



THE ULSTER GRADUATE

Issue 22 SPRING 2005

The magazine for alumni of the University of Ulster

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THE ULSTER
GRADUATE

ISSUE 22 | SPRING 2005

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to *The Ulster Graduate* issue 22. I hope that you find the news, articles and profiles of our graduates of interest. Indeed, Ulster graduates continue to impress us in the range of occupations and experiences they embrace. In this issue we interview, among others, actor and stand-up comedian Omid Djalili, and learn about BBC *Century Farm* participant John McGrath. We also carry news of various forthcoming events and reunions, and hope to meet with many of you in the course of the coming months.

With the introduction of top-up fees from 2006, universities in the UK face a challenging future. We are confident that the University of Ulster is well placed to maintain its popularity among applicants for undergraduate programmes, having registered a total of 34,456 applications for full-time admission in 2005/06—a remarkable increase of over 12% on the previous year's figures, compared with an increase of 9% in applications across all UK universities.

The University is putting in place its plans for bursaries and studentships to take effect from the 2006 intake, in line with the anticipated policy approach to top-up fees in NI, and we plan to outline these in a future *Ulster Graduate*.

As always, we welcome news of what you are doing and ideas for future features.

Best wishes

Sue Rees, Alumni Relations Manager

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Cover Story

Dr Sinead Cusack with students at the Magee campus at the first of our 'Leading Ladies' drama workshops. See page 29 for the full story.



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Flagship arts initiative

Former Culture Secretary Chris Smith MP launched INTERFACE – the University's flagship £9 million art and technology-design initiative in November 2004.

UU graduate Professor Declan McGonagle has been appointed the first Director of INTERFACE (the Centre for Research in Art Technologies and Design). Professor McGonagle, a leading figure in the development of international contemporary art, holds both a BA Hons and Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from the University.

INTERFACE aims to ensure that art and design play a vital role in community development in Belfast and the rest of Northern Ireland. Its activities will stretch into deprived areas, drawing the community and artists together. It will also create new design processes that will benefit textiles, other industries and modern high-technology sectors. Professor McGonagle said:

"We will be engaged in doing research into new ways of working, opening up new avenues of how to link artwork, fine art, design and modern technology



Chris Smith MP with Professor Declan McGonagle

and connecting them at many different levels to the community, industry and the economy."

The initiative is financed by the Support Programme for University Research which is funded by the Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning and Atlantic Philanthropies.

An inspiration to the world



The Northern Ireland peace process is an inspiration to the world, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told an invited audience at the Magee campus in October 2004.

The international statesman was visiting the University at the invitation of Professor John Hume to deliver the latest in the series of Ireland Funds supported Tip O'Neill lectures on the theme of peacebuilding.

Mr Annan said Northern Ireland was still wrestling with some of its problems, "but it does seem to me," he remarked, "that you are managing them better and more hopefully than in the past.

"For some years now, you have been spared the large-scale violence and terror that used to disfigure your beautiful part of the country, and seemed to blight its future.

"Your efforts to create a better world for your children have been a source of inspiration and hope to people in many other countries.

"If the world is to learn lessons about how to manage a transition from troubles and violence to peace, surely it can learn some of them from you – from your commitment, courage and imagination – in seeking solutions and fostering trust between communities which had been at loggerheads for decades."

University Research Institutes

The University has established a number of Research Institutes as part of a strategic initiative to consolidate and develop its position as a centre for outstanding research.

The radical rebalancing of research activity is being directed by Professor Bernie Hannigan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) who said:

"This research will improve the lives of everyone in Northern Ireland – their health, education, economy and environment.

"To focus support for research on our very best researchers we have decided to set up Research Institutes, ranging in size and scope from our 6* Biomedical Sciences Research Institute with almost 100 academic and research staff to the smaller but also 6* Institute of Celtic Studies, both of which are international leaders and the best in the UK. "

Ways of Drawing

Professor David Barker and Roger Lively were invited by the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou under their visiting International Scholars programme to undertake a Ways of Drawing workshop. The visit was organised by Professor An Bin. He is a part-time PhD student and is Director of the Foundation course in Fine Art.

The workshop began with a lecture and demonstrations, followed by the students undertaking a range of drawing activities. The drawings were then used as the basis for designing Collographs and Monoprints. These are intaglio and relief printmaking techniques respectively and were new to the first year students.

Science Shop helps Community Research

The Science Shop gives students the opportunity to help community and voluntary groups throughout Northern Ireland undertake research projects. Established at the University in 1995, it enables students to put the theory of the lecture theatre into practice.

Completed projects include research related to health, information and technology, criminology and criminal justice, social, policy and legal issues. All participating students receive a certificate detailing their action-based research project as well as an opportunity to be considered for an annual cash prize for the best project.

This year's winner of the Science Shop student award was Beverley Kerr, a BSc Hons Social Administration and Policy

student at the Coleraine campus, who completed her dissertation project *Examining Black and Ethnic Minorities in Northern Ireland: A Review of Racism and Redress* in partnership with Amnesty International.

Patrick Corrigan, Director for Amnesty International NI, said: "Accessing students through the Science Shop enables Amnesty International to commission evidence based research that influences policy development. Beverley's excellent piece of research shows how widespread the experience of racism is for members of the minority ethnic community in Northern Ireland. This research is helping to inform Amnesty's work on combating racism as a human rights abuse."

To assist community groups and students the Science Shop has introduced an



Professor Norman Black, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), Beverley Kerr, Claire Mulrone, Science Shop administrator, Patrick Corrigan, Director of Amnesty International NI.

innovative i-card. This business card-sized Science Shop CD connects students to an online list of available community-based research projects. i-cards are available from the Science Shop and on all four campuses in Libraries, Student Unions and Careers Offices.

More information about the Science Shop is available from **028 7137 5448**, or email scienceshop@ulster.ac.uk, or at www.scienceshop.org

Wireless campus

The first phase of a pioneering Wireless Campus project has been initiated at Magee.

By May 2005 the Magee campus and the campus of the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education, and the adjacent City Council offices will be enabled for wireless computing by staff and students.

Thirty academics in the University's School of Computing and Intelligent Systems have received Toshiba Tablet PCs, which they will use to deliver lectures and communicate with students. It is also planned that at the start of the next academic year first year single honours and computing major students in the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems will be issued with wireless-enabled Tablet PCs, bringing a new level of interactive, collaborative learning to the campus.

The University has also announced the establishment of a new Wireless Technology Centre, based at the Magee campus.



Professor Martin McGinnity, Head of the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems; Dr Margaret Duddy, project Leader at NWIFH; Michael Callaghan, UU; Dermot Harrigan, Economic Development Office, Derry City Council; and Dr Joan Condell (UU).

The wireless campus initiative and the new Centre form part of a major DETI-funded wireless infrastructure project for the city, to be implemented by a partnership involving the University, Derry City Council and the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education, which will place the city and its university at the forefront of modern communications technology.

The new technology facilitates greater access to educational resources, according to Professor Martin McGinnity, Head of the School of Computing and Intelligent

Systems, and marks the beginning of a million-pound wireless infrastructure project which will revolutionise the way students learn. Coupled with the wireless computing innovations, the project will bring a new level of learning technology to the campus, including 'smart classroom' tools such as interactive white boards, wireless data projection technology, plasma screens and more.

Professor McGinnity said:

"The integration of Tablet PCs, wireless technology and Smart Classrooms will bring major changes in the way students learn and academics teach. We are creating an infrastructure which will permit students to engage in a much more interactive manner with the learning and teaching process, in an enjoyable, interesting and flexible educational environment. This flagship project, which integrates civic, educational and tourism interests will enable us to explore a range of aspects of broadband wireless technology. It is a further confirmation of the commitment of the University, NWIFHE and the City Council to create a highly skilled workforce in the Council area and position the city at the forefront of IT advances."

Honorary Graduates

At the winter graduation ceremonies in December 2004 the University conferred the following honorary degrees:

Gerard O'Hare



Gerard O'Hare is one of Northern Ireland's most successful property and business entrepreneurs with a portfolio of developments across the UK and Ireland.

He was born in Ballyholland outside Newry, and was educated at Abbey Grammar School and at Nottingham Trent University where he graduated as a surveyor. He later joined the growing family construction and development business. Under his guidance, the Carnbane House Group and O'Hare & McGovern Ltd became one of Ireland's leading property, investment and construction companies.

In 1997 he left his executive position at Carnbane House Group to set up and manage the investment and property business Parker Green Ltd. The company created and currently owns the £75 million retail, leisure and office complex The Quays in Newry. Other major ventures include investment and retail interests in Ireland, Europe and USA.

Today Gerard is one of the most successful private sector businessmen in Northern Ireland.

Gerard received the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of his continued involvement in and dedication to the championing of public private partnerships and urban regeneration.

Fiona Shaw

Cork-born Fiona Shaw is regarded as one of Ireland's finest character actors. RADA-trained, she joined the National Theatre in 1982 and was also a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company for a time in 1985. Her most controversial role was when she played the lead in Shakespeare's *Richard II*, a move that stirred up a storm among critics and fans.

In films, she has often taken supporting roles in such diverse features as *My Left Foot*, *Three Men and A Little Lady*, *Jane Eyre*, *Anna Karenina*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. She was awarded a CBE in 2001.



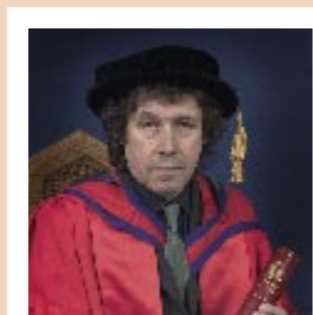
Fiona received the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of her services to the theatre and theatre education.

Stephen Rea

Stephen Rea is one of Ireland's finest actors whose career has taken in the stage, television and films since he started off in bit parts in the 1970s.

Born in Belfast, he is probably best known for his performance in *The Crying Game* which led to him being nominated for an Oscar in the Best Actor category. He was also nominated for a Tony Award for his electrifying Broadway performance in *Someone To Watch Over Me*. In recent years he has formed a close alliance with director Neil Jordan leading to roles in films such as *Michael Collins*, *The Butcher Boy*, *The End of the Affair* and *Interview with the Vampire*.

Along with Nobel Literature Laureate Seamus Heaney and Irish playwright Brian Friel, Rea founded the Field Day Theatre Company, with the aim of widening access to the theatre in Ireland. He performed in many of the Company's plays to small audiences in venues throughout the country which had never before experienced live stage shows.



Stephen received the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of his services to the theatre and the arts.

University of Ulster Awards 2004

Also at the winter graduation ceremonies, the University honoured staff who have made an outstanding contribution to academic life with the following awards:

Distinguished Teaching Awards

- Ms Deborah Fraser
- Ms Sandra Griffiths
- Dr Tara Moore

Distinguished Research Fellowship Award

- Dr Judy Bradley

Senior Distinguished Research Fellowship Award

- Professor David Sturdy
- Professor Martin McGinnity
- Professor Marshall McCabe
- Dr Arthur Aughey

Distinguished Community Fellowship Award

- Mr Paddy Gray
- Mrs Jackie McCoy

New Professors

We would like to congratulate the following staff recently promoted to Professorships:

Dr Jim Berry, School of Built Environment, appointed to a Professorship in Urban Planning and Property Development

Dr Ian Blair, School of Health Sciences, appointed to a Professorship in Food Microbiology

Dr Brendan Bunting, School of Psychology, appointed to a Professorship in Psychology

Dr Paul Carmichael, School of Policy Studies, appointed to a Professorship in Public Policy/Government

Dr Andrew Cooper, School of Environmental Sciences, appointed to a Professorship in Coastal Studies

Dr Willie Doherty, School of Art and Design, appointed to a Professorship in Video Art

Mrs Kate Greenan, School of Accounting, appointed to a Professorship in Management Education

Dr Suzanne McDonough, School of Health Sciences, appointed to a Professorship in Health and Rehabilitation

Dr Brian Meenan, School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, appointed to a Professorship in Biomedical Materials

Dr Ali Nadjai, School of Built Environment, appointed to a Professorship in Fire Structural Engineering

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New Year's Honours

Emeritus Professor of Human Resource Management, Professor Desmond Rea, received a knighthood and Visiting Professor in Business and Management Dennis Lience, received an OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Sir Desmond is currently Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. He was Professor of Human Resources Management at the University until 1995 and Chairman of the Labour Relations Agency from 1996 until 2002.

Professor Lience is the Managing Director of First Trust Bank and holds an MBA in International Business from UU.

Professor Stephen Downes OBE

Professor Stephen Downes, Co-Director of the Centre for Molecular Biosciences at the Coleraine campus, has been awarded an OBE for services to biomedical science.

Professor Downes came to the University in 1995 from Cambridge, as Professor of Cancer Biology and Head of the Cancer and Ageing Research Group. He has continued his distinguished research career at Coleraine, working on the repair of carcinogenic DNA damage and on the control of cell growth, in collaboration with other centres of excellence in the UK, the US and in Europe.

He has also led the projects that have created the new £14.5 million Centre for Molecular Biosciences at Coleraine, and the £4 million Centre for Functional Genomics.

Supporting the Samaritans

The University's Convocation has joined with the Samaritans to produce a new poster promoting the confidential, 24-hour support services the Samaritans provide.

The poster is sponsored by Convocation and will be on display around all the University's campuses.

Convocation Committee member Anne Rowe said:

"The Convocation is the graduate voice of the University and takes an active interest in the undergraduate community

as the future alumni. Members realise that university life is an exciting time in any young person's life but it can also be challenging. This new poster draws attention to the emotional support that the Samaritans offer to all those who are distressed or even suicidal."

Wilma Moulden, Director of the Samaritan's Coleraine branch, added:



"We are grateful for the support of the Convocation of the University of Ulster. The branch has volunteers from the student body and also from the staff. The poster campaign will emphasise our 24-hour availability of confidential, emotional support for those who are finding university life overwhelming."

Samaritans may be contacted by telephone **(08457 90 90 90)** or by email jo@samaritans.org or by visiting your local branch.

British Archaeology Award

Three UU researchers have won a prestigious British Archaeological Award for their pioneering survey of Strangford Lough.

Thomas McErlean, Rosemary McConkey and Wes Forsythe from the Centre for Maritime Archaeology received the Keith Muckelroy Memorial Award for published work on maritime archaeology in recognition of their scholarly contribution to the subject.

The awards, which are presented biennially by the Council for British Archaeology, are regarded as the Oscars of British archaeology. The ceremony took place in Belfast's Elmwood Hall, the first time the awards have been hosted in Northern Ireland.

Trade Mission to India

The University wishes to continue its efforts to build partnerships in India by attracting more students and encouraging research and knowledge transfer links. Senior University staff were therefore pleased to participate in an Invest Northern Ireland Trade Mission to India last October.

The mission was led by Barry Gardiner MP, Minister for the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and Employment and Learning, who was accompanied by Lord Rana, Honorary Consul for India in Northern Ireland and holder of an Honorary Doctorate from the University, participating in the Trade Mission in his capacity as President, Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In Mumbai, UU's Professor Richard Barnett and Professor Bernie Hannigan accompanied the Minister and Lord Rana to meetings with the British High Commission, the British Council, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Professor Hannigan also gave a presentation on Higher Education – the Life Sciences sector - to the Confederation of Indian Industries. University staff also visited a number of other institutions in Mumbai, New Delhi and Sanghol. The University is liaising with the Department for Employment and Learning to follow up specific educational opportunities in Mumbai and Chennai.

Staff from the University's International Office visited five cities in India in February 2005 to participate in the British Council Education UK Educational Exhibitions and to hold follow-up meetings with a range of institutions.

Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters



Professor Owen Hargie, from the School of Communication, has been appointed to the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters.

He was invited to become a member of the oldest learned society in Norway, an honour bestowed as recognition of academic attainment and leadership in the field.

For the past six years Professor Hargie has been Adjunct Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and has had his central works published in Norwegian.

Professor Owen Hargie

Did you leave Ireland to live abroad in the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s?

If you left Ireland to live abroad in the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s and have since returned to live in Ireland, researchers at Queen's University Belfast and University College Cork would like to hear your story.

You are invited to take part in an exciting research project documenting the narratives of Irish return migration. The research involves conducting interviews with return migrants, exploring their experiences of growing up in Ireland, emigrating, and returning.

An all-island archive of life narratives is being collected and archived to the highest international standards. These will serve as a record for the future of the migration experiences of those who left Ireland during the decades of high emigration, and of their thoughts on returning to Ireland at a very different time.

If you would like to take part or want more information, please contact Johanne (028 8225 6315 NI; 048 8225 6315 ROI; email: return.migration@uafp.co.uk). Interviews can be anonymous, and each participant will be provided with a copy of their interview to retain for their own family history.

North Carolina

Two years ago the University led a delegation of four universities (Ulster, City, Leicester and Staffordshire) and representatives of their partner FE Colleges to North Carolina.

The purpose of the trip was to enable the UK visitors to examine at first hand the nature and extent of the collaborative relationships between universities and community colleges in North Carolina.

In late October 2004 the North Carolinians paid a reciprocal visit to the UK, visiting each of the aforementioned universities and some of their partner colleges. Towards the end of their trip they spent three days in Northern Ireland, firstly at Newry Institute, then at Limavady College, and finally at the Coleraine campus.

INCORE – Researching Conflict Internationally, Focused on Peace in Northern Ireland



Professor Gillian Robinson, Director of INCORE

INCORE - International Conflict Research - is the central co-ordinating agency for all peace and conflict work conducted at the University. Established in 1993 it is affiliated to the United Nations University, the academic arm of the UN, based in Tokyo. Typically, it examines issues such as peace processes, demilitarisation, politics and community relations, the impact of research on policymakers, security and gender and political leadership in violent societies.

The emphasis has always been on comparative issues, with Northern Ireland at the hub of a series of shared learning initiatives involving researchers, policymakers, academics and practitioners working in peace and conflict around the world.

New Role, New Links

Formerly a stand-alone research centre, INCORE has recently been incorporated into the Faculty of Social Sciences. Now, as well as the multi-faceted research and practice efforts carried out by staff at INCORE's headquarters in Aberfoyle House, on the Magee Campus, INCORE is a focal point for peace and conflict-related work for over 60 academics and researchers across the University.

Experts such as Professor Ed Cairns in psychology, Dr Derick Wilson in community relations, Dr Arthur Williamson in civil society issues, Professor Paul Arthur and Dr Arthur Aughey in local and international politics, and Professor Monica McWilliams in social policy to mention but a few, work alongside the

UNESCO Centre, the Northern Ireland Centre for European Co-operation and The Centre for Young Men's Studies, amongst other groups, in researching and developing peace, conflict and reconciliation here and elsewhere.

Leading the Way

INCORE is now under the direction of Professor Gillian Robinson. UU alumna Professor Robinson (MSc Social Administration and Policy 1988, Coleraine) has been associated with INCORE since its foundation and became Director in August 2003.

Professor Robinson said that "INCORE's new role as the central agency for peace and conflict work at the University will enhance the knowledge base and confidence of researchers and practitioners in this field, by harnessing the array of diverse approaches to these issues that is available across the University. We will focus on quality research into conflict resolution and transformation, in its most inclusive sense, dealing with issues such as interface trouble, community relations, dealing with the past, the role of education and the contribution of civil society. As well as producing top-quality research in association with colleagues across the University, we work on issues and themes with the intention of effecting change where it is necessary."

Sharing What We Know, Learning What Others Know

Collaborative research, study visits, exchanges, as well as teaching and training are all at the core of INCORE's links with individuals and organisations

around the world. The Local International Learning Project (LILP) recently helped set up a Belfast-Jerusalem Civil Society Project, involving civil society groups working on peacebuilding and community relations in both cities. In 2005, INCORE will work closely with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to develop a project on 'facing the future' in Serbia and Montenegro.

Every year INCORE runs a renowned International Summer School for professionals working on conflict resolution or in conflict zones. Last year INCORE attracted participants from 20 countries, including representatives of the European Commission, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the United States Agency for Overseas Development (USAID). Running from 13-17 June 2005, INCORE will offer five courses in this year's Summer School:

- The Management of Peace Processes
- Track Two Approaches and Integrated Peacebuilding
- Evaluation and Impact Assessment of Peacebuilding Programmes
- Gender, Conflict and Education
- EU Policies and Activities in Peacebuilding, Crisis Management and Resolution

INCORE launched a new website recently, structured to give full and accessible expression to the quality and variety of peace and conflict work across the University. More information about INCORE, including downloadable publications and an online application to the 2005 Summer School, can be found at www.incore.ulster.ac.uk/

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY

The University's Student Recruitment Office has drawn *The Ulster Graduate's* attention to the following rewarding areas of study for those interested in pursuing careers in the Social Sciences.

Social Work

"It has been identified that the social work workforce requires at least 300 newly qualified social workers annually to meet the needs of Northern Ireland".
Angela Smith, Minister for HSSPS.

In response to this need for qualified social workers, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), along with other UK councils, agreed that all social work training courses would now be offered at degree level. The University responded by introducing at Magee a new three-year undergraduate programme in social work, followed by a pre-registration year.

To help further meet this need the University is also introducing at Magee a new two-year accelerated programme for graduates from social sciences with relevant degrees in a cognate discipline who wish to re-train as social workers. This programme is designed to link their previous study with academic learning and practical training in the area of social work.

As an added incentive, Northern Ireland domiciled students will not pay fees, and will receive an annual non-means-tested bursary of £2,500 (with an additional £1,000 per annum for students over 25 years of age) and £500 towards travel expenses. Application for the programme is made through UCAS.

Further information on the programme is available at www.ulster.ac.uk. You can also visit the Northern Ireland Social Care Council at www.niscc.org.uk

Law

For those interested in becoming solicitors, lawyers or barristers, our qualifying law degrees contain the eight core

law modules required for entry into a professional law school – such as the College of Law (with whom we operate a guaranteed places scheme) or the Institute of Professional Legal Studies in Belfast.

Law programmes are available at both the Jordanstown and Magee campuses.

Law students may choose to study modules in specific areas of Law in which they have a particular interest, for example, Human Rights Law, Medical Law, Employment Law, Company Law and Family Law.

Our LLB programmes have been structured in such a way as to offer students maximum flexibility and choice. Depending on the campus of study, along with the core law modules, students can choose to study modules in a subject of particular interest to them, for instance Accounting, Criminology, Drama, Economics, French, German, Government, Human Resource Management, International Politics, Irish, Marketing, Politics, Social Policy or Spanish.

Library resources are excellent and include a dedicated Law-specific section, e-mail and Internet connections and a full range of media equipment including video and CD-ROMs.

One Graduate's Experience

The Ulster Graduate spoke to recent BSc Hons Law and Government graduate and winner of the Convocation Student of the Year Award 2004, Steven McQuitty.

"I graduated in June 2004, and sat the Institute examinations, and was delighted to be offered a place in September 2004 with the Institute of Law to study to become a barrister.

"Prior to starting with the Institute, I spent my time working for a local solicitor in my home town of Portadown, and began to make arrangements for what is called pupillage. This is a six-month period when all newly called barristers shadow a more senior barrister, known as their master, helping with paperwork and undertaking research. I will hopefully be commencing

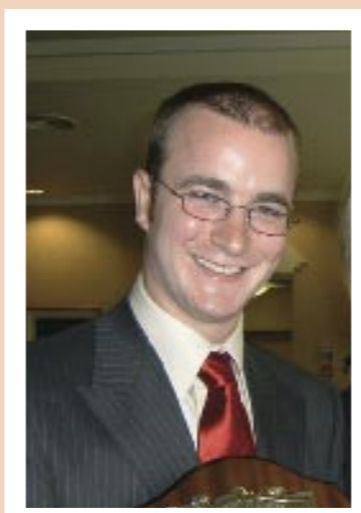
my own pupillage in September of this year with a criminal defence barrister who also graduated in Law from UU some years ago.

"My advice to those considering whether or not to study Law at the University of Ulster would be to go for it if you are keen to learn and be challenged. The quality of the teaching is excellent and the lecturers take a real and lasting interest in those who give their best. I have been lucky enough to be part of that academic team, as the University offered me a part time lecturing post. From September to Christmas 2004 I taught part of the human rights and equality law module. I hope that once I am qualified, I may return to academic life as a part-time lecturer, and may even consider doing further part-time postgraduate study in law.

"My professional aim is to become a barrister. I am really interested in working in the areas of criminal defence work and judicial review, specialising in prison law and prisoners' rights.

"As for my career in law, it might be better if you ask me in a few years time but for the time being I couldn't imagine wanting to do anything else!"

Further information on all our programmes is available at www.prospectus.ulster.ac.uk



Steven McQuitty

China visit

With China continuing to be a priority area for the recruitment of international students and the development of important partnerships, a UU delegation visited Beijing, Shenyang, Dalian and Hong Kong in November.



Dr Yang Xihuai with the China Alumni Branch Committee

Highlights of the visit were undoubtedly the graduation of 42 postgraduate students who had completed their awards at the University, and an Alumni Reception that evening. The newest members of the Alumni Branch in China were awarded with the degrees of Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Studies, Master of Public Administration or Master of Communication, Advertising and Public Relations at a ceremony in the Peoples Hall in the Provincial Government Building in Shenyang.

The Alumni Reception at the Marriott Hotel saw over 100 alumni from Liaoning Province attending what was a very enjoyable reunion for all present. Dr Yang Xihuai, President of the China Branch, was one of a number of distinguished speakers at the event. He spoke about how proud the graduates were to be alumni of the University and said that the occasion evoked unforgettable and happy memories of UU. Addressing the new graduates he said:

"On behalf of the UU China branch, I sincerely congratulate you on your successful completion of your study at UU, and at the same time I welcome you to join our UU alumni China Branch, the ever-increasing family of UU alumni in China. The new blood joining the branch makes it not only larger and stronger but also more vibrant."

He added that the graduates had not only enriched themselves with modern knowledge but also made a contribution to Liaoning's development, saying that of the 154 previous graduates from UU, 86 had been promoted and 12 had been appointed division chiefs of various organisations. Guests were given a demonstration of the alumni website, designed by local graduates, which can be seen at www.ulstercn.com/

In Shenyang, the delegation met current partners – China Medical University (CMU) and the Liaoning Experimental Middle School (LEMS). An agreement of co-operation with China Criminal Police University (CCPU) was also signed. This followed an earlier visit to UU from CCPU, led by President Wang which included a dinner for the delegation attended by representatives from PSNI, ANIC and NI-CO who had kindly contributed to the programme for CCPU's visit.

The visits to CMU and LEMS also provided an opportunity for the delegation to meet undergraduate Nursing students at CMU and undergraduate foundation students at LEMS who hope to study here from 2005/06 onwards. Members of the delegation also held very full and worthwhile discussions with the Liaoning Education Committee, the Liaoning International Exchange Centre and the Liaoning Provincial Finance Bureau about a range of existing and future co-operative ventures.

University staff also visited the prestigious Tsinghua University, Beijing, to meet students studying on a pre-Masters foundation programme. Many of these students hope to proceed to postgraduate study at the University in September this year.

Hong Kong

As in Shenyang the highlights of the visit to Hong Kong were a Graduation Ceremony for students who had completed awards of the University in Computing and Life and Health Science disciplines, and an Alumni Reception for what is the University's largest and longest established overseas association.

With over 800 alumni in Hong Kong a good turnout was expected at the event, and we were not disappointed. 72 alumni joined staff for drinks and a superb buffet at the prestigious Pacific Club on Hong Kong's harbour. Brian Li, President of the Hong Kong Branch, took the opportunity to encourage some of the more recent graduates to get involved in the branch. Any alumni in Hong Kong who are willing to help with future events should contact Joyce Forsythe at the Hong Kong Office on: **2522 6881** or **2522 9112** Email: jc.forsythe@hkulster.com



Guests at the Alumni Reception Hong Kong

The UU delegation also attended meetings in Hong Kong including discussions with Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE), University of Hong Kong and the Community College at SPACE, the Academy for the Performing Arts, Hong Kong College of Technology International, ICSA, Chai Wan, a constituent college of the Institute of Vocational Education, and Lingnan University.

UU graduates in relief effort

Five University of Ulster graduates have been playing an important role in the relief effort following the tsunami in South East Asia. The five are all graduates of the MSc Disaster Relief (Healthcare) programme.

Emergency Nurses Hannele Haggman and Sirpa Tuhkanen are working with the International Red Cross/Red Crescent in Sri Lanka, Midwife Hanna Liukkonen is in India with a Community Medical Team and High Dependency Specialist Andrea Oswald is in Indonesia. Tiina Saarikoski has recently returned from Thailand where she was working with the Finnish Red Cross.

Tiina told *The Ulster Graduate*:

"I was one of the first graduates from the MSc Disaster Relief (Healthcare) programme. Since graduation I have had the opportunity to work on humanitarian missions in Sierra Leone and in Bam, Iran. After the tsunami disaster I was sent to Thailand as part of the Finnish Red Cross aid operation. Our primary mission was to assist in evacuating the tourists, plan and organise ambulance flights for those who were injured and give psychological support. When looking back I feel that in addition to theoretical knowledge, the simulations and field exercises included in the MSc programme have equipped me well to work on humanitarian missions".

According to course director, Dr Pat Deeny, the graduates'

knowledge and skills will prove invaluable in the weeks and months to come.

"Each of the five has leadership and management skills and the practical skills to deliver hands-on care," he said.

"They will be able to work with local people to help rebuild the infrastructure which has been so badly damaged.

"The programme has been going since 1999 and we've been preparing people for this kind of disaster. The reality is that disasters remain the top threat to the future existence of the human race.

"Around 250 million people a year are affected by disasters worldwide. We prepare people to go in and work with international teams to help local communities to recover," he said.

"The online programme has generated a huge amount of interest and has attracted students from across the world.

"We have 18 students on the programme at present" added Dr Deeny.

"We believe it makes a difference. The situation in South East Asia is still at the acute phase but normal life must go on. Normal healthcare must be provided, in addition to the relief effort.

"Our graduates will help in that respect. They have the training and the practical skills needed to make a difference."

For more information on the programme see www.prospectus.ulster.ac.uk

€100,000 Special Olympics boost



Professor Bill Clarke, Provost Jordanstown and Belfast (centre) with Diane Poole, Northern Ireland Chair of the Special Olympics World Games and Committee member Brian McKibbin.

The Special Olympics World Games has donated €100,000 to the University to help fund research into the healthcare needs of people with disabilities.

The money will be used to purchase equipment for the new state-of-the-art Centre for Rehabilitation Research – the first of its kind in the UK or Ireland – which is currently being built on the Jordanstown campus. The Centre is being established under the joint leadership of Professors Deirdre Walsh, Dave Baxter and Suzanne McDonough, and Dr Alison Porter-Armstrong.

Handing over the generous donation, Mrs Evelyn Greer, a member of the Special Olympics World Board, said:

"It is fitting that there should be a lasting legacy from the Games in Northern Ireland and it is most appropriate that the Special Olympics World Games assist with this new unit."

She also congratulated the Northern Ireland Committee of the Special Olympics for raising £1.6m within the province.

A Time to Save?

By Alan Bridle, Head of Research, Bank of Ireland NI

We live in times of "rampant consumerism" it seems, driven by a combination of rising prosperity and increasing indebtedness.

In 2005 in Northern Ireland, I can report that average household incomes have risen by over 70% and average house prices by a factor of 2.6 in the last decade. More than one third of households now have dual incomes and have at least two cars (compared to one tenth in 1983) while soaring passenger numbers at our three airports demonstrate that our appetite for foreign travel, holiday homes and property investments abroad grows year by year. It is no coincidence that the "star performer" of the commercial property market in recent times has been the retail sector, as we indulge ourselves for the latest designer-labelled clothes or electronic gizmo.

Meantime, it seems many of us have lost the art of saving while those who still practice are not saving enough. As any GCSE Economics student should know, saving is about postponing consumption and fewer of us are either making the choice or in a position to make the choice. According to Mori, in 1999, 52% of the adult population in Northern Ireland had savings but by the final quarter of 2004 this had dropped to 40% with the downward trend well established. Simultaneously, the level of unsecured debt locally (mainly credit cards and personal loans) is now estimated at £3 billion and rising, an average £2,300 per adult (source: *Taking the Credit*, NI GCC, 2004).

Of course I hear you say, why save (or save more for that matter) when returns, in real terms seem so pitiful? Recent research into the savings industry has found that 88% of accounts produced negative returns for basic rate taxpayers after tax and inflation. To keep pace with inflation, as measured by RPI, a non-taxpayer at the end of 2004 needed to earn at least 3.5% on deposit, a basic rate taxpayer over 4.4% and a higher rate taxpayer over 5.8%.

Despite a series of small interest rate increases in 2004, savers are still picking up the tab for historically low and ultra-competitive mortgages rates. Lower interest rates have been generally regarded as a good thing with the viewpoint of savers traditionally subordinate to that of the borrower. Furthermore, while the lobby for lower interest rates is organised, vocal and articulate, the lobby for higher rates is virtually non-existent (and remember savers outnumber borrowers by a ratio of 5 or 6 to 1).

The chart below, which tracks movements in the UK base rate v UK inflation (RPI) over the last two decades, demonstrates that the 'real' return for saving on a high interest account (even ignoring tax considerations) is just above historically low levels i.e. about 1.0%. The average 'spread' between base rate and RPI over this 20-year period is 4.4%. Indeed, at times during this period the real return was over 7% with interest rates at 15% and inflation running at 7.5%.

The reality of low interest rates has well and truly dawned and many savers will choose to grin and bear it and hope that rates edge up a bit more in 2005. For two decades, anyone with spare cash

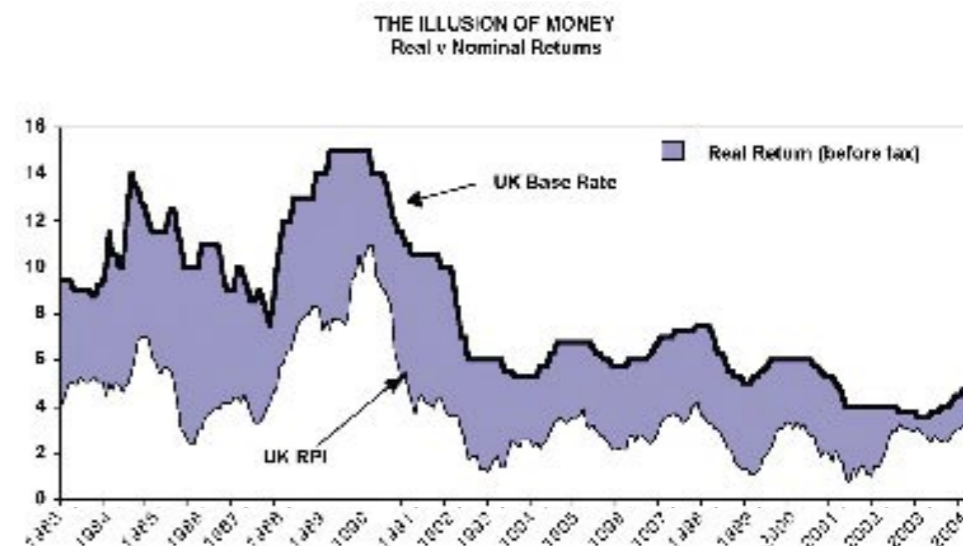
was able to obtain an adequate return in a high interest account in a bank or building society, on occasions outstripping equities and property. The environment has clearly changed and with the help of financial advice, savers should consider carefully other options.

The paradox of the present situation is that while financial institutions and one arm of government are encouraging us to 'go forth and spend' (and borrow), in order to keep life in the economy, another arm is telling us we must save more for retirement or perhaps to help our children through university or onto the first rung of the housing ladder. Affordability for first time buyers in Northern Ireland is a growing issue which I am certain we will hear more and more about.

When the insurer Prudential published a study recently showing that 6 million people in Britain would be penniless within a month if they lost their jobs, I was moved to estimate the equivalent for Northern Ireland – circa 150,000! I'm sure you may agree, saving is a habit worth cultivating with our children and what better way than to lead by personal example?

Comments are welcome to: alan.bridle@boini.com

This article is for information purposes only. Professional advice should be obtained before acting on any information contained herein.



The North West Science and Technology Partnership

A partnership has been formed between industry and academia to strategically promote, support and strengthen science and technology based innovation and business in the North West region.

The North West Science and Technology Partnership was established in March 2004. Recognising the economic and geographical isolation of the North West region the cross-border partnership aims to support and stimulate greater innovation in Science and Technology as well as building upon and promoting the North West's current strengths. The partnership is driven by experienced leaders in both the private and public sectors and is facilitated by the Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Centre (NORIBIC) and the Office of Innovation and Enterprise at UU.

The objectives of the partnership are:

- To act as a catalyst for collaboration between business and academia
- To encourage networking and knowledge sharing to increase collaborative research opportunities
- To identify and highlight funding opportunities for partnership members
- To support the creation of new S&T-based businesses as spin-offs in conjunction with existing stakeholders (INI, Enterprise Ireland, Intertrade Ireland etc)
- To identify current NW S&T status, core competencies and explore new opportunities based on this information
- Working in partnership with key stakeholders, to act as an information resource or central hub for S&T entrepreneurs, start-ups and Foreign Direct Investment into the North West.

- To develop a public profile which promotes the region, provides informed opinion and creates relevant relationship with support organisations

- To lobby to ensure NW S&T sector is well serviced, grows and is well promoted in Education, Research and Innovation

As well as the University, over 20 organisations have already signed up to the partnership including organisations and bodies such as Seagate, Invista, Medisize, DDA, Gendel, and HealthTek. The Partnership has already seen some early success. A number of Special Interest Groups have been established with clear focus and objectives. They include Research and Innovation (collaborations, start ups, joint ventures and spin outs) and Marketing (Promotion of NW S&T, inward investment support, 'attract back' campaign)

For more information contact: info@nwstp.net

Attention Newry and Mourne Alumni

Greenshoots Newry Ltd (Greenshoots) is a new initiative designed to support economic development in the Newry and Mourne area and is a joint venture between UU and Newry Institute.

Greenshoots is a technology business incubation centre and will make available the expertise, facilities and resources of the University and the Institute to potential entrepreneurs and for the wider benefit of the regional economy. Greenshoots is the first Business Incubation Centre in the Further Education sector in Northern Ireland. It aims to promote enterprise and innovation among graduates from the area, support individuals or companies with business ideas that have high growth and employment potential, and

to stimulate higher levels of research and development among local companies.

The Manager of Greenshoots is UU graduate Kieran Fegan (BTech Mechanical Engineering 1993, Jordanstown). He is particularly interested in hearing from alumni from the Newry and Mourne area who are currently living elsewhere and who would like to return to the area to set up a technology business.

"A primary purpose of Greenshoots is to assist in halting ideas and skills emigration and to create higher technology knowledge driven companies that can create jobs for our graduates and keep them in the Newry area".

A copy of the Greenshoots brochure has been included with this edition of



Greenshoots Manager Kieran Fegan

The Ulster Graduate to alumni living in the Newry area. If you did not receive this and would like a copy, or would like further information, Kieran Fegan can be contacted on **028 302 65402** or by emailing info@greenshoots-newry.com

Omagh Enterprise Company has a new state of the art Technology Incubation and Resource Centre.

High Technology Suites offering:

- High speed internet access
- ICT and e-commerce facilities
- Multi media meeting rooms

Resource Centre providing:

- Business Support
- Advice for SME's
- Research & Development Advice
- Innovation Support
- Financial Support

For further details and viewings please contact Noelle McAloon, Omagh Enterprise Company, Great Northern Rd, Omagh. Tel: 028 8224 9494 E-Mail: noelle.mcaloon@oecl.co.uk

FUSION

Sports specialists at the University have taken on a fresh challenge — helping to expand a Donegal holiday park as part of an island-wide business development scheme.



Dr Deirdre Brennan

Dr Deirdre Brennan and Shane McCullough, both based at the Jordanstown campus, have scored a first for the Sports Studies group in the School of Health Sciences by securing £59,000 in funding for a two-year FUSION project to devise a new leisure arm at Rockhill Caravan and Cabin Park on the shores of scenic Mulroy Bay, Donegal.

"The park at Kerrykeel has mobile homes, apartments and log cabins and is the biggest in north-west Donegal. We will be working with the owners, Carberry Holiday Parks, to design and operate a new sports and leisure complex that will be geared to the needs of holiday makers who use the site and the wider local community of which it is a part," said sports studies lecturer, Dr Deirdre Brennan. Partnering her on the project is Shane McCullough, lecturer in coaching.

FUSION is an all-Ireland scheme that promotes partnership between industry and academia. A graduate is recruited and based in a company to provide one-to-one specialist tailored assistance to solve its technology needs. It is an initiative of InterTradeIreland, which was set up under the Belfast Agreement to promote cross-border trade and competitiveness.

"Traditionally, sports complexes have tended to be built in the hope that people will come in and use them. What we are saying is 'let's design and build a complex that is based on what people want and need,'" said Mr McCullough.

"We are going to carry out an extensive needs analysis first and then design a project that will facilitate both the park's residents and the local community, its youth clubs and sports clubs. A strength

of our university work is the technological know-how and other capabilities needed in ensuring the right type of facilities are provided and that appropriate activity programmes are designed that will attract more people in to use them."

Belfast businessman Chris Carberry, Managing Director of Carberry Holiday Parks, decided to link up with the University after seeing the success of its Sports Outreach activities. He has made an £8,000 donation to promote the programme in the six partner schools. As well as Kerrykeel, his company has a holiday park in Clogherhead, Co Louth.

"We intend to transfer the knowledge and expertise that we have developed as part of our university sports outreach programme to Rockhill Park and its community," said Dr Brennan.

"In addition, we hope to replicate the outreach programme, in which we will work with many partners - the local community, community groups, trade organisations, sports clubs, schools - to organise a wide range of popular activities," she added.

"This is about generating more usage of the park, hence more business and that will be good for the park owners and the community," said Dr Brennan.

Bank of Ireland – Adding Value to University Activities

We are delighted to announce that Bank of Ireland, already a significant supporter of the University, has agreed to sponsor a number of exciting new initiatives through a five-year partnership arrangement.

The areas to receive sponsorship support are the Creative and Performing Arts and Biomedical Sciences, with some additional funds available for University conferences.

Creative and Performing Arts

The Creative and Performing Arts sponsorship will focus on two main strands - drama and dance, involving staff in the Faculty of Arts. Over the next two years a series of drama masterclasses will be offered to students based at the Centre for Creative and Performing Arts at the Magee campus. Additionally this sponsorship will enable the University to develop an ongoing programme of dance activities for young people. These activities are being organised through the University's Cultural Development Office in the Faculty of Arts.

You can read more about both of these exciting initiatives in our Arts section on Page 29.

Biomedical Sciences

An exciting programme to promote

science and its relevance to society is also planned. This five-year initiative aims to examine how scientific knowledge can be applied to promote personal well-being and will consider the role of society in the development and application of science within agreed boundaries.

Activities being planned include a public lecture series featuring eminent scientists, roadshows for schools, including scientific writing and poster competitions, and an international conference.

Head of School, Professor Valerie McKelvey-Martin, said:

"The Bank of Ireland Science in Society project is an exciting initiative within the School of Biomedical Sciences. Top class research needs to be communicated clearly in society and its relevance and applications discussed in a way that everyone can understand and benefit from. This project gives us the opportunity to do just that and is particularly geared for 14-18 year olds and the general public."

For more information contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office in the first instance: **028 7032 4204**; va.farrell@ulster.ac.uk; website www.ulster.ac.uk/development

Alumni Website - Email Directory - *NEW* Class Notes *NEW*

We are delighted to announce an exciting new Class Notes facility to the Email Directory on the alumni website. Registered users can leave a message (up to 200 words) telling people what they have been doing since leaving UU.

It is simple to get started - log into the email directory at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/email and choose 'Update Class Notes' in the 'Update My Details' area.

Your Class Notes will be reviewed by the Alumni Relations Office prior to publishing. Once published, other registered users will be able to read your Class Notes.

You may update your Class Notes as often as you wish.

If you have any suggestions about this service or the Alumni Website in general, please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

The Alumni Fund Sports Scholarship

This is the first award to be made from the recently established Alumni Fund, which is funded by donations from graduates and staff of the University. This enables our alumni to make a real difference to students currently studying at the University. The first recipient of the Alumni Fund Sports Scholarship is International Cricketer Andrew White.

Andrew is currently a student on the PGCE Physical Education programme, having graduated in July 2004 with a BSc Hons Sport Exercise and Leisure. He is a Senior Irish International with 51 Caps including matches against Australia, South Africa, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

He is Vice-Captain of the Northern Cricket Union Interprovincial Team, a member of Instonians Cricket Club (where he holds the record for the highest number of runs, 1020, for an Irish born player in any Northern Cricket Union Season), he was awarded Man of the Match, Ireland v Surrey in this year's C & G Trophy, and hit the winning runs in Ireland's historic win against the West Indies. He also won the Northern Cricket Union Trophy for best all rounder for the third consecutive year and is Vice-Captain of the UU Cricket team that shared the Irish Universities Cricket tournament in 2004.

Andrew has signed a two-year professional contract with Northamptonshire.



Alumni Relations Manager, Sue Rees, congratulating Andrew White

INTRODUCTION OF LEGACY PROGRAMME

From its earliest days, the University has benefited from bequests from alumni and supporters who wished to make a contribution beyond their own lifetime.

In recent times the University has received a generous gift from the estate of Dr Vera Furness, the proceeds of which have been used to fund two postdoctoral research posts in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences.

Legacies from staff and alumni have continued this history of benevolence and benefaction. Leaving a legacy to the University is an investment in helping maintain its outstanding reputation for teaching excellence and research and in preparing for challenges in the future.

Our Development and Alumni Relations Office will be delighted to discuss how you can support the University and to ensure your bequest achieves what you would like it to do. We would also like to update you on the developments of the University and what it plans for the future.

Legacies are channelled into the University system via the University of Ulster Foundation according to the wishes of benefactors.

Please visit: www.ulster.ac.uk/development or contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office at: Telephone: **+44 (0)28 7032 4561** Email: development@ulster.ac.uk

Boston Step-Up to the University of Ulster Scholarship



The University of Ulster New England Alumni Association (UUNEAA) is delighted to announce that the first recipient of the Boston Step-Up to the University of Ulster Scholarship is Nicole McIntyre, a first year Radiotherapy student at Jordanstown.

The scholarship is funded by the UUNEAA, members of which have been busy raising money by organising events and by soliciting donations from graduates and friends of UU. The Scholarship is worth \$1,500 per year and is awarded to a UU student who has come through the University's Step-Up programme. Step-Up is a unique and innovative interventionist programme based in Londonderry.

The scholarship was awarded on the basis of an essay competition and was open to all Step-Up participants who intended to study at UU. Applicants were asked to explain in their essay, as briefly as possible, how they would benefit from the award, what they intended to study at the University, what they intended to do after college and what 'Step-Up' had meant to them. As well as the monetary aspect of the scholarship the UUNEAA proposes to provide mentoring, assistance in finding internships in the Boston area if desired, and provide networking opportunities for the successful candidate after graduation.

The UUNEAA plans to raise sufficient funds to offer this scholarship on an annual basis.

Alumni Association President

Des Clements was elected as the President of the Alumni Association last year.

Des was born in Belfast but has been based in the North West and North of the Province for nearly thirty years. His long association with UU began in 1977 when he became a part-time student, graduating with an MSc Energy Studies in 1979.

After his initial degree, from QUB, Des was appointed as a Graduate Engineer at Aberdare Electric Co in Dublin. He then became Engineer-in-Charge of Bessbrook Products Ltd. However he left industry to take up a Research Fellowship at QUB under Prof Crossland. In 1961 he became Head of the Engineering Department at the Londonderry College of Technology (now the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education). In 1978 Des was appointed as Principal of Coleraine Technical College (now the Causeway Institute of Further and Higher Education) where he served until his retirement in 1994.

As well as his distinguished career in education, Des has served in a voluntary capacity on a number of bodies. His roles have included Chairman of the NI Branch of NATFHE, Vice-President of Coleraine Rotary Club and Director of the Coleraine Enterprise Agency. In 1993 he was invited

to become a Freeman of the City of London by the Honourable the Irish Society.

Des has been a member of the UU Alumni Association Executive Committee since 1996 and says:

"I am proud to be a graduate of the University of Ulster, and would like to encourage members of the Alumni Association to give generously to the Alumni Fund in reciprocity for the qualifications they have received from one of the finest universities in Europe. There are many students at the University who are in financial difficulties and it is most appropriate to have in place an Alumni Fund to help current students in a variety of ways. A regular donation by Standing Order to the Alumni Fund would be very much appreciated by the Alumni Association."

Alumni who wish to support the Alumni Fund should contact the Alumni Relations Office or see www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/alumnifund.html

Des is keen to encourage more graduates to become involved with the Alumni Association. Anyone wishing to know more would be made very welcome at the AGM on Monday 4 April 2005 (see page 19 for full details).

Second University of Ulster Golf Challenge, Friday 17 June 2005

The second University of Ulster Golf Challenge will be held on Friday 17 June 2005 at Galgorm Castle Golf and Country Club. This exciting event is being organised by the University of Ulster Alumni Association, and will be attended 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, email alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Biomedical Sciences Silver Jubilee

1980 saw the first intake of students into the BSc Hons Medical Laboratory Science course, and an event is being planned to mark the 25th anniversary of Biomedical Sciences at UU.

We will be trying to track down as many former Biomedical Sciences students as possible, so do please pass this information on to anyone you know with whom we may have lost touch.

The celebration will take place at the Coleraine campus on Friday 16 September 2005, with a tour of the new Centre for Molecular Biosciences, presentations by senior staff and alumni followed by a Gala Dinner in the Bannview Dining Room.

Formal invitations will be sent out shortly, and further information will be available on our website at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/events.html but put the date in your diary now.

We look forward to a fascinating look at Biomedical Sciences then and now.

House of Lords

A gala dinner for alumni and friends of the University is being held at the House of Lords on Friday 15 April. Hosted by Lord Peter Brooke, the event will take place in the magnificent Chomondeley Room and Terrace. There will be a drinks reception followed by dinner and wine. The tickets are priced at a very reasonable £50 each (including drinks). Space is limited and we expect demand to be high, so tickets will be allocated strictly on a 'first come, first served' basis.

A booking form is available at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsdiary.html or from the Alumni Relations Office, Tel 028 9036 8350, e-mail alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Reunion – Coleraine campus 19 – 20 August 2005

A reunion is being organised for alumni who graduated from the Coleraine campus in the years 1975, 1980, 1985, 1995. 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 19 August

- 7.00pm Drinks Reception in the Senior Common Room

Saturday 20 August

- 9.45am Coffee
- 10.00am Presentation about developments on campus
- 11.00am Tour of campus including Science Park, Centre for Molecular Biosciences and Centre for Coastal Science Research
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.30pm Tour of Arboretum
- 7.30pm Reunion Dinner

Working with China

The Alumni Association, in partnership with the University's Knowledge Club, is organising a Seminar on Working with China. This will be held at 6:30pm in the Loughview Suite on the Jordanstown campus on Thursday 12 May 2005.

The seminar will cover cultural and legal issues and sources of help and information.

Speakers will include:

Linda Forte, Invest Northern Ireland
Brian O'Connor, Former Chairman Allied Properties (HK) Ltd and Quality Healthcare Asia Ltd
Yi Bao, China Manager, University of Ulster

For further information see www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/eventsdiary.html

UUJ Soccer Reunion



Collingwood Cup UUJ First Team 1994

In July of 2004, I was on board a flight returning from a college reunion in England. I had spent two years in Crewe, from 1989 to 91, before going to UUJ. As we approached Belfast I thought about just how much I had enjoyed the weekend. I hadn't seen some of those present for almost 14 years!

One or two of us had remained good friends, but for most, we had simply drifted away, with no contact at all. It was fascinating finding out how their lives had turned out, and hearing their experiences since we parted in 1991. At the end we all agreed it had been the most fun we had had in years. I even got to stay in my old room!

It struck me then, that 2005 would be the tenth anniversary of my graduation from UUJ. I couldn't believe it had been so long since I had played soccer for the student or indeed the Saturday team. I see many of the players from those years

regularly, but there are many, many more that I don't. So many memories of great players (far too many names to list here!), great teams, successful seasons, great nights out, Collingswood's, BUSA's, and even the World Student Games in Japan. There and then I decided to try and put together a reunion. I formed a group willing to help including Beefus, Dr Paul, Brendy, Frankie, John, and big Pat. Legends all! We decided that if you played around 1990 to 95, you are eligible to go. (Although later is fine too) It's on Saturday 4th of June. Meeting, and accommodation at the Wellington Park Hotel. Travelling, playing, and lunch at the Union Bar. Evening meal at the Welly.

All you need to do is email me at Patrick.oconnor2@ntlworld.com or phone 07761 368736 and I will send you out a booking form.

Patrick O'Connor, BA Hons Sport and Leisure Studies 1994, PGCE 1995.

Magee Pre-1971 Reunion

A reunion for those who studied at Magee before 1971 is being organised for the weekend of 2-4 September 2005. The first reunion for this group of graduates was held in 1995, with a second one five years ago. Both were enjoyable occasions with a wealth of memories being shared, as well as tours of both the campus and local area.

The reunion will be based at the Magee campus and accommodation will be available in our Halls of Residence.

We will be inviting as many relevant alumni as we can, but please put this date in your diary now and please also tell any former classmates you are still in touch with about the reunion.

London Branch

New Year's Party

An Irish Alumni New Year's Party was held in January, in the Porterhouse pub in Covent Garden. Over 100 graduates from universities and colleges throughout Ireland attended and enjoyed good food and lively conversation. The event was organised by the UU London Branch, who did a fantastic job – particular thanks to Orla McKeon and Brendan Gormley.

Olympic Success



Dr Alison Boyd, Professor Jim Allen, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Support) and Stephen Martin MBE.

In February UU alumnus and honorary graduate Stephen Martin, MBE, was the guest speaker at a reception in Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn.

Stephen is a double Olympic medallist with the Great Britain Hockey Team, having won his first medal in 1984 whilst still as student at Jordanstown (BA Hons Sports Studies 1985) and then winning Gold in Seoul in 1988. Stephen is currently Deputy Chief Executive at the British Olympic Association and was Team GB Chef de Mission at the 2000 Sydney, 2002 Salt Lake and 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Stephen gave alumni an insight into what makes a successful Olympic team and the highs and lows of his experiences with Team GB. In the week that the International Olympic Committee were visiting London he also spoke about the London 2012 bid. This was followed by a lively question and answer session.

Our thanks to Stephen for generously giving us his time.

Christmas Homecomings

Over 100 alumni and International students joined members of the Alumni Association Executive Committee for mince pies and mulled wine at the Coleraine, Jordanstown and Magee campuses in December.

To the sound of Christmas songs and carols news was exchanged of old friends, and new ones made. Current students from across Europe and as far away as China, Vietnam and Borneo told graduates how study at UU had changed. The campus Provosts were delighted to welcome alumni who were returning home for the holidays, as well as those who still lived locally.



Provost Professor Peter Roebuck, with alumni and students at the Coleraine Christmas Homecoming.

10 and 20 Year Reunion, Magee campus

Saturday 9 April 2005

A reunion is being held for alumni of Magee who graduated in 1985 and 1995.

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 £25 per person (including drinks).

The tour of the campus is likely to be of particular interest to anyone who has not been back recently, with many new developments including a new Learning Resources Centre, the Duncreggan Student Village and the Centre for the Creative and Performing Arts.

We have reserved some rooms in our newest Halls of Residence at Duncreggan for those who wish to stay overnight. Bed and Breakfast is £22 per person. All rooms are ensuite. A local accommodation list can also be provided on request.

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



Social Work Graduates 1980

Helyn and Pattiann are planning a reunion for all the former social work students who graduated from the course at Jordanstown in 1980.

We plan to hold it near Belfast on Saturday 28th May 2005 and hope as many as possible can attend. Please pass this information on to others from the course.

For further information please contact Pattiann by e mail at pattbrad1@aol.com

Look forward to hearing from you all.

Convocation AGM and Reunion of Members

Tuesday 26 April 2005 at 6.45pm in the Boardroom at the Jordanstown campus.

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

Convocation - what are we and what do we do?

The Convocation Executive Committee is the graduate body of the University of Ulster. Convocation comprises all graduates of the University and predecessor institutions and academic and academic-related members of staff.

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".

In addition, Convocation 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 contact Sarah Stewart in the Development and Alumni Relations Office. Telephone **028 7032 4390** or email s.stewart@ulster.ac.uk.

CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL

'Murder, greed, corruption, exploitation, adultery, treachery...all those things we hold near and dear to our hearts.'

So begins the international award-winning musical, CHICAGO and with the production now in its 7th deadly year, it just gets hotter. Based on real life events back in the roaring 1920's, killer nightclub singer Roxi Hart shoots her lover. Along with her Cell Block rival, double-murderess Velma Kelly, they fight to keep from death row with the help of smooth talking lawyer, Billy Flynn.

From reality to fantasy, from prison to courtroom to stage, CHICAGO is a tale of intrigue, love, betrayal and rivalry.

The Alumni Association has arranged reduced price tickets for UU graduates to see the show on Thursday 5 May with the opportunity to enjoy a tour of the Grand Opera House, Belfast and a talk about the new £9 million modernisation of the theatre before the performance.

Front Stall tickets, including the tour and talk cost just £28.75 (a reduction of £5 per ticket).

The tour starts at 6.00pm and the show at 7.45pm.

Bookings may be made at the Grand Opera House Ticket Shop in person or by telephone (028 9024 1919) quoting reference 'Alumni'.

Bookings may also be made by post to Grand Opera House Ticket Shop, 2 Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Please note that tickets at the special discounted rate are strictly limited. Tickets at this special reduced price are limited, and will be issue on a first-come, first served basis.



Alumni Association AGM

6.00pm, Monday 4 April 2005 Jordanstown campus

The AGM of the Alumni Association will take place on Monday 4 April 2005 in the Board Room, Jordanstown campus. Alumni and staff from all campuses 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

Master of Fine Art (MFA) 25th Anniversary Celebrations

2005 is the twenty fifth anniversary of our MFA (formerly MA Fine Art) and the University is mounting a range of events to celebrate the quarter century landmark. It will include a show of the selected graduates' work at the Ormeau Baths Gallery opening in December and running through January 2006.

MFA Alumni will be invited to the private view of the exhibition on 8 December 2005. A special publication will also be produced. It will include images of past and present work by graduates and vox pop comments about their time on the programme. There will also be contributions by the three course directors over the 25 year period as well as essays by visiting artists, external assessors and others who played a valuable part in the shape and direction of the course over the years.

This should prove to be an evocative look back over the 25 years - against the changing backdrop of the volatile political and social situation; fashion, style and personalities of the era.

When the course started in 1979 it was a one year MA Fine Art programme (48 weeks) on a split site. We had a small group of students, all from these islands. For some time now we have been running a two year MFA Course on an integrated site with a substantially larger student intake, coming from Ireland, Britain, Europe, Asia, North America and Canada.

Occupational Therapy 25 Year Reunion

A re-union of Occupational Therapists who qualified in 1980 from the Ulster Polytechnic is being planned for August 2005.

It is proposed we hold it in Belfast as many OT's still work in Ireland.

Please contact Mary Stobie (O'Donnell) on mstobie@socialwork.aberdeen.net.uk or Katherine Lesslar (Hughes) on katelesslar@hotmail.com for more information and to let us know where you are!!!

An Interview with Omid Djalili

Omid Djalili (BA Hons Humanities Combined 1988, Coleraine) has been described as ‘Britain’s funniest Iranian stand-up comedian’, but that only tells part of the tale.

Since his first Edinburgh Festival show in 1995 ‘Short Fat Kebab Shop Owner’s Son’ he has won a number of awards, featured on television and in films and is still getting rave reviews for his stand up. He has won the Emma Award (Best Stand-Up Comedian), the Time Out Award (Best Stand-Up Comedian), the LWT Award (Best Stand-Up) and has been nominated for the Perrier Award (Best Comedian). His Television credits in the UK include *Have I Got News for You* and *They Think It’s All Over*, while in the USA he appeared before 15 million Americans a week in Whoopi Goldberg’s Sitcom. Omid has also appeared in numerous films, including *The Mummy* (1999), *Gladiator* (2000), *Anita and Me* (2002) and *The Calcium Kid* (2003).

Omid took time out to answer questions for *The Ulster Graduate* posed by current student Paula Gunn, who is currently on a year’s placement with the University’s Public Affairs Department.

You studied at the Coleraine campus. What made you decide to come over here?
The UCCA clearing system.

It’s a big step going to university, never mind leaving the country! Did you find it difficult to adapt?

No. First year I lived in a cottage in Castlerock in total solitude so it was a great way to break in doing nothing but go for walks and drives by myself and staying in watching “Just Good Friends” with Paul Nicholas. I was nearly kicked out that Christmas of 1985 because I hadn’t given in a scrap of work. I did 14 essays over the holiday period to save my hide. Three years later I got a 2:1 so that autumn in 1985 my adapting period was animated by self-inflicted isolation, loneliness and dysfunction.

When you were studying was it always your ambition to become a famous comedian?

Never. I always just wanted to be an actor. Comedy came as a complete surprise to me.

Did you find it tough breaking into the world of comedy?

Surprisingly no. I just sort of fell into it. Being a luvvie, I thought “I never knew such a world even existed but I LIKE IT- (with a luvvie smile) and THEY LIKE ME”.

You have had tremendous success with your career so far, not just as a stand up comedian but also as an actor. Can you see yourself moving more towards this area of showbiz or is stand-up your first love?

Stand up will always be there, and if anything is becoming more and more of a joy and therefore a priority. Regarding the films and TV I have reached a stage when it is time to start producing more of my own work which I am doing.

You starred alongside Whoopi Goldberg in the US Sitcom, ‘Whoopi’. What was it like working with her?

She is very actor-friendly, warm, intelligent and spiritually generous. I learned a great deal working up close and personal with such an A-list star. And she’s funny.

September 11th seems to have had a huge impact on your work. Do you think comedy has a role to play in helping people deal with or understand the bigger issues?

Of course. Laughter I believe is almost like a ‘maturity gauge’ in that our capacity to laugh at life is in direct proportion to how much we have grown as human beings.

Your comedy is quite edgy, particularly when it deals with stereotypes and prejudice. Do you think that challenging people by making them laugh is a good way to make them think about things differently?

It is a great way but not the only way. A good beating can also have the same desired effect.

Who are YOUR favourite comedians?

George Carlin, Tommy Tiernan, Larry David, Harry Hill, Bill Hicks, Lenny Bruce, Sean Locke, Bill Bailey, Boothby Graffoe and of late Andrew Maxwell.

Do you think that being the only Iranian actor/stand-up comedian in Britain has influenced your international appeal?



I am NOT the only Iranian. There have been and are others. And they are good, especially these two guys who perform in Farsi. I saw one of them (aged 55) and he was excellent. International appeal only comes with films or TV one has done that have exposed one to an international audience. Films like *The Mummy* and *Gladiator* did that for me.

How do you prepare for a show - is it scripted or do you allow yourself to extemporise?

I always have a show prepared. I am more interested in seeing a joke that I have prepared get a big laugh. Material for comedy has always been of great interest to me. But I do like to ‘jump off a building’ so to speak by improvising.

If you’re doing something mundane, and someone recognises you, do you feel under pressure to be funny?

People expect you to but I never give in.

Do you think that now you are famous and fabulously successful, you’ll become less funny?

It is an inevitability that I will be universally hated but not because of anything I do in the world of comedy. I know this because my wife has told me.

I read that your father had: “a unique ability to entertain”, would you say that this was influential in your decision to become a comedian?

My dad is very funny and still at the age of 80 can make me laugh very hard. And yes he was very good at accents and voices. If he was influential in me becoming a comedian it is only in an unconscious way.

When are you coming to Ireland to do a show?

I have no idea.

Can we have an autographed photo please?

No. And I’m not telling you a joke either!

Century Farm

**John McGrath
BSc Hons Transport and Supply
Chain Management 2004,
Jordanstown**

John McGrath had a life-changing couple of months last summer. He moved house, graduated from UU, and went straight back in time 100 years. John, his wife Marie and four of their five children spent six weeks living the life of a family in rural Ireland of 1904 for the BBC NI series *Century Farm*.

They lived in Coshkib Hill Farm, a period farmhouse originally built deep in the heart of the Glens of Antrim, now one of the working exhibits at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra, which was closed to the public during filming.

The McGrath family comprises John, Marie, daughters Fionnola (12) and Christina (20), sons Paul (18), Conor (17) and Neal (13). Christina did not take part in the programme but twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the other members of the family totally immersed themselves in 1904 rural farm life, experiencing life struggling to make ends meet, learning how to care for farm animals, gathering in the hay, making all their own food (without a supermarket in sight) and even using bicarbonate of soda on their fingers to clean their teeth.

After working in the road haulage industry for 20 years John decided to improve his qualifications. After completing an Access Course at BIFHE he decided that if he could study part-time while working full time and looking after five children he could go on to get a degree. Although he was initially worried about life as a mature student, John found that there was adequate support and after finishing his degree in 2004 he was encouraged to register for a PhD. He is now working on his thesis *Mobility Patterns, an examination of rural and urban transport in Northern Ireland*. John is based at the Transport and Road Assessment Centre at the Jordanstown campus, working with Professor Alan Woodside and Professor Julian Hine. It was Marie who initially registered for the *Century Farm* project, applying for an information pack while John was

studying hard for his finals and finishing his dissertation. His first response was to say ‘you must be joking - no way’ but the family persuaded him to at least fill in the BBC questionnaire. Over 200 families applied, and 15 were asked to do a screen test. By this time the family had convinced John to consider the possibility of taking part. With a son really interested in history, and two of the children keen on drama it seemed like a great opportunity for the children to have a unique experience, so by the time the shortlist was down to three, John was convinced he wanted to take part.

The families had to take part in a rigorous selection procedure including interviews by psychiatrists, psychometric testing, more screen tests, questions and interviews. John says that his realistic attitude towards the harshness of the experience, as well as the strength of the family bond, convinced the BBC they were the right family for the project.

The McGraths were given some basic training (such as how to milk a cow and make butter, and first aid training) and then expected to live the life of 1904 as closely as they could to authenticity. With only two changes of clothes each and no electricity or running water it was hard work to keep the farm running. Water had to be carried in buckets from the well, while Marie had to bake all the bread and sodas and prepare all the food from scratch. John said they ate well, although there was very little meat. Eggs from the chickens and butter made from the milk was used to barter for other foodstuffs such as flour, cinnamon and treacle.

John said that the worst thing about the time in Cultra was the beds – made of horsehair they were extremely uncomfortable. He was struck by the lack of colour, everything was drab and brown or grey, in contrast to the bright colours we are used to in the 21st century. The house was also surprisingly noisy, with heavy boots on wooden or stone floors and the constant clanking of buckets. With no wet weather gear available clothes had to be dried in front of the turf fire – which was kept going night and day. John also said that it was very difficult to forget what they already knew, and that sometimes it was frustrating doing tasks the ‘correct’ way when they knew that modern technology would



John McGrath and family

make the task easier and faster. The hardest task was catching and clipping the sheep, and John was lucky not to have been knocked over by the ram. Although it looked funny on the TV, it could have caused a serious injury.

Other than Marie, who was taken away from the house for three days, the family only left Cultra once, to dig turf at Glenballylemon, where the farm was originally sited.

John said that the experience was hard, but he is glad he took part. He said that the highlight was going home, but that for the children to have the experience of living life without mobile phones, televisions and playstations had taught them a lot. They had the run of the museum at night, and made musical instruments, sang and danced and improvised a number of games. Their progress was reviewed at the end by a team of ‘experts’ who said that the family had the determination to succeed in the project.

The family all find it strange to be recognised in the street, but they are happy at how the programme came out in the end. John particularly feels that it will benefit the children, but believes he has learnt a lot himself. He thinks that the family now appreciates what they have, and said they found it quite hard to readjust to modern life. The lack of routine in 2004 was quite a shock after the daily grind of 1904. John realised when he left the farm that we really are part of the consumer society, and how influential advertising is in our daily lives.

Royal Microscopical Society Awards

Two graduates now undertaking post-graduate research in the School of Biomedical Sciences have scooped international awards from the Royal Microscopical Society for their PhD projects.

Chris Finlay, (BSc Hons Biomedical Science 2001, Coleraine), won the best overall project, for his work investigating the growth of tumours.

Rhonda Hanna, (BSc Hons Biomedical Science 2003, Coleraine), won the award for best paper in neuroscience and best overall presentation.

They received prizes of scientific software worth over £10,000 at a special ceremony in London.

Aileen Patterson MSc Applied Social Research 1988 Jordanstown and Certificate Further and Higher Education 1975

A pioneer of the teaching of speech and language therapy in Northern Ireland has been honoured by the profession.

Aileen Patterson, whose distinguished career has spanned teaching, research and clinical practice, was awarded the Honours of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists – an award made to only a few individuals annually.

Aileen has taught on the BSc Hons Speech and Language Therapy Course at UU since its inception and has been senior lecturer and course director for more than 15 years.

She has also contributed to the establishment and maintenance of academic and professional standards at other universities through being an external examiner, most recently at University College, London, the University of Strathclyde, the University of Reading and the University of Wales, and by sitting on the accreditation panel for courses including those in the Universities of Manchester, Cardiff and Leeds as well as the newest course in the UK at the University of East Anglia.

Dr Geraldine Cuskelly PhD 1997 Coleraine

Dr Geraldine Cuskelly has been appointed as the Livestock and Meat Commission's new meat nutritionist.

After graduating from Trinity College, Dublin, she completed a doctorate in the area of Nutrition at the Coleraine campus.

She has since held appointments as nutrition research fellow in the University of Florida, and as lecturer in nutrition at both the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and within the Faculty of Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. Geraldine's new role will include promoting a balanced diet.

She says:

"Without doubt the greatest challenge facing the health of our society is obesity. Rates among both children and adults are at an unprecedented high.

"LMC will be highlighting the essential contribution made by red meat to a balanced diet."

Wedding Bells for Theresa and John McLaverty

Magee alumni Theresa Doran and John McLaverty were married on 20 August 2004 in St Joseph's, Ballymartin, Co Down.

A reception in honour of the Bride and Groom, and their family and friends was held in The Mill at Ballydugan and their honeymoon was spent in Prague. Theresa graduated in 1999 with a BA Hons in Peace and Conflict and is currently working as Assistant to Eddie McGrady MP. John graduated in Irish History and Politics, also in 1999



Da Vinci Cup for student performance.

Fiona Smyth graduated with a first class honours degree in Hotel and Tourism Management in July 2004. Fiona won the Cup and a weekend for two at the Da Vinci's Hotel complex. The prize, sponsored by local hotelier and entrepreneur Garvin O'Doherty, aims to reward the highest achieving student in the Strategic Hospitality Management module.

Kin Chan BSc Hons Civil Engineering 1987 and MSc Data Processing 1988 Jordanstown

Kin Chan has been appointed by DTS (Digital Theater Systems, Inc.) as Director, Business Development, Greater China, to oversee operations from Hong Kong and focus on business development in the Greater China area, including China, Taiwan and Australia. He is based at its newest global office in Hong Kong. DTS is headquartered in Agoura Hills, and maintains offices in Guangzhou, China; Twyford, England; Bangor, Northern Ireland; and Tokyo. Prior to joining DTS, Kin served as CEO of LECCO Technology Limited, a world-renowned leader in SQL Optimization and a leading player in the industry of Application Performance Maintenance. Before LECCO, he was CEO of a Chinese network security technology company in Hong Kong. He also holds an MBA in International Studies from the University of South Australia.

RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Awards

UU graduate Aoife Bradley from Newcastle, a clinical genetics sister in Belfast City Hospital, won the prestigious title of RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year 2004.

Aoife graduated from UU in 1995 with a BSc Hons Professional Development in Nursing and then completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Guidance and Counselling in 1997. She also holds a Masters in Nursing from Queen's University, Belfast.

Aoife fought off stiff competition from ten other finalists to receive the award, sponsored by RCN Membership Services, for the significant role she has played in setting up Northern Ireland's cancer genetics service.

Aoife runs her own genetics counselling clinics in hospitals throughout Northern Ireland, where she provides professional advice to families with certain genetic conditions. She will shortly be one of the first thirty people in the United Kingdom to gain registration as a genetics counsellor.

Runner-up Valerie McNiffe is unit sister of the nurse-led mobile coronary care service based at Erne Hospital, Enniskillen and is also a UU Graduate. Valerie completed her BSc Hons Professional Development in Nursing at the Coleraine campus in 1993. She was commended for her vision and development of a nurse-led coronary care service to ensure continuity of care and retain the 24/7 service provision. As a result of her success, Valerie has been involved in setting up a similar service in other hospitals throughout the island of Ireland.

The Nursing Research Award, sponsored by the University of Ulster, was won by Bob Brown, a lecturer and researcher at UU and Mourne HSS Trust. Bob won the award for his doctoral thesis entitled *Listening to the voices of people who are dying: a qualitative study of the experience of loneliness*.

The awards were presented at a ceremony held in June 2004 in the Culloden Hotel, Hollywood, attended by health care professionals from across Northern Ireland and beyond.



Aoife Bradley with Angela Smith, MP

Joan Casey BA Business Studies 1987, PG Diploma Management Studies, MBA 1997, PG Certificate Further and Higher Education 2002, PG Dip Further and Higher Education 2003, Magee.



Award being presented to Joan by William Haire Permanent Secretary, DEL.

A graduate of UU no less than five times, Joan Casey has won a prestigious National Training Award. The Awards recognise outstanding achievement and success through training and development.

A Regional Development Executive in the University's Office of Innovation and Enterprise at the Magee campus, Joan is also an Associate Lecturer with the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education, a part-time lecturer with the University of Ulster and is a non-executive Director with Altnagelvin Trust. Joan is also the first Chartered Manager in Ireland.

Having left school at 16, to take up an employment opportunity, Joan decided to return to full-time education in 1982, studying for an HND in Business Studies. On her return to work in 1984, she continued with her studies on a part-time basis, completing her BA Business Studies degree in 1987. In the following years Joan has continued a dedicated period of study where she achieved her MBA, which has helped her own career, but has also enabled her to assist others.

Joan has been recognised for this devotion to her own personal development, which she has re-invested into the economic development of her local area. Joan has devoted her time to various Board memberships and volunteer business mentoring.

Congratulating Joan on her success, Employment and Learning Minister, Barry Gardiner MP, said:

"National Training Awards accreditation is often seen as the domain of large employers. The Awards are, however, also open to individuals and I congratulate Joan on achieving the standard. Joan is one of three people locally to be officially recognised for undertaking training programmes which benefit themselves, their organisations and others.

"I hope the example Joan has set will encourage others to seek similar recognition."

Speaking after receiving her award, Joan said:

"I am delighted with this award and humbled to have received it. It just proves you can do anything if you put your mind to it, particularly if you have the support of your family and the work place. I would encourage anyone to go for this, set your goals high and you can only achieve."

Fiach Reid BEng Electronics and Computing Magee 2002



Fiach, currently a student on the MSc Computing and International Business programme at Magee, has recently published *Network Programming in .NET*, with Elsevier Digital Press, US (ISBN 1555583156). It has been reviewed in several popular programming magazines, such as *VSI*, *Dr Dobb's Journal*, and *International Developer*.

The book has an accompanying website, <http://network.programming-in.net> and is available from Amazon at just under £24.

Emma Reinhardt
MA Peace and Conflict Studies
2000 Magee



Emma Reinhardt, from Newton, Massachusetts, is the founder of HERvoices, a nonprofit organization that provides a forum for women and girls to share their thoughts, experiences and viewpoints about local and global issues alike.

It comprises a series of touring presentations, each focused on a different community of women and girls. One presentation, entitled "HERvoices: From Sindh," is currently touring in the USA (and the UK late this Spring), with two additional presentations being added this June.

"The idea is to tap into the worlds and ideas of women and girls because, too often, they aren't invited or encouraged to participate in the public dialogue," said Emma. "Up until this point, most public records, public forums and public documents have been created by and in response to reactions and perceptions of men. Certainly and inevitably, there are women and girls contributing who aren't being heard from."

"HERvoices: From Sindh" is a multimedia presentation featuring women and girls from the Sindh region of Pakistan. The selected 12 Sindhi women, from different social, economic and educational backgrounds, speak about their lives through their own personal testimonies, sharing their thoughts on issues such as motherhood and war.

It is believed and has been witnessed that just by listening to these women's words, audience members are able to learn about a new community, but also "resolve something in themselves and be reminded of their own humanity." And, for the women and girls speaking through the presentations, the act of telling one's

story publicly can actually, sometimes, help "inform them of their own importance."

The idea for HERvoices stemmed from Reinhardt's work focusing on the role of women in conflict resolution, studied first in earnest whilst at Magee and then during her extensive MA field research in Wajir, Kenya. HERvoices provides a venue for communities of women and girls that want to share their stories publicly.

See the Web site www.hervoices.org for more information.

Chris Harrison
BA Hons Modern and
Contemporary History 1999
Coleraine
MA Communication, Public
Relations and Advertising 2001
Jordanstown

Chris Harrison has been appointed the youngest-ever chairman of The Institute of Public Relations Northern Ireland. Chris, aged 27, who works for Belfast public relations consultancy JLPR, was appointed at the organisation's annual general meeting at Belfast's Waterfront Hall in January 2004



"2005 promises to be a significant year for IPR NI as we celebrate our 40th anniversary and the Institute strives to achieve Chartered Status," he says.

"The Institute already plays an important role in representing the public relations industry in Northern Ireland and we must continue to build on that position, forwarding members' interests and growing the profile and standing of the IPR and the profession.

"Public relations is a thriving industry which contributes significantly to the economic and social fabric of Northern Ireland. IPR members play a central role in the workings of government, in the successes of Northern Ireland business at home and abroad and in the work of the voluntary sector.

Chris has been a committee member of

the IPR NI since the beginning of 2003 and served as press officer before becoming vice-chairman last year. Chris managed the Institute's Northern Ireland PRide Awards in November 2004.

Sean Beattie
DASE 1984 Coleraine
MEd 1992 Magee

Sean Beattie's latest book *Donegal in Old Photographs* was published in September 2004. This fascinating collection of pictures reveals all aspects of Donegal's life over the last century and a half. A substantial selection of the images relates to towns and villages, providing the reader with a glimpse of street life in days gone by. Other images include architectural heritage, the railway era, the world of sport and working life. There is also a fascinating chapter on island life with a magnificent series of images from Tory Island in the 1960's, which are published here for the first time.

Sean has already published a number of works on Donegal history. He is a regular contributor to the *Donegal Annual*, the Journal of Donegal Historical Society

We have been asked to notify readers of the deaths of the following alumni:

Ruth Clarke (BSc Hons Maths, Statistics and Computing 1994 Jordanstown)

Frank McArdle (Certificate in Foundation Studies for Mature Students 1993 and BA Hons Modern Studies in the Humanities 1996 Jordanstown).

Conor Keightley (BA Hons Visual Communication 1997 Belfast)

It is with great regret that we report the death of Conor Keightley in Thailand in the Boxing Day tsunami. Conor, aged 30, was from Cookstown. After graduating he went to work for an IT company in Edinburgh.

Conor was in Thailand after taking a year to travel to Australia and had been expected to return home in February. His family spent several anxious weeks before his sisters, who had travelled to the area to try to find him, were able to locate his body.

An Eventful Career -
 Lesley Maltman
 BSc Hons Communication,
 Advertising and Marketing 1996

If you asked a sample of 30-something females what the proudest day of their life to date was you might get a variety of answers where weddings and babies would feature quite highly. For me, however, it's quite a different story...



In October 2001, Dublin based Conference, Event and Destination Management Company, The Ovation Group, launched its Northern Ireland operation with a celebratory event and party in W5 at The Odyssey in Belfast and publicly welcomed me on board as Director of their Northern Ireland Office.

As I wandered amongst the 150-odd guests made up mostly of business contacts that I was lucky enough to consider friends, I think I grasped a bit of what most brides must feel like on their wedding day!

I was in no doubt at that moment that I wouldn't have been standing there on a 20ft podium in front of my peers, family and friends at the age of 27 if it hadn't been for my degree.

I am forever singing the praises of the BSc (Hons) Communication, Advertising and Marketing (affectionately known as CAM) I completed at Jordanstown. The theory was at times challenging but the practical elements of the course more than made up for the hours spent pouring over statistics and communication theory!

One of the main reasons I am in the position I am today is because of the invaluable experience I gained during my placement year. I spent the year working with Ardmere Group Holdings in Holywood, Co Down. A multi-disciplined company offering above and below the line marketing services including advertising, PR, direct mail and

telemarketing, it gave me the opportunity to explore the many facets of the communication mix.

I spent five years at Ardmere, working part-time when I returned to Jordanstown to complete my final year and accepting a full time position when I graduated. I was responsible for Print Management and Purchasing and also handled a variety of events for the company's clients, ranging from corporate hospitality to gala awards dinners and conferences.

That's where I realised how best to utilise my sometimes annoyingly organised nature to its best ability! I moved on from Ardmere to Belfast based Advertising Agency, A V Browne to manage their event management department and enjoyed two years working on nothing but events. Here I made some excellent industry contacts and it was on the recommendation of one of these that I was approached by Ovation.

The task of starting an operation from scratch was of course daunting and I never imagined that I would ever get involved in registering companies, sorting out premises and building a business from scratch.

Today Ovation employs some 50 people, seven of whom are based in the North. We've gone from little ol' me doing everything alone to having dedicated teams working in operations, sales and administration. I'm proud to say that I've continued to work with many of the contacts I've made over the years,

both suppliers and clients. Our client list includes BTNI, Open & Direct, Belfast City Council and The NI Film & Television Commission.

Before I worked for Ovation, my experience of events, both in theory and practice, was generalised. Ovation is one of the few Event Marketing companies who has specialised divisions working in Conference, Event and Destination Management. We work on a local level with event and conference clients and nationally and internationally to market Northern Ireland as a destination for conferences, meetings and incentives. We also have a client base in the UK where we get the opportunity to manage large scale awards ceremonies and conferences.

We currently have another CAM graduate in our employment and a Communication, Advertising and Public Relations Masters student working with us part-time. I've interviewed countless numbers of potential employees over the years and when I'm giving feedback, especially to graduates, I always stress the importance of the combination of work experience along with education. The CAM degree gave me that experience and provided me with the sound theoretical foundation I needed to succeed in business today. I probably spent many hours working in Ardmere when others students were sampling the special offers in The Crescent but I reckon all that hard work paid off in the end!

Lesley is the Vice-President of the University's Alumni Association.

First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award

The First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award for 2004-05 was awarded to Professor Joseph G Nellis at the Winter Graduation Ceremony at Jordanstown in December 2004.



From left: Dawn Watton, Professor Nellis, Ciara Mallon (First Trust Bank) and Professor Richard Barnett (Acting Vice-Chancellor).

Professor Nellis is Professor of International Management Economics, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Head of the Economics Group at Cranfield School of Management.

Professor Nellis studied at the then New University of Ulster, Coleraine, graduating with a BSc Hons Economics in 1976. He obtained an MA in Economics from Warwick and also has a PhD from Cranfield. He has held academic posts at the universities of Keele and Loughborough and he spent two years on Voluntary Service Overseas in Ghana. In 1984 he joined the School of Management at Cranfield University and was Director of the School's Full-Time MBA Programme from 1989 to 1993. He was appointed to the first Chair in Economics in 1993, establishing the Economics Group and from 1999 to 2003 he was Deputy Director of the School. In 2003 he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Management and took up the post of Director of the Policy, Strategy and Performance academic community

in January 2004. He sits on the School's Executive Board.

Professor Nellis is currently a Visiting Professor at the Krannert School of Management, Purdue, Indiana, USA, Central European University (CEE), Budapest, Tias Business School, Tilburg University, The Netherlands; Management Center Innsbruck, Austria and the Ghanaian Institute of Management and Public Administration, Ghana. In 2000, he received an "Outstanding Professor" award in Hungary for his contribution to curriculum development, funded by the TEMPUS Programme of the European Union. He is a member of The Association of MBAs International Accreditation Advisory Board.

Professor Nellis has published 18 books and over 200 academic and business journal articles. He is a frequent contributor to a wide range of national and international conferences and is a training consultant to a large number of UK and international companies in

the areas of macroeconomics, business environmental analysis and strategy formulation.

Professor Nellis successfully completed the London Marathon in 2003 and 2004. He has already booked his place for 2005!

Professor Nellis was presented with a work of art designed and made by Dawn Watton, who graduated from the University in July with an Honours Degree in Fine and Applied Arts.

The First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award is made each year to an alumnus/alumna of the University 'in recognition of outstanding achievement in their chosen field'. Nominees may have graduated in any year and from any course, from the University of Ulster or any of its predecessor institutions.

Nomination forms for 2005-6 are available at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni

Conference Ten: A Celebration of Young People in Leadership

By Christopher Johnston (BSc Hons Business Studies 2003, Jordanstown)



The UU team at the Conference Ten Gala Dinner.

Think of three of the most amazing things that you could do once you graduate from University. At the top of my list has to be the opportunity to work with a mix of students and graduates from the University of Ulster to organise Conference Ten: A Celebration of Young People which took place at the Odyssey in September 2004 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Washington-Ireland Program for Service and Leadership. The Washington-Ireland Program provides leadership development training and professional internship for students in Washington DC – the 'City of Magnificent Intentions'.

From the start the conference team which included graduates Michaela Smyth (BSc Hons Communication, Advertising and Design 2003, Jordanstown), Rachel Finlay (BA Hons International Studies 2003, Magee), Vanessa McGee (BSc Hons Interactive Multimedia Design 2004, Magee) and students Maria Curry, Ciara Phillips and Kevin McNamee knew that organising an international youth leadership conference in less than five months would be a challenge. Think of the relief then when a member of the team arrived on a Monday morning to tell us that, simply by chance, he had spoken over that weekend to former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds at a sporting event and had got his agreement to speak at the conference. This was only the beginning. We worked hard to secure a range of other speakers who included Richard Olivier, the son of Sir

Laurence Olivier and guest speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and Sir Kenneth Bloomfield former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service who would address over 250 conference delegates on topics such as inspirational leadership.

If you thought that it would be plain sailing from here there was the small issue of finance. After weeks of phone calls, buttering up, rejection and tribulation our team celebrated the last penny we raised which registered at £20,000 between financial donation and gifts in kind. The conference was now taking on a life of its own. I don't think that surprise could sum up my feelings when a letter from the United States Congress then arrived endorsing the conference, nor did I expect Senator Hillary Rodman Clinton to send her best wishes to the conference team during her visit to the University.

When the curtains finally went up on the day of the conference we had over twelve UU alumni and students working hard to ensure everything ran smoothly. One of the most memorable workshops at Conference Ten was led by Brian MacKay, an orchestra conductor, who coaxed 15 students onstage to demonstrate the principles of teamwork by coaching them to work as a team by singing in harmony. Other speakers such as Sir Kenneth Bloomfield spoke of the importance of cultivating a culture for developing young people

"I am more and more persuaded that young people should be admitted to positions of real responsibility. It is an accepted fact that most fundamental discoveries in science are made by comparatively young people".

It was only when I picked up the *Guardian* newspaper the next day and read a feature article on the Conference Ten that I realised the impact of what we had achieved.

Walker Communications Ltd: Small but perfectly formed

When Peter Walker stepped out of Jordanstown clutching a Higher National Diploma in Business Studies 20 years ago he spent two minutes considering a job offer from County Down newspaper publisher, Spectator Group, selling advertising space.



Within five years, Peter had reached advertising manager status. The next step was to set himself up in Newtownards as advertising agency Walker Communications.

Peter says he hasn't looked back since.

"It's never easy to make the leap from job security to self-employment but advertisers in the Newtownards area had been talking to me about looking after their other marketing needs – media placement, design, print work and so on," he says.

What he didn't know was best left unknown. "Had I had a clue about the markets, banks, tax, VAT, legislation, cash-flows, self-discipline, staff motivation and all the other components which make a successful business person, I would never have gone near it," he says. But he did and now Walker's employs 14 designers, marketing experts, media buyers and account executives.

"There is no magic ingredient," he maintains, "but the innovative nature of the industry has to be part of our business's daily pulse."

This means involving himself and his business in a wider field of activity which goes beyond the client relationship.

Peter says that having a reach into communities outside the media and beyond the client, opens up all sorts of new thinking. Walker Communications now provides a small bursary for graphic design students and displays their work on 48-sheet poster sites around Belfast.

"This relationship with the students means they benefit by being exposed to the realities of our industry. We benefit from learning about their ideas and views on the future," he says.

The agency also provides free-of-charge consultancy to the north's leading children's charities lobby organisation, Children in Northern Ireland.

"The need to present annual reports, promotions and other communications professionally is now recognised by everybody. Perception is everything and for an organisation such as CiNI which has to compete with other groups for attention at government level particularly, the quality

of its visual communications is critical to its success," he says.

For Walker's, the exposure to the voluntary sector provides perspective and a deeper understanding of audiences and publics and how these prefer to be communicated with.

An understanding of the public is sometimes the hard part for the client. Which is why Peter maintains that staying small and independent is important.

"You have to understand the natural reticence which many northern clients share. This reticence produces the typical Ulster paradox - they want to advertise, but not draw attention to themselves; they want to be seen to be successful but would really rather not be seen at all!

"Staying small and providing a personal and sensitive service provides the client with the confidence and assurance he needs that the money being spent is being spent wisely even if the marketing concepts to them appear risky. By spending that extra quality time with clients we are able to convince them to do what we want them to do."

In the meantime, the dedication of a small northern agency to quality has paid off. Twice a winner at the inaugural Northern Ireland Shopping Centre awards for advertising and marketing work on behalf of two clients, Peter now feels the time has come to expand its customer base, while still maintaining its size and structure.

"We don't want to grow," he says. "But we will always want to change. Our advantage is our size. Why would we want to forsake the advantage?"

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The University's Cultural Development Office in the Faculty of Arts has been working to organise a programme of exciting events in the areas of drama and dance. This has been made possible through the generous support of Bank of Ireland.

Drama Masterclass Series

Some of theatre's leading practitioners have been invited to visit the Magee campus to share their expertise and experience with first and second year drama students, based at the Centre for Creative and Performing Arts. Over the next two years, leading actors, directors and writers will visit the Magee campus to present specially created workshops, programmed to support students in their professional and artistic development. A parallel programme of talks/presentations by the visiting guests will be open to a wider audience. For the first half of the series (February 05 to November 05) the focus will be on female practitioners, all leaders in their respective fields, all 'Leading Ladies'.

The series was launched in February by acclaimed actress Dr Sinead Cusack. During her visit Sinead worked with first-year drama students on the module 'The Actor and the Text' focusing, in particular, on approaches to Shakespearean text. In the evening she also took part in a fascinating and highly entertaining 'In Conversation' event with Dr Tom Maguire, Subject Director for Drama. Speaking at the launch, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Bob Welch, said: "This is a superb way to start our Seminar Series, with one of the greatest Irish actresses, from one of the greatest Irish acting families."

The series continued with a visit in early March by the award-winning director and producer Cathie Boyd (Theatre Cryptic). Still to come in the spring programme is an eagerly anticipated visit by Garry Hynes, Artistic Director of the Druid Theatre, on 15 April. Garry will take part in an 'In Conversation' event at lunchtime and will also lead two workshops for drama students.

Other artists already lined up to participate in this novel series for the Spring and Autumn are Patsy Rodenberg (Voice

Coach at the National Theatre), Cathie Boyd (Theatre Cryptic), Dr Amanda Burton and Dr Fiona Shaw. The University is proud also to count Amanda and Fiona amongst its honorary graduates.

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."

Dance Activities for Young People

In September 2004 a new degree in Dance, the first of its kind in the island of Ireland, was introduced at the recently established Centre for the Creative and Performing Arts at the Magee campus. This is an exciting time for dance development in Northern Ireland and the University is keen to share its dance resources and facilities with the wider public.

The University, supported by Bank of Ireland, has developed an ongoing programme of dance activities for young people, aged 14-18, who are keen to develop skills in dance and who may be considering studying dance at third level.

This includes regular weekly classes at Magee and two longer, more intensive courses during Easter and Summer periods with the Easter course at Magee and the Summer course at Coleraine. Both of these will culminate in short public performances.

The dance activities encompass a range of styles and techniques: jazz dance, street dance - similar to the style of dance seen in today's popular videos, musical theatre, as seen in musical shows such as Fosse, Fame or Chicago, and movement/physical theatre.



Dr Sinead Cusack

For more information about sponsorship opportunities contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office: Telephone **028 7032 4204**; email va.farrell@ulster.ac.uk; website www.ulster.ac.uk/development

Art in Architecture

The University has embarked on the redevelopment of its Belfast campus at York Street. Through an exciting programme called Art in Architecture, the University is commissioning artworks across a wide range of disciplines for integration into the new building.

Work considered will span sculpture, paintings, prints, textile work, glass, light and other media, as well as design and visual communication. Some may be integral to the fabric of the building while others will involve collaboration with individuals or groups in local communities.

Over 100 submissions were received from artists across the world and the shortlisting process is well underway. It is hoped that commissions will begin in summer 2005 and will synchronise with the opening of the First Phase of the building.

This project is funded to date by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Lottery New Work Programme.

Riverside Theatre

UU is one of a select band of UK Universities to enjoy a fully functioning professional theatre on one of its main campuses, and the Riverside Theatre has undergone something of a renaissance in recent years.

The Theatre was built in 1976 from funds raised largely through the Gulbenkian foundation and was designed by one of the UK's premiere theatrical architects. The architects created a wonderfully warm auditorium, where every seat in the house feels like it has a direct connection with the stage.

So, long before there was a regional theatre in every town in Northern Ireland, the Riverside was up on the North Coast putting on concerts, exhibitions and plays and providing a launch pad for the University's creative alumni.

But what has happened to the Riverside in recent years? In late 2002 the Theatre acquired its first Artistic Director, Andrea Montgomery, and in early 2003 two more staff joined the team to work in Marketing and Operations, and a new Box Office team was put in place under Louise Geddis. Many of you will have spoken to Louise when you call to book tickets on **028 7032 3232**.

Riverside Theatre currently works in three ways: Riverside 4 the Community, Riverside-in-House, and Riverside Beyond.

Riverside 4 the Community works with students, charities,



schools, businesses and alumni, putting on plays, learning a range of skills in workshops, getting together to celebrate, playing music in the foyer or exhibiting on the walls. Everyday Riverside gets calls from people wanting help ranging from someone who can tell them if their play script is any good, to organising their business' 21st birthday party. Riverside fosters local talent, supports local youngsters to try out their creative ideas and gets local children working with professionals.

Riverside-in-house covers all of the Theatre's aspirations to bring, and create, the best professional work, inside its own four walls. The new team at the Theatre have given themselves the task of trying to find something for everyone, with just that little bit extra to stretch the imagination. One of the Artistic Director's great strengths is her international connections, and these days you'll often find a piece of work from South Africa, or a rope dancer from Quebec, sitting side by side in the programme with a cute ABBA tribute night. With its sophisticated new box office system and a programme that has increased from 18 shows a season to over 50, and a 40% increase in attendance, Riverside is helping to set the performing arts agenda in the province.

Riverside Beyond is where the Theatre goes beyond its own patch into areas unexplored. With a track record that includes West End producing and arts based training links to the likes of the Royal Albert Hall and J P Morgan, the new Riverside team were never going to be content just to sit at their desks. In the last two years we have initiated a first North-South co-production with Cork as part of the lead up to the city of culture in 2005; taught the top managers of BT Northern Ireland about body language, and helped to launch the provinces first Arts Marketing Agency.

As the Theatre enters 2005, the Riverside team seem to be in a reflective mood. Artistic Director, Andrea Montgomery, says:

"We've made a number of changes and I like to think we're more dynamic as entertainers and as a business, but we all want more. We want to get involved with other parts of the Northern Ireland community, we want to build synergies with business, we want to try different things. After all, we're linked to a University, so exploration and development should be our way of life! I think that the University's alumni are a powerhouse, providing ideas and partnership possibilities that are almost limitless. The Riverside wants to work collaboratively with those alumni."

Whether you are looking for sponsorship opportunities, training to revitalise your business, wanting to volunteer at the Theatre or just an opportunity to find out about shows and workshops, call **028 7032 4459**. Or, 1st April 2005, the Theatre will launch its own website, so you can look out for further information there.

Creative Pioneer Programme

The Creative Pioneer Programme, funded by NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) supports creative graduates in applying ideas to business in new and unconventional ways. NESTA are keen to recruit graduates from a variety of Arts disciplines including: Advertising, Architecture, Craft, Design, Digital Media, Fashion, Film & TV, Fine Art, Leisure Software, Music, Performing Arts, Photography, Publishing and Radio.

For further information, including application details, visit www.nesta.org.uk/theacademy/home.html

Fanning the Olympic Flame at University of Ulster



Front row L - R
Sarah Kerr (Badminton), Gary Clotworthy (Rugby), Paul Robinson (Rugby), Matthew McMurtry (Sailing), William Maybin (Rugby), Paul Beattie (Rugby), Matthew Crawley (Boxing), Michael Bustard (Boxing).
Back Row L - R
Phillip Davidson (Rugby), Paul Rea (Athletics), Steven Ward (Boxing), Paul Vennard (Rugby), Ross Hackney (Athletics), Mark Steenson (Athletics), Andrew Shannon (Badminton), Phillip Ross (Badminton).

High-flying teenage sports stars from Newtownabbey put their Christmas celebrations on hold by getting in some intense training at the University of Ulster's Olympic Youth Academy In December 2004.

The sixteen young people, aged 14-16, spent two days undertaking a mixture of theory and practical sessions covering strength and conditioning, preparation for competition and skill development. They also met a number of Irish sports stars including former Olympic boxer Cathal O Grady.

The athletes represented five sports – rugby, badminton, athletics, sailing and boxing – and have already shown exceptional promise.

This was their second get-together at the University, having taken part in a four day Academy at the Jordanstown campus in August. The idea behind the Academy is to show promising young sports stars the commitment and preparation needed to achieve Olympic status.

Alison Moffitt, Sports Development Officer at the University said 'The University is delighted to welcome back the Olympic Youth Academy and is looking forward to further enhancing the preparation and performance of these talented young people'.

The Academy is a partnership initiative involving the University of Ulster, Newtownabbey Borough Council, the Sports Institute Northern Ireland, Sports Council Northern Ireland and the Youth Sport Trust.

Elite Athlete Scheme

The Elite Athlete Entry Scheme, the only scheme of its kind in the UK or Ireland has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2002. Over 700 applications have been considered (including 266 this year) and over 170 students have entered the University as Elite Athletes under the scheme.

The scheme recognises the sacrifices in terms of time, effort and crucially - in examination performance - which may result from the pursuit of a sport to its highest levels of competition. In addition, the scheme demonstrates the important sporting ethos, which the University of Ulster espouses. The Elite Athlete scheme enables the University to accept lower academic entrance requirements than normal for entry to all its full-time undergraduate courses.

For further information about the scheme please contact www.ulster.ac.uk/eliteathlete

UU SOCCER TEAM – CHINA BOUND

The University has been invited to send a men's soccer team to tour China this summer as part of its growing collaborative partnership in the country. This will be the first opportunity for players and coaches from each of the campuses to play together in a UU Soccer team and preparations have already begun in earnest.

The tour will involve 4-5 matches and be centred in and around the Fuzhou Province, with the highlight due to be a match against Fuzhou University in a stadium of 40,000 spectators, with the match televised live across 4 provincial states.

The squad of 18 players will be selected following the Collingwood Cup and the players will draw on the expertise and facilities of the Sports Institute and University staff in their preparations. The University delegation will include Team manager Shane McCullough, Coach Marty McCann, and Head of Sport Nigel Dobson. Professor Peter Roebuck, Provost of the Coleraine Campus, will lead the party and a series of fundraising events will be staged prior to departure in late May.

Sports Scholarships/ Golf Bursary Awards

Twenty-seven outstanding young sportsmen and women have been recognised by the University for their sporting achievements



Fifteen young athletes have been selected for awards under the University's Sports Scholarship scheme, while twelve excellent young golfers have been awarded bursaries under the Royal and Ancient Golf Scheme. The Golf Bursaries are funded by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and supported by the Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster Branch).

The UU's Sports Scholarship Scheme selects a number of students each year who are deserving of financial help and support services to assist them in maintaining sporting excellence during their time at the University.

The awards span twelve different sports and include students who have competed for Great Britain Senior International Teams, Ireland Senior International Teams, Great Britain and Ireland Age Group International Teams, Northern Ireland Senior Teams and Senior Inter-Provincial Teams. Some have also competed at the Commonwealth Games, World Student Games, World Student Golf Championships and Commonwealth Championships.

Guest speaker at the awards ceremony was Irish international cricketer Andrew White, himself a UU Sports Scholar. Dr Nigel Dobson, Head of Sport and Recreation Services.

"With the support of many partners the scholarship and bursary schemes are developing year on year and this is reflected in the success of our athletes both on and off the field of play".

This is the 14th year of the Sports Scholarship Award Scheme and the 10th year of the Golf Bursary Scheme. The scheme has gone from strength to strength during that time and has become one of the most prestigious schemes in the UK and Ireland. The scholarships provide, financial help to offset travel expenses incurred in training and competition, the purchase of specialist equipment and clothing, University support services, including fitness testing, nutritional and biomedical advice and sports psychology and the services of the Sports Institute of Northern Ireland ie Strength and Conditioning and Physiotherapy.

Sports Scholarship Awards 2004/2005

Athletics

Raymond Adams, 3rd year BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Science

Badminton

Dona Scott, 1st Year BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Science

Boxing

Eamon O'Kane, MSc Intelligent Systems

Hockey

Graham Shaw, 2nd year BSc Hons Sport Studies

Judo

Lisa-Marie Brogan, 2nd year BA Hons Business Studies

Shauna Healey, 2nd year BSc Hons Building Surveying

Chris Donnelly, PGCE Physical Education

Netball

Hannah Irvine, 2nd year BSc Hons Sport Science

Soccer

Ross Handford, 2nd year BSc Hons Business, Finance and Investment

Squash

Tanya Owens, 1st year BA Hons Law and Government

Swimming

Jonathan Niblock, 1st year BA Hons Politics

Wheelchair Basketball

Paul McKillop, 3rd year BSc Hons Business, Finance and Investment

The Alumni Fund Sports Scholarship

This is the first award to be made from the recently established Alumni Fund, which is funded by donations from graduates and staff of the University. This enables our alumni to make a real difference to students currently studying at the University. The first recipient of this award is international cricketer **Andrew White**.

For more information see page 14.

The Sports Union Scholarships

Gaelic Football

Philip Loughran, 4th year BEng Hons Civil Engineering

Athletics

Anna Boyle, 4th year BSc Hons Sport, Exercise and Leisure

Royal and Ancient Golf Bursars 2004/2005

Connor Doran (Handicap +1), 3rd Year BA Hons Business Studies

Alex McCloy (Handicap +0.7) PhD Life and Health Sciences

Jayson McIntyre (Handicap 1), 3rd Year BA Hons Media Studies

Lee McKenna (Handicap 1), 2nd Year BSc Hons Construction Engineering and Management

Ryan Navan (Handicap 1), 2nd Year Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Trevor Spence (Handicap -0.5), 2nd Year BSc Hons Construction Engineering

Gordon Campbell (Handicap +3.6) MA, Design and Communication

Conor Cooley (Handicap +2), 1st Year BSc Hons Business Finance and Investment

Graeme Dickson (Handicap +1), 4th Year BA Hons Business Studies with DIS,

Craig McCormick (Handicap +2), 4th Year BSc Hons Construction Engineering and Management

Michael Dickson (Handicap +4), 2nd Year BSc Hons Property Investment and Development

Dean Nicolletti (Handicap +3), 2nd Year BSc Hons Engineering and Management



University of Ulster Memorabilia

The University offers a wide range of quality memorabilia which make memorable souvenirs or gifts for friends and family. There are a number of ways to buy, including calling in to Bridge Biz, Coleraine campus, and Spar, Jordanstown campus. Goods may also be purchased by post, mail order and e-mail.

For a full list of items with prices and photos and an order form, visit our website at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni/memorabilia.html

For further information contact the Alumni Relations Office, Tel 028 9036 8350 or e-mail alumni@ulster.ac.uk



Genosos Rollerball



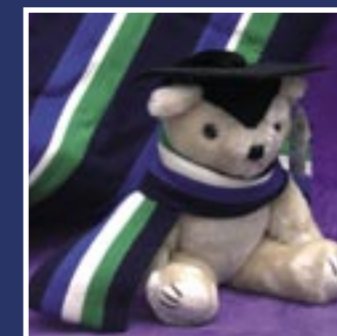
Cross Ballpoint and Pencil Set



Vector Rollerball and Civic Ballpoint



Waterman Ballpoint and Fountain Pen



Items include:

Sweatshirt (80% Cotton, 20% polyester) embroidered with UU logo in navy or grey	£22	Cross Ballpoint & Pencil Set	£38
T-Shirt (100% Cotton) embroidered with UU logo in navy or grey	£8.40	Genoso Rollerball	£10
Teddy Bear with Mortar Board and UU Scarf	£12	Parker Vector Rollerball (White)	£4
Striped Scarf (100% wool)	£15	Civic Ballpoint (Blue)	£1.75
Mobile Phone stand	£3.25	Belleek Plate	£26.00
Waterman Ballpoint Pen	£28	Campus Prints, Framed	£49.50
Waterman Fountain Pen	£31	Unframed	£5
		Golf Umbrella	£29
		Sleeve of 3 Golf Balls (Titleist Pro V1)	£8

everybody wins!

For further details of your Alumni Preferential Package phone 0800 7838 591,
e-mail: everybodywins@boi.ie

