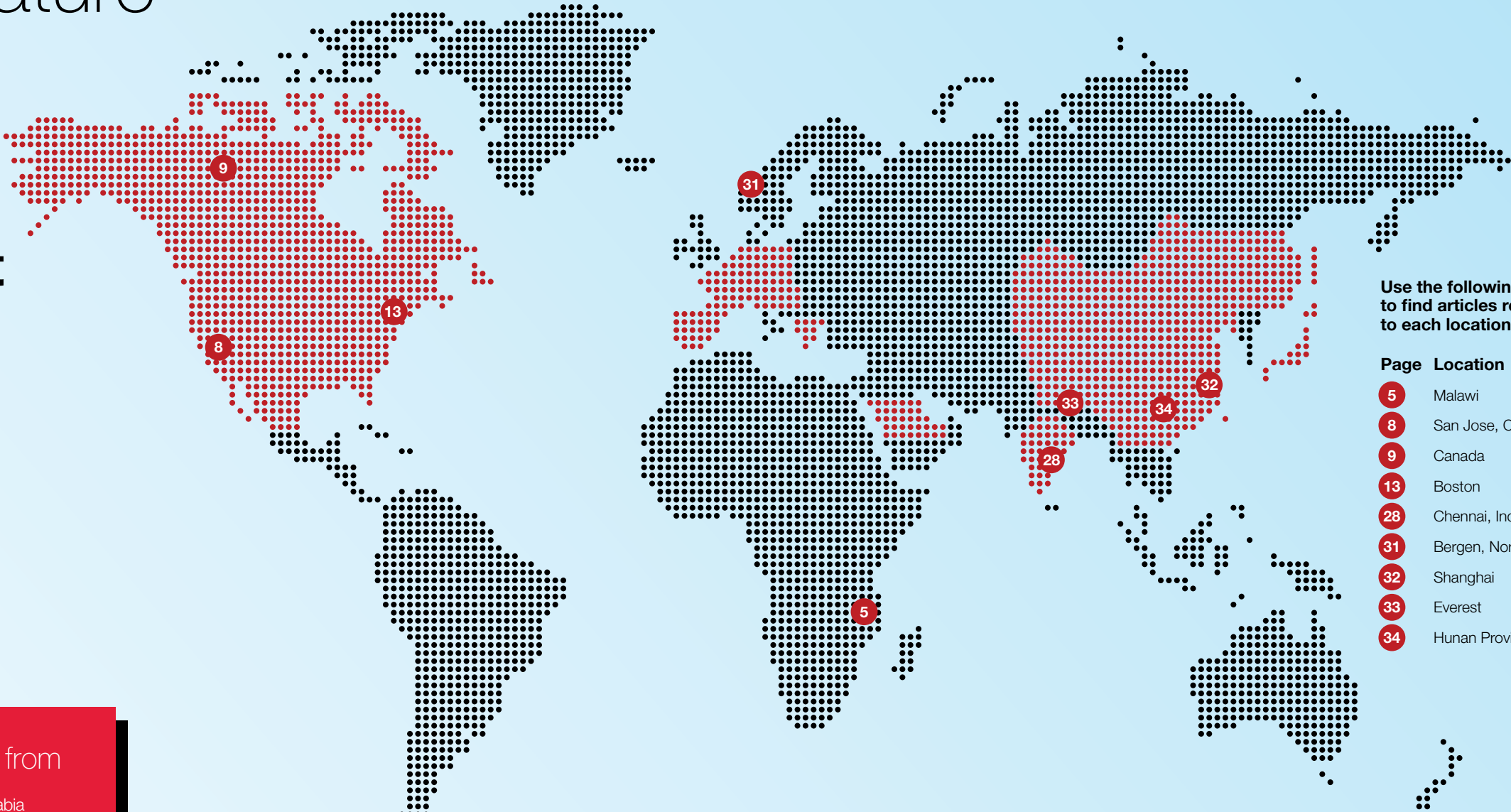
- where our students come from
- where our alumni live
- our academic and research partnerships

This map demonstrates how widely we are connected and how important our global relationships are to us.

Where our students come from

While the majority of our students come from the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, we recruit widely overseas. Here is our top ten countries of origin of students, 2010/11.

- 01. Saudi Arabia
- 02. China
- 03. Germany
- 04. USA
- 05. France
- 06. India
- 07. Spain
- 08. Greece
- 09. Canada
- 10. Belgium

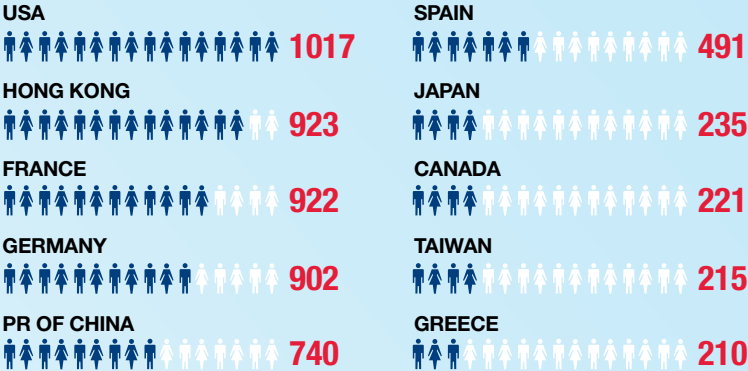


Use the following key to find articles relating to each location.

Page	Location
5	Malawi
8	San Jose, Calif
9	Canada
13	Boston
28	Chennai, India
31	Bergen, Norway
32	Shanghai
33	Everest
34	Hunan Province, China

Top ten alumni countries of residence

While a great many of our alumni stay close to home in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, we have substantial numbers of alumni in countries around the world. In many cases, they have established Alumni Associations or informal groups to keep in touch with each other and with their alma mater.



Luminary alumni light up Magee

Professor Paul Moore is proud of the small set of framed posters he has in his office, each signed by a guest in his Life Stories series of public conversations at Magee.

After its inaugural season, featuring honorary graduates well known in the arts and communications, Life Stories is already established as one of the University's most successful live public engagement initiatives.

An example, too, of how the University has been able to harness support of honorary graduates for projects that are copper-fastening Magee's role as a creative arts hub.

Magee Provost Professor Deirdre Heenan says:

"Life Stories is a platform for distinguished alumni to talk about the influences that shape their work and for an appreciative audience to get a better understanding of what makes them tick."

Insightful moments

The oak-panelled Great Hall has been full for the four talks to date, each providing memorable, colourful and insightful moments all given in a relaxed, laid back atmosphere.

Adrian Dunbar delighted his audience as he conjured up a rakish Restoration

image of local-boy-made-good George Farquhar finding fame with his plays in London theatre-land.

Seamus Deane spoke about his literary output, the craft of writing and how his Booker-nominated international success *Reading in the Dark* eventually saw the light of day.

Paul Brady struck a chord with many, saying he came from 'a musical house' and that music had been his refuge at school and university.

Martyn Lewis gave a fresh spin to his 'good news' thesis but, more memorably, shone light on a personal passion – his unbounded support for the hospice movement.

Fermanagh actor and Derry writer, Tyrone singer-songwriter and Antrim-schooled newscaster, each readily agreed to take the hot seat.

Simple premise

Professor Moore, who is Head of the School of Creative Arts, says:

"Like all good ideas, Life Stories has a simple premise; take honorary



Adrian Dunbar

graduates of the University connected with the Magee campus who by their very nature are movers and shakers in their respective work fields and encourage them to talk about themselves in front of a live audience."

Kate Bond, Head of Development and Alumni added:

"The idea behind Life Stories was to highlight the outstanding achievements of Ulster's honorary graduates who have excelled within the cultural sphere. The aim of the talks is to offer an insight into each speaker's early life, the key



Paul Brady

landmarks in the development of his or her career and his or her beliefs and outlook for the future.

"We have been thrilled that each participant has been so willing to share their life experiences, and their vision for the future, with the wider audience."

Paul Brady entertainingly charted a musical odyssey spanning five decades that has confirmed him as one of Ireland's most original and popular performers across many genres.

Professor Moore said:

"Paul was adamant before we started that he would much rather sing than talk and yet while he did indeed sing, for me it was fascinating to hear how he spoke of his time in boarding school – a time which clearly was not happy – while his brother was allowed to be a day boy."

Adrian Dunbar, naming Derry educated dramatist Farquhar as one of his inspirations, mused on his own drama student days in London, recalling how he imagined Farquhar treading the same narrow streets and alleys.

Professor Moore said:

"Adrian gave an insight into the hours that are needed to fully develop a

character being acted, while at the same time regaling us with deeply funny stories, and finally silencing the audience with a beautiful traditional song he had just learned in County Leitrim."



Martyn Lewis

Martyn Lewis suggested journalists covering a negative story should include even a brief reference to what is being done to tackle the issue at the heart of the problem. His audiences, however, will, remember him more for his charitable works.

"Martyn brushed aside any suggestion that he ever became bigger than the stories he was reporting on, but he became truly motivated when talking about his charity work and, in particular,

his work with the hospice movement."

Seamus Deane ranged over the legacy of Field Day, the theatrical and literary movement that he helped establish, the processes of writing, his original reluctance to write *Reading in the Dark*, and how, on visits back, he now sees Derry through the eyes of a stranger.

"With Seamus," Professor Moore said, "it was the intensity with which he addressed each question and how he was able to weave a seamless narrative in response to those disparate questions.

"It was, quite simply, the skill of the master storyteller unfolding in the darkness of the Great Hall."



Seamus Deane

Retirements



Mr Barry Burgess, Associate Head of School of Education, who had been employed at the University since March 1990, retired at the end of December 2010.



Professor Anna Murray who has worked since 1968 within the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Ulster retired at the end of January 2011.

Elaine Urquhart, Assistant Director (Library), has taken early retirement and left the University on 31 December 2010. Elaine was a member of the Library staff for 34 years and has made a major contribution



to the success of the library service. This was recognised by the University in 2008 in the award of the Distinguished Learning Support Fellowship being made to Elaine.

Dr Ian Connor, Head of German and co-ordinator of the German Research Unit of Assessment took early retirement at the end of September 2010.

Ian was a member of staff for almost 34 years and made a major contribution to the success of German, the School and the Faculty of Arts over that time.

Professor Rosalind Pritchard

Emeritus Professor Rosalind Pritchard has been educating educators at Ulster since her appointment as a temporary lecturer in 1977.



Fellowship. Her specialist research into cross-cultural education has earned her international recognition and she has been widely published.

Rosalind's enthusiasm both for education and for the personal development of her students is obvious. She says:

"Teaching postgraduate students is highly rewarding – most are very self-disciplined and are interesting, good people. I have the highest regard for them.

"We invite the students into our homes – I feel it is important that they feel valued as human beings."

Hungary

One of the key attractions for students of the TESOL programme is the six-week placement undertaken in Hungary where students teach English in state schools. In advance of the practice, a Hungarian teacher comes to Northern Ireland to help prepare the Ulster postgraduates by teaching them something of the Hungarian language and cultural history. Rosalind has no doubts about the success of the exchange:

"It's a very rewarding relationship. We have even had some Irish/Hungarian marriages!"

Keeping in touch

While leadership of the TESOL programme has passed to colleague Barbara Skinner, Rosalind has not slowed down.

"I love travel. I have visited over 70 countries including our alumni in Sri Lanka, Japan and Taiwan. I also love cooking, entertaining and looking after friends or family. At present, I am working on a book about higher education in the UK and Germany.

"There have been hundreds of graduates and I remember every one! I am sad when our students graduate and disperse. However, they are very good at keeping in touch. Technology helps immensely in this regard and Facebook is a good mechanism. I am always very pleased to be contacted. I am particularly mindful of our Japanese friends in the aftermath of the terrible earthquake and would be especially pleased to hear from them."

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/rpritchard>

From Cincinnati to Coleraine

Fulbright Scholar Carrie Porter came all the way from Cincinnati to Coleraine to join the MA Journalism course in 2009. Carrie never ceased in her quest to understand something of her temporary home and she shares with us her very personal take on her time in Northern Ireland.

One bright September morning, I boarded a plane for Belfast with a ticket into the unknown. My purpose was to become a top-rate international journalist by sharpening my skills and garnering international perspectives. When the plane touched down by green fields outside the city, I thought Northern Ireland was just the way I had imagined.

Upon landing I was quick to discover that my understanding of my new home was textbook paper-thin. My Fulbright year was one of fresh, down-to-the-roots understanding of history and humanity. I walked the fields with farmers, patrolled the night shift with police officers, and debated in the Stormont corridors with politicians. The experience called for greater understanding of Northern Ireland and as a consequence, greater understanding of human nature, political realities and violence.

My primary *modus operandi* for learning international journalism was, I thought, through my Masters programme. While there is no doubt that I learned valuable subjects in my coursework, much of my learning developed outside the classroom. The Fulbright year gave me the space and the time to draw my own learning curve by initiating the many meetings, discussions and events for a

better understanding of Northern Ireland. Waste collectors talked about picking up rubbish only on the 'nationalist side' of the street; political reporters shared with me the language landmines of 'north of Ireland' versus 'Northern Ireland'; and taxi drivers charted the geography of sectarianism along the city's peace lines.

And finally, there is the experience I've had as an American citizen. I won't forget the first time someone asked me, "What's the craic?" and I thought he was asking about something else! Recognising and stepping outside my own stereotypes, ingrained habits and preconceptions has been crucial.

Most of all, I am thankful for the opportunity to meet so many thoughtful and generous peers, teachers, mentors and friends. It has been a joy to share my own nationality with new friends and colleagues, and I am grateful to be learning the balancing act of national and international understandings as both an American and global citizen.

My next step is to use these lessons in a way that engages and informs both. And, of course, to learn how to make an Ulster fry, cook fish and chips, and wear the appropriate raincoat!



Carrie is currently editing an innovative online local news platform in the USA and is keen to maintain her close links with the University. Carrie's email is caroline.ralstin.porter@gmail.com



Dr Jane McKee, Senior Lecturer in French, took early retirement at the end of January 2011. Jane was a member of staff at Magee for almost 25 years and made a major contribution to the success of French, the

School, the Faculty of Arts and the Magee campus over that time.

Among many other things, she was Subject Director for French, Course Director of International Business

Communication and Course Director of Diploma in French. She also worked tirelessly over many years for colleagues in AUT/UCU.

Hilary Robinson, clerical assistant in Residential Services at Jordanstown retired in May 2011. Hilary worked within Residential Services for 35 years in both the old polytechnic and the University of Ulster.

NISMA Success!

The Northern Ireland Social Media Awards (NISMA) were set up in March 2011 to celebrate Social Media locally. The public were asked to nominate their favourite sites in 17 categories, with the top 10

in each category going through to a public vote.

Over 6,000 people voted and the winners were announced in a ceremony on the NISMA YouTube channel.

University of Ulster Alumni Facebook was nominated in the category of "Best use of social media by a school / college / university", and to our great delight we won!

You can see our acceptance video on the University of Ulster Alumni fanpage on Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/32bc8av>

facebook

Time to Upskill

Maximise your potential through postgraduate study

Undertaking a qualification at the University of Ulster can lead to wider and more fulfilling career opportunities, greater future earnings and increased job security.

Ulster offers a wide range of high quality, part-time courses at postgraduate level. You may want to complete a course

of study to take advantage of new opportunities or change career direction. Whatever your motivation, our courses will equip you to succeed in your ambitions.

There is also the opportunity to study part-time. Part-time courses are designed to fit in with your lifestyle and

existing work and family commitments, putting you firmly in control of when and where you study. Part-time study is often regarded as more flexible with courses being taught on-campus, fully online or a combination of both.

Change and Development



Graduate Shelley McMurray, Business Development Director at He-Shi Industries Ltd, joined Ulster's MSc Business Development and Innovation programme in 2008, just as the He-Shi brand was launching into the UK market. He-Shi is a locally-owned professional tanning brand, developed by Shelley's mother Hilary, which is now available in beauty salons and day spas all over the UK and Ireland.

Shelley said:

"The MSc has been a great experience and has certainly encouraged change and development within our company. I found the built-in study visit to Babson

College, Boston, extremely useful and inspiring, where I had the opportunity to discuss my business development plans with US business growth experts."

She concluded:

"I studied the MSc part-time for two years and even though I found further study challenging, I would recommend it to anyone who is looking to develop both business and personal skills."

Visit ulster.ac.uk/upskill and learn to realise your opportunities.

Class Notes



BSc Hons Communication Advertising and Marketing 2007

As an undergraduate at Jordanstown, Kilrea based Adrian Margey juggled his studies with a burgeoning career as a visual artist. Since graduating, he has exhibited widely and is now best known for his contemporary depictions of familiar Ulster landmarks and Irish traditional musicians and dancers.

Last year Adrian received funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to run a series of high profile solo exhibitions across the country.

The exceptional sales and widespread acclaim which emanated from these shows has reinforced the popularity of Adrian's work. Back on the exhibition trail in 2011, Adrian is developing two new bodies of work which will go on show at the Radisson Hotel, Limavady at the end of August and the Culloden Hotel, Belfast at the end of October. To arrange a studio visit or to view full exhibition details see www.adrianmargey.com.

Roy Toner

BA Hons Public Policy and Management 1995 and MBA 1998

Roy has been appointed to the newly created position of Chief Information Officer of the Criminal Justice Sector at Capgemini UK Outsourcing Services. He joins Capgemini after a 30-year career in the police which saw him rise from being a uniformed constable on the beat to the rank of Deputy Chief Constable, and which culminated in the award of the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2009.

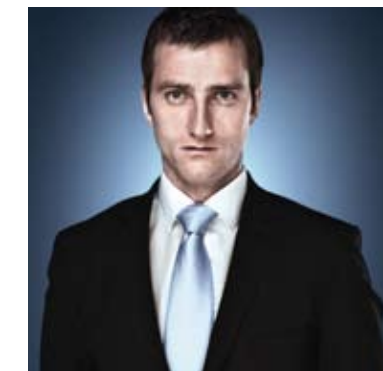


Colin McIvor

BA Hons Visual Communication, 1998

Since graduating Colin has become a writer and director in the television and film industry. With a series of award-winning short films under his belt he has recently directed his debut feature film *Cup Cake*. *Cup Cake* has proved a success on the international film festival circuit winning multiple awards including First Prize, Best Feature Category at the prestigious Rhode Island International Film Festival.

His day job is directing TV commercials both locally in Ireland but also internationally in Spain and recently Croatia. He has directed commercials for numerous brands such as Kellogg's, Lucozade and Bank of Ireland.



Jim Eastwood, BSc Hons Sport, Exercise and Leisure 2000, is a candidate in this year's series of *The Apprentice*. An interview with Jim will appear in issue 35

Obituary



Dr Garret Fitzgerald

We were sad to note the death recently of Dr Garret Fitzgerald, one of our Honorary Graduates and a great friend to the University.

Dr Fitzgerald will be best remembered in Northern Ireland for his negotiation as Taoiseach with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985.

Dr FitzGerald was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LLD) in 2003 in recognition of his contribution to public life.

Ulster Alumni Online

Registering on Ulster Alumni Online enables you to:

- Search for classmates
- View and update your details
- Book for alumni events
- Purchase memorabilia

- Make a donation to the Alumni Fund
- Access PDS, Going Global and GradNav

It's easy to register. Simply logon to www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni and enter the requested details including the ID number printed on the carrier sheet of this magazine.



Class Notes



Emeritus Professor Brian Wood
BSc, PhD, CBIol, FSB, FRSA and
Lesley Holgate Dipl. Hotel
Management, HND Business and
Related Studies 1987

Brian came to Coleraine in 1968 as Director of the Freshwater Laboratory at Traad Point. He joined us from the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia where he had been Professor of Biology and had become widely recognised as an international expert on lakes, especially those of tropical Africa.

Brian retired in 1995 and kept busy with gardening, choirs and jogging; he has completed over 30 marathons and countless lesser distances often accompanied by his daughter Lesley (Holgate née Wood) who is an Ulster graduate and was born in Ethiopia.

Since returning to the UK Brian and his wife, Faith, have supported a charity, ActionAid, working in Ethiopia, and by a lucky chance the charity sought sponsors to try The Great Ethiopian Run in November 2010. Lesley and Brian couldn't resist in spite of the 10,000m race being run at 7000ft

where oxygen molecules are as rare as Mountain Nyalas.

The project sponsored was doubly appropriate. Three very pure springs have been tapped and the water distributed to 25,000 people via pipes laid in hand dug trenches. Soon the scheme will extend to another 10,000 people. Not only has dysentery virtually disappeared from the area, but 95% of the children, freed from fetching water, now go to school. The project necessarily included great expansion of the local school. Education and water – Brian's professional life in three words. Perhaps the most heart warming part of the whole exercise was the generosity of sponsors and Brian and Lesley gratefully thank former colleagues at Ulster who contributed to the £7,000 they raised.



Professor Bob Owens
BA Hons English Language and
Literature 1977

Bob joined The Open University in 1978, and has been Professor of English Language and Literature there since 2003.

This year is the four hundredth anniversary of the publication in 1611 of the King James Bible – the most widely-read translation of the Bible ever made. To mark this event Bob was invited by Oxford University Press to edit the 1611 text of The Gospels for the paperback series, *Oxford World's Classics*.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are regarded by Christians the world over as their most precious and sacred writings. They provide the fullest and most memorable accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and scenes from them have provided subject matter for innumerable works of art, literature, and music.

In his Introduction, Bob places the Gospels in the context of the development of early Christianity as it separated itself from Judaism, highlighting how each one offers its own distinctive portrait of Jesus. He also describes how the translators of the King James Bible went about their task, and gives examples of the extraordinary influence of this book on the development of the English language as well as English literature.

The Gospels: Authorized King James Version, edited by W R Owens, is published by OUP at £8.99. ISBN 978-0-19-954117-1.



Gerry McCanny
MSc Guidance and Counselling 1998

Gerry is one of those lucky people who has managed to fulfil his long-term ambition and gain enormous satisfaction in his role of helping others.

Since qualifying as a social worker in 1978 he has worked in a variety of management and professional practice roles within the Western Trust where he worked for many years in a psychotherapy and professional development role.

In 2006 Gerry decided to leave the security of a salaried position to fulfil his lifelong ambition of running his own counselling practice. He set up GM Counselling and Psychotherapy, which is now a flourishing practice in the North West.

Gerry continues to assist counselling students through the provision of supervision and personal therapy, and sees this as a way of supporting new people entering the profession. His interest in teaching has seen him provide training courses for various professional groups in subjects ranging from clinical supervision and solution focused therapy to anger management and mindfulness training.

He feels that obtaining a postgraduate diploma and then masters degree gave him the impetus to achieve further qualifications in specialist areas including trauma and family relationships. He is proud to be a fully accredited member of both the Irish and British Associations of Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Outside work Gerry has a keen interest in the study of practical philosophy, choral singing, hill walking and supporting his native Tyrone GAA team.
www.gerrymccanny.com

Robert Simmons
BSc Hons Biological Science 1979
Dr Robert Simmons has been elected to Fellowship by the Microscopy Society of America.

The designation of MSA Fellow is intended to recognise senior distinguished members of the Society who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the science and practice of microscopy imaging, analysis and diffraction techniques. The number of MSA members elected to Fellowship in any one year is restricted to no more than 0.5% of the total MSA membership. Robert is Program Director of the Biological Imaging Core Facility at Georgia State University/ Biology Department.

Varun Mohan
MBS 2010

Varun Mohan, from Chennai in India, started to do industrial consulting for Northern Irish firms whilst studying for his MBS. As part of his course he obtained an internship with Rutledge, a leading UK recruitment and training firm.

Varun is now heading the operations for Rutledge in south India. The company has decided to expand in a bigger way across India in the field of education training and recruitment and he is involved in setting up an office in Chennai which will offer Indian graduates the opportunity to gain work experience as well as management and leadership skills. This project links organisations and NGOs with enthusiastic graduates who wish to hone their skills.

He is also working with English Direct, an organisation which works with local education providers to improve English language skills.

Varun is in regular and constant touch with his MBS classmates and is helping one of his MBS colleagues to establish an international business through an Indian company. Varun says that even though he is a great believer of the concept "Hard work leads to success", Ulster taught him that "smart work" is the mantra of success in the modern world. **You can contact Varun at varunvra@gmail.com**



Class Notes



Suzanne Hill
BA Hons Applied Languages 1993,
PG Diploma Applied Languages for
Business 1994
Suzanne has recently been appointed
Northern Ireland's Honorary Consul for
Slovenia. Suzanne is managing director of
Belfast-based company, Handel Export.

After graduation, she joined the
'Explorers' programme working for
pharmaceutical firm Randox where
her first assignment was to establish a
base for the company in Madrid. The
experience whetted her appetite for
travel and since then she has clocked up
hundreds of thousands of miles.

After six months in Madrid, Suzanne
returned to Northern Ireland, and Randox
allocated her Central and Eastern Europe
and South Africa as her sales territories.
She subsequently accepted a job with
Mallusk company Brent Martin, and her
new sales territories included North and
South America.

Having established a network of
contacts in sales, marketing and
business development in over 55

countries, Suzanne established Handel
Export in 2002.

"I felt my skills and expertise would help
companies break into export markets as
they could benefit from our 'hands on'
expertise and go the fast track route to
exporting."

As Honorary Consul to Slovenia,
Suzanne's role is to promote trade,
culture and tourism between Slovenia
and Northern Ireland. One of her first
official duties was to attend the 5th
annual Bled Strategic Forum, a global
political conference in Slovenia.

Attending the conference as Honorary
Consul was a fantastic experience,
says Suzanne, adding that she feels
continually indebted to her language
lecturers at Coleraine.



Lu Saite
BSc Hons Economics 2010
You may remember him as 'Bill', a quiet
and unassuming Chinese lad with an
insatiable appetite for Economics. Bill,
real name Lu Saite, graduated with
first class honours in July 2010 and,

remarkably for an international student,
was chosen to give the valedictory
speech at graduation. Saite was deeply
moved by this honour and agonised for
days over his choice of words. In the
end, he spoke with simple gratitude and
sincerity, rounding off his speech thus:

"As each of us turns a new page, we
look forward to writing our own script
– whatever that may be. We leave
here today as graduates, alumni and
ambassadors of the University of Ulster."

Saite's relationship with Ulster began
at his high school in Shenyang, where
he joined Ulster's foundation year
programme. He remembers his teacher
joking about economics, saying it was
the science of predicting things and
then explaining afterwards why these
things did not happen. But Saite was
also inspired by the idea of making a real
difference to the quality of people's lives
and decided he wanted to become an
economist.

He enjoyed a very successful work
placement with Oxford Economics
during his third year at Ulster and,
after graduation, secured a research
assistantship at the Institute of
Microfinance in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
In his absence, Saite's submission to
the Google Student of the Year Award
for Ireland saw him shortlisted among the
last six for the big prize. Although the title
went to someone else, it was clear that
his work was of the highest standard.

Do you know a Distinguished Graduate?

At Ulster, we are very proud of the
achievements of our alumni, and the
prestigious First Trust Bank/University
of Ulster Distinguished Graduate
Award recognises the contribution
our alumni make to business and
society.

The annual award is made to
a graduate of the University
'in recognition of outstanding
achievement in their chosen field'
and is presented during winter
graduations.

We are seeking nominations for the
2011/12 award from graduates, staff,
honorary graduates, students and
members of the public.

Nominees may have graduated
in any year and from any course
from the University or any of its
predecessor institutions.

The selection panel are looking for a
graduate who demonstrates national
and international participation and/or
recognition in the area of distinction;
suitability as a role model for
students and other alumni; evidence
of recognition through other honours
or awards; evidence of outstanding
performance, normally over a
sustained period.

Nominations should be made using
the official nomination form, which
can be obtained from the Alumni
Relations Office, Jordanstown
campus, Tel: 028 9036 8350,
email alumni@ulster.ac.uk or at
www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni

Nominations must be received no
later than **1 August 2011**.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Wayne Robinson,
formerly of Alumni Relations, on his
marriage to Glenda.



Indian graduates Sushma Hooli from Bangalore
and Siddharth Pundeer from Dehradun met on
the MBA programme at Ulster. They graduated
in 2008 and married in February 2011. Sushma
and Sid are now living in London.

Get On Board



Causeway Power and Sail
is delighted to offer alumni,
students and staff a special
10% discount on all leisure or
charter sailing and on Royal
Yachting Association (RYA)
power boating or sail training
courses until September
this year.

Located adjacent to the Riverside Theatre
on the Bann, Causeway Power and Sail is
a recognised Training Centre for RYA sail
cruising and power boating qualifications.

The Principal of Causeway Power and Sail
is Fergus Henderson, BA Hons English
Language and Literature 1982, who offers
other alumni the opportunity to relax and
explore the beauty of the North coast
from the sea, and if desired learn to sail,
obtaining RYA qualifications.

www.causewaypowerandsail.co.uk

Building a Career



David with CIOB President, Li Shirong

Whilst he was a student at Jordanstown, David Wilson (BSc Hons Building and DIS 1988) represented the University at football, as well as playing for the Northern Ireland, All Ireland and British teams.

He also played for Portadown in the Irish League during this time. He tells *The Ulster Graduate* about his career since leaving Ulster:

"Following my graduation I accepted a management trainee position with English construction company Higgs and Hill (now known as BAM), working out of their Leeds head office. During the interview process I was very impressed by their structured

management training programme which gave work experience within site planning/programming/material procurement, site engineering, quantity surveying, and site management.

Sense of achievement

"My first job was on the £37 million Moorland Prison project outside Doncaster. I began my training in the Planning Department and was very fortunate to be starting my career at the beginning of that particular project as I got to see the overall build process, from conception to completion. During the project I moved through the various disciplines leading me to pursue a career in site management. I enjoyed the interaction with the various professions

from clients, design teams to the site tradesmen, and enjoyed seeing the various elements of the building being completed which lead to the overall satisfaction and sense of achievement when you get to hold the practical completion certificate when the project was finished.

Career

"My career developed from trainee to site foreman, then site manager via various projects such as Lincoln Waterside Shopping Centre, Lincoln County Hospital, Bradford St Lukes, leading me to run my first project as the manager responsible in Leeds in May 1996.

"After 12 great years with BAM I took an opportunity to join Morgan Sindall as a Project Manager in October 2000.

"The highlight of my 11 years with Morgan Sindall has been winning the Chartered Institute of Building's prestigious Construction Manager of the Year 2009 for my work on the York St John University. I am currently project managing the £15 million open plan Civic Offices for developer ECf."

BP Portrait Award

Ian Cumberland (BA Fine and Applied Arts 2006 and PG Diploma in Fine Art 2010) has been shortlisted for the prestigious BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

His striking portrait 'Just to Feel Normal' – an enigmatic head and shoulders study of a friend – was one of four shortlisted from a record entry of 2,372 and came third. Ian's painting will be exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London from 16 June to 18 September.

Ian now lives and works in County Down. His work has been exhibited in both public and private collections and he has won numerous accolades, including the KPMG Emerging Artist Award and Davy Portrait Award in 2010 (see *The Ulster Graduate* 33)

Northern Visions

Eamon O'Kane (MFA 1998) took up the position of Professor of Visual Art at Bergen National Academy of the Arts in Norway in January.



He writes: "I am greatly enjoying working with the students and staff here and have my own studio at the Art Academy and I also have a large studio and storage complex in Odense, Denmark.

"After graduating from the MFA I took up a research fellowship in painting in Cheltenham where I had my own studio, a stipend and had to teach one day a week. This was invaluable experience and allowed me to develop my work towards exhibitions in London and Copenhagen as well as showing for the first time in EV+A in Limerick.

"I have been very fortunate to have received a lot of awards in my career. In

1999 I won the Tony O'Malley Award for painters and a Fulbright award to travel and study in America. I crossed 14 states and back in seven weeks before starting a second MFA, this time in Design Technology at Parsons School of Design in New York. The research I carried out there has had an impact on much of my practice. In 2005 I received an open EV+A award and in 2006 I was shortlisted for the AIB Prize and received a Pollock Krasner foundation grant. I was shortlisted for the Jerwood Drawing Prize in London in 2007.

"I started a full-time lecturing position in Limerick School of Art and Design in 2001 and a year later got a full-time lecturing job at the University of the West of England in Bristol becoming senior lecturer there a few years later.

"In 2004 I did the Artist's Work Programme at IMMA for nearly four months and it was an incredibly important experience in many ways. It gave me an opportunity to probe and push the work a lot as well as produce plenty of work for upcoming shows. One of the problems with lecturing is that it can tend to fragment the week and I find that residencies are a great opportunity to reestablish a daily art practice. I did a residency in Vermont in 2005 and was awarded a six-month residency at the British School of Rome in 2006.

"I decided to leave full-time teaching for a few years in 2007 when I took up a three year position of visiting

research fellow at University of the West of England which allowed me to carry out a three month residency at Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris in 2008 and a six month residency in Denmark.

"I have just returned from doing a major exhibition in Los Angeles which was supported by Culture Ireland and is part of the 'Imagine Ireland' year-long series of events being staged across the USA. I am currently developing new works for solo shows at RARE Gallery in New York and The Neues Museum for Art and Design in Nürnberg, Germany."

Belfast's New Lord Mayor



Niall O'Donoghue, BSc Hons Politics 2006, has been elected as the youngest ever Lord Mayor of Belfast. Niall was previously a party press officer for Sinn Féin at the Stormont Assembly, but was elected for the Pottinger ward of east Belfast in the elections in May 2011

China in his Hands



The time that James Ryan (MFA 2002) spent at the Belfast campus literally changed his life.

Whilst a student on the Masters in Fine Art course he was offered the chance to study in China through Professor David Barker in the Print Department. David had been running a very successful exchange programme for many years with the China Academy of Fine Art in Hangzhou. James landed in China in January 2001:

"I lived at the international student dormitory that housed all the non-Chinese students in a very noisy building in a very old district next to a mosque and a market. The academy mostly taught traditional Chinese art practices and the galleries in the city showed only traditional work. With a German art historian I set up the 411 Gallery in a broom cupboard next to room 411.

"The gallery showed modern work from the students in the dormitory and also

Chinese students at the academy. It quickly gained a reputation for great art and a place to meet and discuss art. I returned to Belfast after a year in China, where I ran the little gallery and also worked as an English and an Art History teacher.

Find the girl

"In 2002 I returned to China without a plan to do anything other than meet a girl I had met the previous year. By early 2003 I was married to that same girl and teaching drawing at a local university and trying to set up a professional gallery space. By late 2003 we were running a professional 411 gallery in Hangzhou and mounting international exhibitions with sponsorship from Culture Ireland.

"In late 2005 I was offered a job in ESL Express. The position was in sales and marketing. I had done well in promoting the gallery but I was anxious to put the gallery in Shanghai and this gave me the opportunity.

"I began working in ESL but continued

to work with the slightly renamed 411 Galleries. We called it galleries as we used various venues across China in Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. At the same time I continued working in ESL, which is a medium sized logistics company employing over 120 people in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, New York and Los Angeles. I built up an impressive client list and also developed new businesses including warehousing and relocations which today continue to thrive.

"The gallery continues to exhibit across China and in the summer of 2010 the 411 Galleries had two exhibitions at the Ireland pavilion at World Expo in Shanghai. One of these exhibitions was opened by President Mary McAleese. I also helped Tourism Ireland set up the Titanic exhibition at the pavilion. In just seven days 250,000 people saw the Titanic exhibition.

"Today I am the Managing Director of ESL Express and work with our stations around the world. Customer service is a very important element in a field as competitive as logistics.

"I also work with Le Cheile the Irish community group in Shanghai as the creative director. In this capacity I have run the St Patricks Day parade in China for the last three years and run the annual Bloomsday celebrations. I am also the editor of *Shanghai Nuacht*, their tri-monthly magazine."

On Top of the World



Gavin Bate, BA Hons English 1987, and Pasang Tendi Sherpa summited Everest on the morning of 20 May 2011. This was Gavin's sixth attempt to reach the summit, but circumstances have always meant that he was unsuccessful in the past.

Gavin has been climbing mountains and guiding expeditions all of his adult life and is an International Mountain Leader. He is the Director of Adventure Alternative and the Founder of the Moving Mountains Trust. He has set up adventure travel companies and NGOs in Kenya, Tanzania, Nepal and Russia. The companies financially underwrite the different charities, and Gavin uses his expeditions to raise funds for the work of Moving Mountains.

Gavin's five expeditions to Mount Everest have all been self-organised and guided and have raised in excess of a million pounds for Moving Mountains, thus enabling him to pursue a passion for climbing mountains and run a charity that runs relevant, long term and sustainable development

projects in the Himalayas, the jungles of Sarawak and in East Africa. He says:

"By not actually summiting in those five expeditions, and always getting to within 100 metres or so from the summit, I have created a ten year journey out of Everest which was unforeseen but in hindsight completely understandable. You can't climb Everest without oxygen or without camps or without Sherpas, as I have done, and expect to summit every time. While Everest might appear to have become a nemesis, in fact it has become a mentor. I have learnt that turning back from the summit, even if it is Everest, is never to be regretted as long as you come home again in one piece. Following sound mountaineering principles is the only thing that matters, since Everest can attract it's fair share of summit fever which tends to cloud good judgement."

Gavin will be giving talks for alumni on his Everest experience at Belfast and Coleraine in November.

See www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni for details.

UK Social Enterprise Awards

John McMullan OBE (BA Hons Business Studies 1991, MBA 1993) leader of one of Northern Ireland's most successful social enterprises has been awarded a prestigious UK Social Enterprise Award.

The competition, organised by the Social Enterprise Coalition, recognises the work and achievements of the UK's most inspiring and successful social enterprises.

John, CEO of Bryson Charitable Group, was crowned Social Enterprise Leader of the Year at the UK final held at The O2 Arena in London.

Secret nomination

John was secretly nominated by others, who thought that his work and dedication deserved recognition. John first joined the Bryson Charitable Group on a government training scheme and has gone on to build and develop the business into a multimillion pound social enterprise that has at least five trading enterprises.

After winning his category in the Northern Ireland heat of the competition he went up against top social enterprise leaders from England, Scotland and Wales in the final.

John was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, June 2011, for services to Social Enterprise in Northern Ireland, and was presented with the First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award 2009/2010. See *The Ulster Graduate* issue 32.

Amazing Grace



enroll in South China Agricultural University (SCAU) in Guangzhou in 2004. Her three year programme in mathematics and computing in SCAU was followed by the final honours year at the Jordanstown campus. Despite her apprehensions and occasional homesickness, adjusting to new ways of learning and difficulties understanding lecturers – many of whom were also using English as a second language, Grace passed with flying colours, gaining a high first class honours degree and top place in her year.

Widening horizons

Not least for international students, university provides an opportunity to widen horizons, beginning with the six week International Office Induction programme. Grace has been able to sample western pursuits and activities – the more memorable including sea fishing from Bangor, skiing in Switzerland, a tour round Europe and visiting friends in other parts of the UK. Closer to home, like many international students, Grace is self-financing and has taken a variety of part-time jobs to supplement her parental support.

International experience

After graduation, Grace continued in the University, enrolling for a PhD in mathematics. She has been investigating the behaviour of particular groups of polynomials and has four research papers in progress with presentations to conferences in London and Atlanta, USA. Currently writing up her dissertation, she is keen to get a lecturing post back home.

Imagine you have travelled halfway round the world to a country with a different culture, strange food and a spoken language that often bears little resemblance to what you have learnt.

That is the situation for many of our international students, our Chinese visitors in particular. Miss Tao Li, also known as Grace, arrived at Ulster in 2007 with a mixture of apprehension and excitement. Would she be able to make herself understood, or cope with the academic requirements of an honours degree final year?

Grace was originally brought up in Hunan Province towards the south-east, moving with her parents and brother to the rapidly growing city of Shenzhen for business reasons. English was her favourite school subject, but she combined this with her strong mathematical abilities to

UFU Deputy President

Ulster Farmers' Union members have elected Ian Marshall (MSc Agri-Food Business Development, 2009) from Markethill, County Armagh as their new Deputy President.

Ian joins UFU President John Thompson and Deputy President Harry Sinclair in the Union's new look leadership team.

Speaking at the UFU's Annual General Meeting in Templepatrick, Ian said:

"I am honoured to be elected as Ulster Farmers' Union Deputy President. I am really looking forward to working as hard as I can with the UFU leadership team, staff, committee members and grass roots members to progress the many issues facing our farming families.

"For Northern Ireland agriculture, sustainability means profitability. Profitability gives us options. Profitability is positive for the environment, and inspires investment. But ultimately profitability will encourage the next generation to see agriculture as a positive career move and will keep farmers, their families, and all other interested parties operating in a vibrant industry for generations to come."

Update Your Details

To ensure that you receive your copy of *The Ulster Graduate* and invitations to relevant events, please make sure that we have your latest contact details and email address. You can view and update your details at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni or by returning the carrier sheet sent with this magazine. You can also email us at alumni@ulster.ac.uk or phone us on (+44) (0)28 9036 8350.

International Sports Scholarships

In 2007 the Ulster Sports Academy launched an innovative International Sports Scholarship Programme to attract high calibre student athletes to study at Ulster at postgraduate level.

Bryan Nieman and Adrian Gross, graduates of North Carolina State University and Coastal Carolina University respectively, were the first two recruits. Their success in completing MSc degrees in Business Studies and Political Lobbying and Public Affairs, while also leading the University's basketball team in a semi-professional league, led to the programme being extended to women's field hockey, volleyball and Belfast Giants ice hockey.

Since 2007 there have been 32 international scholars. Their impact has been witnessed not only in the rich interchange with local students in the classroom but also in their sports, (with over 10 collegiate titles being won by the Ulster teams they represented) and in the local community in their visits to local schools.

Partnership

In partnership with USNI Sport, Ulster supports International Basketball Scholars tuition fees, accommodation and a meal deal with a local restaurant.

In return they become ambassadors for the University locally and overseas. Adrian Gross (Washington DC), who went on to play professionally in Denmark said this:

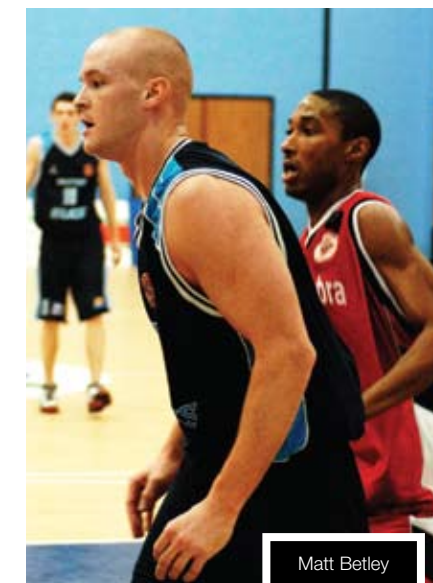
"The Political Lobbying and Public Affairs programme prepared me for my current career by offering courses on communication strategy, public relations and grassroots activism. The sports scholarship ambassador programme equipped me with experience in public speaking, programme planning and managing. All of these experiences have been invaluable to me. I would go as far as to say that without having the experienced gained at Ulster I probably wouldn't have been considered for my current position."

Clint Nagel (Ohio) now working with a pharmaceutical company in inventory management and logistics believes his experiences have given him a better understanding of life and business on an international level.

Incredible experience

Matt Betley (New Jersey) now in a management role with Merrill Lynch agrees that it was his international experience of education, sport and cultural life in Northern Ireland that gave him the edge in the employment market on his return to the USA.

"I received my MSc in Sports Management while playing for the Ulster Elks Super League Basketball



Team. This was an absolutely incredible experience. It gave me an opportunity to further my education while playing the sport I love. And all of this in a beautiful country surrounded by great people, many of whom would become my close friends."

Ben De La Cruz (Florida) is currently on an International Basketball Scholarship. He believes this opportunity is second to none and one that is seriously extending his personal, professional and academic development.

"I spoke with previous scholars before I made the decision to come and really their experiences just reiterated what I already knew was a fantastic opportunity."

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