

ULSTER GRADUATE



The magazine
for alumni and friends
of Ulster University

Edition 38
Summer 2015

INSIDE

Ulster University's
world-leading research
Ulster University
and the Turner Prize

MEET

*Shane Kelly, Cinematographer
on Boyhood hit*
The Silk supporting our students

PLUS

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Welcome

The world of education is ever changing, and to grow and prosper, this University is always adapting and responding to the expectations and needs of students, society and industry. That is why you will notice a new look and a new name – Ulster University – throughout this issue of *Ulster Graduate*.

As part of the alumni family, you can be proud of an association with a strong and vibrant University.

This year, we have been included, for the first time, in the prestigious *Times Higher Education* 100 Under 50 Rankings, which recognise dynamic young universities that are making a global impact in areas of teaching, research and knowledge transfer.

Our reputation was also significantly enhanced by superb results in the Research Excellence Framework 2014 last December. You can read about this on pages 16–19. Clearly, our research is making a definite and valuable impact locally and globally, and as a graduate you can also be satisfied that your University continues to make a material difference to people's lives in so many ways and in so many locations worldwide.

Both local and global impact is best achieved when knowledge creation is matched by drive and innovation in economic, social or cultural advancements. That is why the University continually strives to combine local focus with global ambition and continues to nurture and develop graduates who can make a difference in the world.

As thousands of new graduates emerge from the University this summer, joining an alumni network now numbering some 170,000, we know they will go on to achieve excellence in their fields. In this edition of *Ulster Graduate* you can read about the many alumni who are already making an inspirational impact at home and abroad, whether in business, the arts, sport or humanitarian activities.



We were delighted to receive a number of donations in response to the last edition of *Ulster Graduate*, and we are seeing more and more alumni coming on board to support the Ulster University Student Fund. In this edition, you can find out about the significant impact the ongoing support from alumni is having on the lives of many current students, as well as hearing what motivates alumni to give.

I am sure that you will join me in welcoming our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paddy Nixon, to the Ulster University family and will wish him every success in his new role.

I hope you will consider offering your support to the next generation of students through our new mentoring programme, providing work experience and placement opportunities for students and graduates, and supporting their path through Ulster University.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine and continue to actively engage with the University. Please keep in touch with us through the various channels listed below, and continue to help us educate, support and truly inspire our fellow Ulster graduates.

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CREATING *BRIGHTER FUTURES*

Imagine a creation so future-focused that it could almost be a science fiction invention. A mobile device capable of diagnosing 15 medical conditions may conjure up *Star Trek*®. That's not a fiction. At Ulster University – your university – that's a fact. It's ambitious research that is real – delivering real solutions for real people.

That commitment to global impact is why Ulster University enjoys outstanding results in research excellence. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework recognised this University as one of the top five in the UK for world-leading research in law, biomedical sciences, business and management and art and design. From revolutionising treatment for diabetes and heart disease to advising global governments on victim and human rights, in these areas of excellence, and many more, we have ambitious plans to continue our research influence.

Our international reach is helping to put Northern Ireland on the global stage. Our capability, insight and inventiveness draw inward investment. Deep connections with business, industry and the professions ensure that we create the very best opportunity for our students and for Northern Ireland to thrive. Ulster University is a place where market needs and student aspiration combine. Generating almost 9,000 jobs, and with a combined impact on the economy of £810m in 2012–2013, this University is vital to economic growth and development, central to the knowledge economy, and the shaper of entrepreneurial flair and assured employees in equal measure.

As much as our fresh thinking is shaping our future direction, our history speaks for itself. Take the Belfast School of Art. It has been nurturing imagination and creativity for generations. Its graduates, creative minds and visionaries are now the talent at the heart of

the flourishing creative industries in Northern Ireland. In this issue you can read about our latest Turner Prize-winning graduate – Duncan Campbell – as well as Ulster graduate Shane Kelly, Director of Cinematography on the BAFTA-winning film *Boyhood*.

Having broken into the top 100 of elite young universities in the *Times Higher Education* 100 Under 50 Rankings, I join Ulster University at an exciting time and am looking forward to the opportunity ahead. The aspiration of a student, the scope of a spin-out company, the potential of a partnership, the impact of a research project and the prospects of the region inform our future ambitions.

Professor Sir Richard Barnett leaves a strong legacy upon which to build for the future. As Vice-Chancellor, his commitment to enhancing research outcomes, to widening participation in higher education, to local and international collaboration, and his contribution to economic development have had an impact on individuals, organisations and communities. We wish him well in his retirement.

I fully expect to come across very many Ulster University graduates in the coming months and years. Please do make yourself known to me if our paths cross. I would love to hear about your story and the impact you are making.

Professor Paddy Nixon
Vice-Chancellor

NEW BRAND, NEW ERA



In October the University entered an exciting new era with the launch of the new Ulster University brand.

The world of higher education is becoming increasingly competitive and with the redevelopment of the £250m Belfast campus underway, it was time to build a brand that matches our international reputation for teaching excellence and world-leading research.

The new brand is much more than a name change and new logo as Rhonda Gibson, Director of Public Relations and Communications, explains:

“The new brand encapsulates what the University values, how we behave, how others experience us and is inspired by the spirit of our people – our students, staff, stakeholders, and of course alumni.

“Our brand proposition, shaping futures, positions Ulster University as a modern, progressive university delivering career-focused education and relevant, world-leading research. It reflects our engagement with business and our contribution to the growth and prosperity of the region’s economy and society. It is a truly engaging rebrand that captures and conveys a successful and growing Ulster University.”

Ulster enters TOP 100 ELITE YOUNG UNIVERSITIES

Ulster University has been included for the first time in the prestigious *Times Higher Education* 100 Under 50 Rankings.

The rankings recognise dynamic young universities making a global impact in areas of teaching, research and knowledge transfer and use the same 13 rigorous performance indicators used to judge world-class research universities in the overall *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings.

Professor Alastair Adair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Development, said: “Inclusion in these global rankings reflects a progressive approach to teaching, our pioneering research strength and impact and our commitment to innovation and the transfer of knowledge into the marketplace. These rankings confirm that global achievement is not restricted to those longer established institutions, but can be developed and demonstrated in decades, not just in centuries. Ulster University has made a great impression in a much shorter period of time.”

UNIVERSITY PORTFOLIO COMPANY ACQUIRED FOR ALMOST £30M

A global software company with roots deep in Ulster’s Magee campus has been acquired by Cambridge-based Aveva for a figure of £27.9m.

8over8 now employs more than 70 staff, many of whom are Ulster University alumni, and boasts a global footprint across the US, Australia, the Middle East and the rest of Europe. The software company was based at the incubation centre at Magee until 2014 when it moved to the North West Regional Science Park in Derry–Londonderry.

The company’s flagship product is ProCon, a risk management software platform used by some of the world’s largest oil and gas mining firms.

The close links developed with the Magee campus enable the company to access leading research being undertaken by the University, with potential for further growth.

Ulster University graduate **Declan Gribbin** is one of the founding members of 8over8, joining the company through the KTP programme.

As Chief Technology Officer he has played a pivotal role in the development and delivery of the ProCon product.

ULSTER ELKS TRIUMPH



The Ulster Elks women's hockey team lifted the coveted Irish Senior Cup for the first time in March, signalling celebrations among supporters far and wide.

The Ulster side had gone into the game as outsiders against Dublin side Hermes, gunning for a quadruple set of trophies this season. The ladies from Ulster

University completely outplayed the Leinster champions to emerge 1–0 victors in a match won much more emphatically than the scoreline suggested.

Alumni around the world were able to watch the live stream of the game online. "It is an amazing achievement not only for this great group of players but also

for Ulster University as a whole," captain Gemma Frazer said after the game. "The support was phenomenal both at the ground but also around the country, online and afar. I can't thank everyone enough for their encouragement of the team."

The team has now qualified to represent Ireland in European competition, and to help build on this sporting success, an Ulster University Alumni Hockey Fund has been launched.

Financial support from alumni, staff and friends can nurture elite and developing players by providing opportunities for them to combine their studies with training at Ulster University's world-class sports facilities.



To support the Alumni Hockey Fund, please visit daro.ulster.ac.uk/donateonline

ULSTER'S MAJOR IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

The significant economic impact of Ulster University and our students on the Northern Ireland economy was confirmed in a recent report by Universities UK.

The report found that higher education here is worth £1.5bn to the local economy per year, creating over 18,000 jobs. Ulster University alone employs over 3,000 people, delivering £112m annually in salaries to the local economy and a further £15m through the local supply chain.

The Universities UK report found that in 2012–13, Ulster University generated almost 9,000 jobs. For every 100 jobs created in the University, a further 96 were created in other parts of the UK economy. Ulster University also generated an economic value of £385 million and had a total impact on the economy of £810 million in that year; again demonstrating the substantial benefits the University brings across Northern Ireland.

With higher education widely recognised as a key economic driver for Northern Ireland, the report demonstrates the vital role Ulster University plays in shaping and developing the potential of our economy.

Diabetes medication discovery

Ulster University's world-leading scientists have discovered that a drug taken for diabetes could also reverse the effects of cognitive decline commonly associated with diabetes and related neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

A University study showed that a daily dose of the oral drug Sitagliptin over 21 days significantly reversed memory impairment as well as improving metabolic control in diabetic mice.

The University is now calling for trials to be performed to see if Sitagliptin can offer the potential to improve cognitive function in a clinical setting.

Professor Victor Gault said: "Ulster University believes these new findings offer enormous potential for drug repurposing and that an already licensed drug could be tested safely in humans to ascertain if it also offers beneficial neuroprotective effects in diabetes and other neurodegenerative disorders."

Belfast

Frenetic flow of

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

A PACKED PROGRAMME OF MORE THAN 80 EVENTS CUT A HIGHLY CREATIVE PATH THROUGH A RANGE OF DISCIPLINES IN THE 2015 EDITION OF THE ULSTER UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL OF ART AND DESIGN AT THE BELFAST CAMPUS IN MARCH.

The eighth annual showcase of the very best in creativity and innovation at Ulster University attracted artists from all over the world for a busy week of talks, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

The campus was alive with the frenetic flow of artists criss-crossing the many venues, and in the mix were 16 alumni who returned to their old stomping ground to make a tremendous contribution to the Festival.

They included 1976 graduate **John Carson** who is now Head of the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA, and London-based lifestyle photographer **Helen Cathcart** who has worked for some of the biggest publications in the world.

Other artists taking part in the Festival this year also included Axel Scheffler, illustrator of the well-known children's book *The Gruffalo*. Mike Bell, creator of YouTube hit, Simon's Cat, provided a fascinating insight into its conception and development, while local neon artist Kevin Killen in partnership with London-based dancer and choreographer, David Ogle, created a series of neon light sculptures, along with a stunning performance piece.

Running within the Festival was the increasingly prestigious Belfast International Festival of Performance Art, which included a special programme of performances, talks and workshops.

"Ulster University has historically been the principal source for new creative talent in Northern Ireland, and it continues to fulfil this increasingly important role," said Festival Director, Tim Kerr.

"We aim to bring people at the forefront of new progressive thinking and contemporary perspectives on art and design – people who are really pushing things forward in an adventurous and thought provoking way. We achieved that once again this year and I am delighted that in keeping with our position as a leading player in contemporary arts, the stature of the Festival keeps on growing."



Coleraine

WISE award for FEMALE ROLE MODEL



Professor Tara Moore, Director of the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute at the Coleraine campus, was presented with the prestigious WISE Hero Award by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, at a ceremony in London in November.

The WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Awards celebrate female talent in science, technology and engineering and aim to increase the gender balance in the UK's STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) workforce.

The award was given in recognition of Professor Moore's contribution to health, wellbeing, safety and improving people's lives through science and technology.

Tara has developed and delivered numerous innovative online postgraduate teaching and training courses for healthcare professionals and works closely with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the Royal College of Physicians, UK.

Tara is also Group Leader of Vision Science Research and leads a team of scientists who are developing innovative gene silencing and gene editing based therapies to treat blinding eye disease.

As a proud mother of seven young children, Tara serves as a great role model for her own six girls and other women who aspire to a career in science and academia.



Jordanstown

ULSTER HOSTS TEAMS ON THE ROAD TO RIO

The Italian women's hockey team were at the Jordanstown campus in April to play two of their games in a three-match test series against Ireland.



Both teams were at the home of the newly crowned Irish Senior Cup Champions, Ulster Elks, preparing for World League 3 tournaments in Spain and Belgium, qualification games for the Olympics in Rio 2016.

Match one finished Ireland 1 Italy 0. The match two result was a 1-1 draw and match three ended 3-3.

The Irish team was captained by current Ulster student Megan Frazer and seven current students and two alumni are on the men and women's hockey training panel for the next Olympic qualifying tournaments in the summer.

The Brazil national men's hockey squad also took a three-week training camp at Jordanstown in April to continue preparations towards the Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada in July.

It was the turn of the Russian and Irish boxing teams to make use of the world-class Jordanstown facilities later in the month, when the University hosted a pre-Olympic training camp.

As part of their Rio 2016 preparations the two teams held a series of sparring matches in a new gym dedicated to boxing at the campus.

The matches featured Paddy Barnes and Michael Conlan, who have trained at Jordanstown for years and have both already qualified for Rio.

Both teams drew inspiration from famed Belfast boxer, Wayne McCullough, who has allowed the University to display his Olympic silver medal in the campus trophy cabinet.

Magee

150 YEARS of Magee



The proposed new teaching block for Magee



The former Magee College, founded with a bequest of £20,000 and now the home of multi-million pound investments in high-tech research equipment, is marking 150 years since it first opened as a centre of learning.

The campus took its name from Martha Magee, the widow of a Presbyterian minister.

In 1845 she bequeathed £20,000 to the Presbyterian Church of Ireland – equivalent to over £2m today – to found a college for theology and the arts.

Opened in 1865, it was primarily a theological college, but accepted students from all denominations to study a variety of subjects. The original building is still a central feature of the campus.

Since 1953, Magee has had no denominational affiliation and today

provides a broad range of state-of-the-art undergraduate and postgraduate academic degree programmes.

In recent years the University campus has grown from having just 273 students in 1984 to over 5,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students today.

Just how far the University has developed in the last 150 years was exemplified in March at the official opening of Ulster's new £11.5m Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine.

The new Centre, based in the Clinical Translational Research and Innovations Centre (C-TRIC) at Altnagelvin Area Hospital in Derry-Londonderry, focuses on personalised medicine approaches to managing chronic diseases and is at the cutting edge of medical research.



The Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine officially opened in March

The new teaching facility on the Coleraine campus



Redevelopment of the University's Belfast campus



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF ULSTER UNIVERSITY

There have been major developments to the physical environment of your University in the past year.

COLERAINE

The new £5.1m teaching facility on the University's Coleraine campus was completed in March.

The development comprises of a state-of-the-art, three-storey building, joined to the existing central building via a glazed link.

In addition to a 250 seat raked lecture theatre and a series of teaching rooms, the new facility includes hubs on each floor with soft seating areas and Wi-Fi access providing students with a less formal learning space.

Refurbishments to Block E were completed in 2014, providing modern corporate meeting and teaching facilities.



Magee campus

MAGEE

There was another major step forward in the realisation of the University's strategic vision for the Magee campus in April as Employment and Learning Minister Stephen Farry approved the development of a new £11m teaching block.

The new teaching block involves the creation of modern new facilities incorporating a 340 seat lecture theatre, two smaller lecture theatres, 20 classrooms and a café. Construction will start later this year and will take two years to complete.

The development will facilitate a collaborative teaching approach at Magee and will ensure that all available teaching space is used efficiently.

The University continues to make a strong case for further expansion of the Magee campus both to increase higher education provision for Northern Ireland as a whole and to support the economy in the north-west, and beyond.

JORDANSTOWN

At Jordanstown, the University continued to progress its vision for the campus, working in partnership with stakeholders including the local Council to ensure the benefits the redevelopment offers can be fully realised.

The plans include retaining a range of existing University facilities including some engineering specialisms, the Dalriada Student Village, investing £6.2m in a second sports hall and the development of an urban village residential area.

The University believes that these plans will enhance the local community, providing opportunities for housing, community facilities and local employment, leaving a positive, lasting legacy from our 40-year association with the area.

BELFAST

The ambitious redevelopment of the University's Belfast campus in the heart of the city has made significant progress in the past year.

Construction of the £250 million project began in 2013 and the 75,000 square metre campus is expected to be completed in 2018. With construction undertaken by McLaughlin and Harvey, the phase one campus building adjacent to the existing building in York Street is nearing completion, giving the city the first sight of the University's vision for a modern, innovative and inspiring environment for teaching, learning and research.

In April the University announced that the £150 million contract for phase two of the new Belfast campus was awarded to a joint venture between local company Lagan Construction Group and a Portuguese firm, Somague Group.

Phase two will see two new blocks developed on York Street, directly opposite the existing campus building. The project is currently the largest building development in Northern Ireland.

The completed campus will consist of four interlinked buildings at York Street, Frederick Street and Donegall Street and by 2018, over 15,000 students and staff will bring the new campus to life and bring significant regeneration to this part of the city.

The importance of the project to the economic regeneration of Belfast, alongside the educational benefits it will bring, was recognised by the Northern Ireland Executive and the European Investment Bank early in the year.

The Executive provided a loan of £35m through the Financial Transactions Capital scheme, while a loan facility of £150m was secured from the European Investment Bank.



ULSTER SPINOUT TO BOLDLY BID FOR \$10 MILLION X PRIZE

“We are looking forward to the final phase of the competition and remain committed to success on all fronts.”

An Ulster University spinout company has made the final of a \$10 million global competition to take Dr Spock's famous tricorder device out of science fiction and into reality.

Team zensor from Intelesens Ltd, the Belfast-based spinout which designs remote vital signs monitors, was selected as one of the 10 finalists in the prestigious Qualcomm Tricorder X Prize last September.

The three and a half-year competition encourages the development of a consumer-focused mobile device much like the medical body scanner featured in the *Star Trek*® TV and film shows.

The ‘tricorder’ must be capable of diagnosing and interpreting a set of 15 medical conditions and capturing five vital health metrics.

Some 300 teams around the world initially signed up to compete.

The award-winning team zensor has developed a wearable ECG, respiration, SpO₂, and activity monitor with on-board arrhythmia algorithms and a set of blood diagnostics that transmit irregularities directly to the clinician via Wi-Fi. It has the potential to revolutionise healthcare by lowering hospital costs and diagnosing patients earlier.

In advance of what is hoped will be the winning final submission to the X Prize competition, the team is currently testing the zensor prototypes on consumers.

The Ulster spinout is up against nine other finalists from a range of backgrounds, including medical device manufacturers and technology start-ups in the United States, Taiwan, India, Canada, Slovenia and the UK.

Team zensor is led by CTO and Biomedical Engineer Professor Jim McLaughlin, Principal Engineer Ian McCullough, and Commercial Manager Shannon Wolf Montague, all of whom are Ulster alumni.

Professor McLaughlin, a distinguished international physicist, is the Director of the Engineering Research Institute (ERI) and Director of the Nanotechnology and Integrated BioEngineering Centre (NIBEC) at Ulster's Jordanstown campus.

“Consumers are becoming more and more informed about their own health, and to date the technology has not been there to support them,” he said.

“That is why team zensor is dedicated to achieving the ultimate goal of producing a world-class device. It has been a big achievement to get this far, but we are looking forward to the final phase of the competition and remain committed to success on all fronts.”

The zensor team takes an integrated and collaborative approach to the competition and has partnered with international clinical diagnostics leader, Radox Laboratories, represented by Ulster staff member, Dr Mary Jo Kurth, a Biochemist.

The team is also working with renowned Cardiology Consultant Dr David McEaney, NIBEC's Dr Jeremy Hamilton, who is an Ulster University graduate, and the newly formed Connected Health Innovation Centre.

The final round of the X Prize will take place in the United States and there will be an awards ceremony early in 2016.





Professor Marie McHugh, Dean of Ulster University Business School and Danske Bank Chief Executive, Gerry Mallon

40 years of doing **GREAT BUSINESS**

Four decades of nurturing the businesses, entrepreneurs and corporate leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow are being celebrated as part of the ruby anniversary of Ulster University Business School in 2015.

The world-leading centre of business excellence has an alumni body of more than 60,000, in more than 120 countries, and is calling on them to join the anniversary celebrations.

The School began life in 1975 under the first Dean, Professor Aidan O'Reilly, with 40 staff and 300 undergraduates, and from those modest beginnings it has evolved into one of the largest business schools in Britain and Ireland, making a highly significant contribution to the growth and development of the Northern Ireland economy as well as elsewhere in the world.

With a current student body of 6,000 students, 200 staff, a course list comprising over 100 undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD degree choices and world-leading research, the School has become one of Ulster's largest faculties and a major engine of growth within the University.

The world-leading economic and societal impact of the School's research has placed it seventh in the UK out of 101 business schools rated under UK government research assessments. It has also been established as a major centre for management and business education internationally, with links to Harvard and Babson College in Boston.

Over the years Ulster University Business School has fostered all types of business acumen and success, from property magnates to serial entrepreneurs to top economic advisors and venture capitalists. Many of its alumni have risen to be among the big names in business in Northern Ireland and across the world.

Among its host of prominent alumni are recently appointed Ulster Bank CEO, **Richard Donnan**, and Danske Bank Chief Executive, **Gerry Mallon**. Danske's Chief Economist, **Angela McGowan** and **Colin Walsh**, Chairman of the CBI in Northern Ireland and Founder and Managing Director of Crescent Capital, are also graduates. Colin was the recipient of Ulster's First Trust Bank Distinguished Graduate Award in 2014.

High-profile entrepreneurs who advanced through the School include **Sean Gallagher**, a former investor on RTE's *Dragons' Den*, and **Philip Bain**, founder of ShredBank, the largest on-site shredding company, in Northern Ireland.

Julie Hastings, Marketing Director with Hasting Hotels, **Roberta Brownlee**, Chair of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, and Channel 5's *How to Be A Property Developer* presenter and Richland Group CEO, **Gary McCausland**, are also alumni.

Professor Marie McHugh, Dean of Ulster University Business School, said: "As Northern Ireland's leading business school we have much to celebrate this year and over 60,000 alumni to celebrate it with us.

"Our vision has always been to provide our students with a professional education to prepare them for professional life. To continually deliver that vision our approach has evolved and developed significantly over the last four decades, reflecting the rapidly changing social and economic environment and workplace challenges faced by our graduates.

"We are delighted to have a distinguished group of alumni who are helping to shape this year's ruby celebrations and I look forward to attending the many events, both academic and social, which are planned."



FOUR DECADES OF FOSTERING TOP BUSINESS PEOPLE



Norman McKinley

MBA Business Administration 1996

Norman took his MBA from Ulster University Business School while developing a successful career within personal health and social services in Northern Ireland. He joined the Red Cross as Regional Director for Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man in 1997. He was subsequently seconded to a number of senior roles within the organisation before being appointed as UK Director for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. He is now Executive Director for UK Operations at British Red Cross.

Julie Sinnamon

BA Hons Business Studies 1981

In 2014 Julie became the first ever female CEO of Enterprise Ireland. The Irish government organisation is responsible for the development and growth of Irish enterprises in world markets in over 30 international locations that facilitate access to 60 countries worldwide. Julie was formerly Executive Director for Global Business Development in Enterprise Ireland.



Margaret Molloy

BA Hons European Business Studies 1993

Based in New York, Margaret is Global Chief Marketing Officer and Global Head of Business Development, with international branding firm Siegel+Gale. Margaret has been recognised as one of the Top 10 CMOs on Twitter by Forbes, 'Most Influential US-Irish American Leaders' by *Business & Finance magazine* and a 'Top 100 Irish Americans in Business' by *Irish America magazine*. She is also a prominent supporter of Irish-led causes in New York.

Dominik Mjartan

MBA Business Administration 2003

Dominik is Chief Executive Officer of Southern Bancorp Community Partners, an Arkansas-based development finance and lending organisation founded in 1986 by the then Governor, Bill Clinton, Walmart Chair, Rob Walton, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and others. The Southern financial institution has over \$1.1 billion in assets and 80,000 customers at its 39 branches in Arkansas and Mississippi.



Pete Boyle

BA Hons Business Studies 1995

Jewellery entrepreneur Pete continues to grow his highly successful chain of Argento stores across the UK and Ireland. He opened a store on Grafton Street in Dublin and a flagship Belfast shop and headquarters last year. His company now employs 350 people and is the number one destination for branded jewellery online. The Tyrone-born former Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 finalist started Argento from a market stall in Belfast's Royal Avenue.

RUBY LUNCH REGISTER NOW TO GET INVOLVED

A committee comprising distinguished alumni, led by Danske Bank Chief Executive, Gerry Mallon, is organising events and activities to mark the 40-year milestone.

The highlight of the year is a **Ruby Lunch at Titanic Belfast (20 November)**, which will give alumni and friends the opportunity to celebrate the past, present and future of Ulster University Business School.

Undergraduates or postgraduates at Jordanstown, Belfast, Coleraine or Magee from 1975 onwards who pursued a business-related course such as accounting,

finance, hospitality, tourism, marketing, entrepreneurship, human resource management or international business are invited to register for more information www.business.ulster.ac.uk/forty



Mr Simon Bray, Managing Director of Santander Universities UK, with former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Richard Barnett

Santander Universities support extended

Santander Universities has extended its excellent and highly beneficial partnership with Ulster University for another three years.

Since first signing a funding agreement with the University in 2011, Santander Universities has invested some £480,000 in a wide range of philanthropic support for scholarships and awards at Ulster University.

The funding offers students and staff numerous benefits and life-changing opportunities ranging from study abroad experiences to awards for non-academic achievement, internships, and a range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities.

Deeply committed to higher education, Santander gives more support to the worldwide university community than any other bank and its support to Ulster through Santander Universities makes a deep impact in all four campuses and the wider economy.



BA Hons Fine Art Printmaking graduate, Donall Billings, on his Santander Universities placement

“ This is an internship scheme that offers a low risk, low cost opportunity to employers and excellent opportunities for graduates. ”

Graduate talent generates great outcomes

With the support of Santander Universities, Ulster is one of the most successful universities in the UK in providing graduates with valuable full-time internships with SMEs.

Over 70 universities participate in the Santander Universities SME Internship Scheme and last year Ulster University filled the 17th highest number of internships of all participating universities.

More than 80 students have so far gained an internship through the scheme over the past two years, and more than 60% of the roles filled have led to offers of further employment.

Graduates who secure a place receive a £3,000 bursary over a three-month period, 50% funded by the employer, 50% funded by Santander Universities and administered by Ulster University.

The partner employers come from across all sectors and locations within Northern Ireland and include young start-up companies and more established medium sized firms.

BA Hons Fine Art Printmaking graduate Donall Billings completed his Santander Universities SME Internship with Belfast Print Workshop, where he investigated alternative photographic processes for printmaking.

He subsequently secured a graduate technician role with Seacourt Print Workshop, a leading artist printmaking resource in Bangor, County Down.

Donall said: “The Santander Universities internship in partnership with the University gave me the opportunity and the confidence to work in a professional environment.”

Brian Byers, Employability Manager at Ulster University, believes the programme offers local businesses the ideal mechanism for bringing Ulster graduate talent into their workforce.

He said: “Thanks to Santander Universities this is an internship scheme that offers a low risk, low cost opportunity to employers and excellent opportunities for graduates.

“The excellent outcomes over the last two years demonstrate its value and I would be happy to speak to any local small or medium-sized organisation interested in our Ulster graduate talent.”



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The University continually strives to secure new scholarships for our students by liaising with a range of corporate partners who are keen to recognise and support the high standard of graduate we produce...



Niamh Keating, from Derry-Londonderry, a Renewable Energy Engineering student at Ulster University, and Bronagh Gormley from SSE Renewables

HIGH ENERGY BEHIND NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of the University's ongoing work to bring new scholarship opportunities to our students, this year saw the launch of the SSE Airtricity Scholarship Fund, one of the most significant schemes ever launched at Ulster.

SSE Airtricity, Northern Ireland's second largest energy provider, has funded the scheme to a total annual value of almost £100,000.

Twelve students from Ulster, studying a diverse range of courses in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects, and more than 20 students in total, received financial support from the scheme in its first year.

Open to students who hail from counties Derry-Londonderry and Tyrone, the scholarships provide 50% funding towards the cost of undergraduate and masters level course fees at Ulster University and South West College.

The SSE Airtricity Scholarship Fund is supported by the Slieve Kirk Wind Park Regional Fund, established by the energy company to promote learning and development opportunities in the local community around Slieve Kirk Wind Park, Northern Ireland's largest single wind generation site.

Mark Ennis, Chairman of SSE Ireland, said: "There is nothing more important to young people and their families than access to high quality education and at SSE Airtricity we recognise that enrolling in third level education involves a large financial commitment.

"The new SSE Airtricity Scholarship Fund is about funding the future through local energy. It will make a real difference to the lives of local people and will help to make the educational aspirations of families local to our new wind farms a reality."

FOUR YEAR PHARMA FUNDING



Charlotte Kane believes the world will be her oyster thanks to being awarded a four-year scholarship from Warner Chilcott, which has recently been acquired by Actavis.

The leading specialty pharmaceutical company partnered with the University to offer a scholarship worth a total of £20,000, awarded over Charlotte's entire four-year MPharm undergraduate degree.

The scholarship is supporting academic excellence within the world-leading School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on the Coleraine campus.

"When I received a letter to say that I had been awarded the Warner Chilcott scholarship, I honestly couldn't believe it," said Charlotte. "This scholarship has not only assisted me financially, allowing me to have the books, stationery and equipment required to actively participate in lectures and lab work, it has also highlighted the many different ways the pharmacy degree can take me in the future."

Having started her course in 2012, Charlotte will graduate in summer 2016 and will then complete a pre-registration year with Gordons Chemist to become a fully qualified pharmacist.

"I have a real interest in mental health as well as oncology so I think I would like to specialise my career in one of these fields. New roles for pharmacists are continually opening and that makes me extremely excited about my future. The world is my oyster."



To find out more about how you or your company can support a student, please email giving@ulster.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)28 7012 3208.



Alumnus and 2014 Turner Prize winner, Duncan Campbell

Turner Prize Winner

inspires alumni and students

Duncan Campbell's win in the Turner Prize in December has not only given the Ulster alumnus' profile a massive boost, it has also underscored the artistic reputation of the Ulster University Belfast School of Art.

Dublin-born film artist Duncan won this year's £25,000 Turner Prize, arguably the world's most prestigious art accolade, for a video that reflects on African art and includes a dance sequence inspired by Karl Marx.

The Ulster Fine Art graduate and video artist impressed critics with *It for Others*, his hour-long 'essay film' which the Turner Prize jury described as "an ambitious and complex film which rewards repeated viewing."

Campbell was the favourite to win the prestigious award, celebrating its 30th year, but was nevertheless delighted by his victory, which brings wide international recognition.

The award was presented by actor Chiwetel Ejiofor at Tate Britain in London. Duncan has made films about controversial

figures including the Irish political activist Bernadette Devlin and the quixotic car manufacturer John DeLorean. By mixing archive footage and new material, he questions and challenges the documentary form.

He studied BA Hons Fine Art at Ulster before completing a Master of Fine Art at Glasgow School of Art in 1998. While at Ulster he was also a Director of Catalyst Arts, an artist-run organisation based in Belfast.

Professor Ian Montgomery, Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment, said Campbell had carved out a niche role as one of the world's most talented and respected documentary makers.

"His artistic vision and skill as a storyteller captures audiences and sets him apart from his peers. Winning the Turner Prize is an exceptional achievement and Duncan's success can only serve to be an inspiration to Ulster University's recent graduates and current students who seek to carve out their own careers in the arts," he added.



Alumnus and twice Turner Prize nominee Professor Willie Doherty

Ulster University is very proud of its success, achievements and record in the Turner Prize.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY AND THE TURNER PRIZE

The Turner Prize, established in 1984, is awarded to a British artist under 50 for an outstanding exhibition or other presentation of their work in the last year.

The prize is intended to promote public discussion of new developments in contemporary British art and is widely recognised as one of the most important and prestigious awards for the visual arts in Europe.

Ulster University is very proud of its success, achievements and record in the Turner Prize. In addition to Duncan Campbell, Ulster University has contributed another winner and a further five nominees from its alumni and staff.

Glasgow-born **Susan Philipsz OBE** completed a Master of Fine Art degree at Ulster's Belfast campus in 1994 before embarking on her early career at Catalyst Arts in Belfast. In 2010 Susan became the first sound artist to win the Turner Prize for Modern Art. Her unique sound installations continue to be exhibited at many prestigious institutions and public venues around the world.

Alumnus **Willie Doherty**, a Professor of Video Art at Ulster, has been nominated twice for the Turner Prize, in 1994 and 2003. Willie has been a pioneering figure in contemporary art, film and photography since the 1980s and his work has been the subject of many solo shows in Europe and America.

Another alumnus, recipient of the First Trust Bank Distinguished Graduate Award, and former Ulster Lecturer **Declan McGonagle** was also nominated in 1987. He also served on the jury for the Turner Prize. He is now the Director of the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

Master of Fine Art graduate **Christine Borland**, an artist with a global reputation, was nominated in 1997 in the first all-female Turner Prize shortlist, and she is currently the BALTIC Professor at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art at Northumbria University.

Visual artist **Phil Collins**, who was taught by Professor Willie Doherty at Ulster and graduated as a Master of Fine Art in 2000, was nominated in 2006. For his Turner Prize entry he created a fully functioning office called 'Shady Lane Productions' in the gallery at Tate Britain.

Belfast-born artist **Cathy Wilkes**, an Ulster Foundation Art and Master of Fine Art graduate, was shortlisted in 2008. Her exhibition from March to May at Tate Liverpool this year presented the largest and most comprehensive display of her work to date. Bringing together more than a decade of Cathy's acclaimed work, the exhibition included several of her large-scale sculptural installations alongside paintings, works on paper and archive materials.

ULSTER'S WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

International experts in REF 2014, the new system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions, judged Ulster as being in the top 25% of universities for world-leading research, based on research power.

The REF 2014 assessment deemed 72% of Ulster's research activity to be world leading or internationally excellent, reinforcing the University's leadership and delivery of research that is making a tangible impact in society and economies both locally and globally. In addition, 85% of Ulster's research demonstrated outstanding or very considerable impacts in terms of their reach and significance.

It is widely appreciated that the REF results reflect the quality, commitment and leadership of research staff and students, the investment in research and the strength of the University's partnerships and collaborations.

The assessment provides clear evidence of the relevant and applied nature of Ulster's research, which has far-reaching impact and significance globally in areas as diverse as health, the economy, the creative industries and social policy.

Professor Hugh McKenna, PVC Research and Innovation, said: "Ulster University's position as a centre of excellence has been confirmed and enhanced by these results. The University has almost doubled its 4-star rated world-leading rankings from 2008 and has been assessed as having world-leading research in all research areas submitted for assessment."



Pharmacist Kim McBride

REF 2014 EVALUATION RANKED ULSTER:

- in the top 25% of all UK universities based on research power
- in the top 10 UK-wide for built environment, biomedical sciences, law, art and design and nursing research
- joint first in the UK for outstanding or very considerable impacts in education research
- second in the UK for 4-star world-leading Celtic Studies research
- top in Northern Ireland for the overall impact of its world-leading research
- top in Northern Ireland for a research environment that is conducive to producing research of world-leading quality, in terms of its vitality and sustainability
- top in Northern Ireland for research in biomedical sciences, law, business and management, architecture and built environment, art and design, social policy, sport, media studies and nursing.

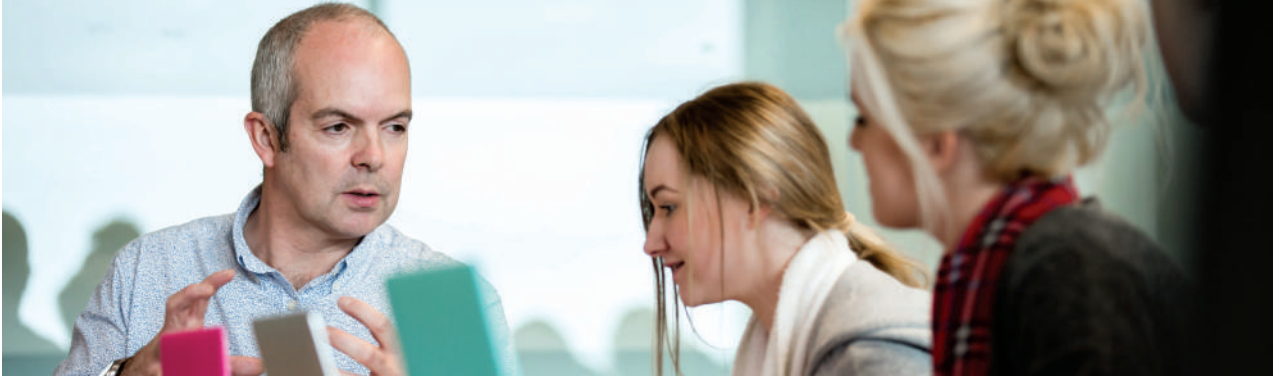
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

More than 150 higher education institutions were invited to submit research in up to 36 subject-based units of assessment for REF 2014. The research was assessed in three categories: outputs, impact and environment.

Three of Ulster's units of assessment were assessed as being in the top three in the UK and seven were in the top 20.



FAR REACHING, REAL-WORLD IMPACT



NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCE

Ulster's Institute of Nursing and Health Research (INHR) shone brightly in REF 2014, with the results confirming the Institute as an international centre of excellence. The Institute has a vibrant culture of research and scholarship with over 30 researchers and 13 professors based in three campuses.

The assessment found:

- 100% of the Institute's research environment was conducive to producing research of world-leading or internationally excellent quality, in terms of its vitality and sustainability
- 100% outstanding and very considerable research impacts in terms of reach and significance
- 96% of research world leading or internationally excellent or recognised internationally.

ART AND DESIGN

The pre-eminence of Ulster's Research Institute for Art and Design, including Architecture, and its impact upon cultural, social and economic life, was reinforced by REF 2014. The Institute was ranked 3rd in the UK for its world-leading research.

The assessment found:

- 100% research environment that is conducive to producing research of world-leading and international quality in terms of its vitality and sustainability
- Over 70% of outstanding impact in Art and Design
- Ranked 3rd in the UK for 4-star world-leading research.

LAW

Stellar REF results from the Ulster Law School rated it 4th out of 67 law units in the UK, keeping company with the likes of King's College London, Durham University and the London School of Economics. It was also placed first in the UK in the research impact category, first in Northern Ireland for law research and ninth in the UK for research intensity.

The assessment found:

- 100% research environment that is conducive to producing research of world-leading and international quality in terms of its vitality and sustainability
- 100% outstanding research impact in terms of its reach and significance (1st in UK)
- 82% of publications world leading or internationally excellent.

CELTIC STUDIES

There was an excellent performance in REF 2014 by the Irish and Celtic Studies Research Institute – 100% of its research impact rated as world leading or internationally excellent, placing the Institute in 2nd place in the UK for 4-star research amongst Celtic Studies submissions.

The assessment found:

- 100% outstanding or very considerable impacts in Celtic Studies research
- 66% of overall research judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent
- 90% research environment internationally excellent or world leading.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

There was a world-class performance in REF 2014 from the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute, based in Coleraine and in the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC) at the Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry-Londonderry. It was judged to be in the premier league of universities and ranked among the top five in the UK in terms of research power.

The assessment found:

- 1st in UK with 100% research environment that is conducive to producing research of world-leading quality, in terms of its vitality and sustainability
- 95% of outstanding and very considerable research impacts in terms of reach and significance
- Among the top 5 universities in the UK out of 92 submissions.

RESEARCH THAT MAKES AN



Victor Gault, Professor of Experimental Medicine

NURSING RESEARCH CHANGING THE WORLD'S HEALTHCARE

With 5 research centres, a vibrant culture of research and scholarship, over 30 research staff, 13 professors and more than 90 doctoral students, many of whom are Ulster alumni, the Institute of Nursing and Health Research (INHR) makes a major impact on healthcare locally, nationally and internationally.

Its reputation is built on the quality and relevance of its research, whether that is addressing the needs of the vulnerable, helping people with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease, or dealing with issues of national and international relevance: surveillance of congenital anomalies, sexual health, obesity, substance abuse and suicide.

Work that has made an impact on health and healthcare behaviours includes:

- A study focusing on anti-epileptic drug safety in pregnancy is enabling women of childbearing age with epilepsy and their healthcare professionals to make informed decisions that will reduce or prevent the risk of harm to unborn children in early pregnancy.
- A study making person-centred practice and policy a reality.
- The development of best practice standards around the care of people with intellectual disabilities in the UK. Findings from this work were cited in the *World Report on Disability* produced by the World Health Organisation.
- The development of an instrument to enable exercise testing in clinical practice and research.

Ulster's research impact is about making a difference, an impression. It is about results that ultimately change people's behaviour, their technology, their health, their society or even their lives. Impact is what Ulster delivers as a result of its world-leading academic research...

GLOBAL IMPACT IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE FIELD

In the biomedical research field Ulster excels. It could be discovering that an existing drug used to treat diabetes could also reverse the effects of Alzheimer's disease, or nutrition research from the Seychelles that could have a global impact on public health advice about fish consumption during pregnancy.

Exciting work at Ulster's Biomedical Sciences Research Institute is also investigating the association between nutrition and genetic risk. It has revealed that vitamin B2, or riboflavin, can significantly reduce blood pressure. That is important because about 10% globally, but as many as 32% of people in Mexico and Northern China are in the genetically at-risk population group and they could specifically derive clinical benefit from treatment.

In the biomedical field findings from Ulster's NICHE Research Group on vitamin D have been used to change dietary intake guidelines on the international stage, and the University is also at the forefront of the global battle against rheumatoid arthritis, and diabetes.

The Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine's work is identifying new gene-based diagnostics for better informing the treatment of chronic diseases such as diabetes, vision defects, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

A new rheumatoid arthritis patient informed Research Advisory Group has been launched to prioritise rheumatoid arthritis research and practice. The group will give patients who suffer from the lifelong chronic inflammatory condition, an opportunity to prioritise research studies by sharing their personal experiences with lead scientists, researchers and clinicians at Ulster's Centre for Stratified Medicine and Altnagelvin Hospital.





IMPRESSION IN THE WORLD



Launch of the Languages for the Future strategy. (L-R) Ulster University's Professor Alastair Adair and Professor Ailbhe Ó Corráin, Education Minister John O'Dowd, Professor John Gillespie and Professor David Johnston, QUB

GROUND-BREAKING LANGUAGES RESEARCH

The Irish and Celtic Studies Research Institute's world-leading research into language policy and planning has had significant impact on government policy.

Work by key Ulster researchers, Professor Ailbhe Ó Corráin and Professor John Gillespie, has led to the ground-breaking *Languages for the Future: Northern Ireland Languages Strategy*. The document gives Northern Ireland one of the most comprehensive language strategies to be found anywhere in the world.

Government is now enacting the Strategy's recommendations and the Northern Ireland Languages Council has been set up to oversee its implementation. Government has acted on recommendations to support the teaching of non-traditional languages and this is underpinned by the support of the Northern Irish and Chinese governments at the Confucius Institute based in Ulster's Faculty of Arts.

LEGAL RESEARCH SHAPING INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Ulster's legal research is spearheaded by the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) and combines world-leading work related to real world problems.

The international impact of the TJI's gender research has been particularly prominent. This work has shaped United Nations policymaking in gender and conflict, underpinned training materials for international practitioners working on gender and conflict, and informed policy and advocacy concerning gender and conflict in Northern Ireland.

As one example of TJI's work, Professor Louise Mallinder's work on the *Belfast Guidelines on Amnesty and Accountability* has established an important practical resource for international and national policymakers, civil society activists and lawyers involved in brokering or implementing peace agreements.

These guidelines have been translated into Arabic, French, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish and sent to some 400 human rights and peacebuilding organisations around the world.

The TJI has just secured a share of a £4.4m research grant for an international collaboration on a major global project aimed at helping countries affected by conflict to successfully and peacefully rebuild their societies.

Researchers in TJI and the Law School also tackle problems like adoption law and Access to Justice in Northern Ireland, and other issues very topical and relevant to everyday lives.

WORLD FIRST ANIMATION

One of Ulster's most recent impacts in the field of Art and Design is a stunning augmented reality game that showcases world-first smartphone technology developed as part of a major animation-led research project.

Fairy Magic has brought the world of fairies to life in an app for young children which offers a magical and interactive fairy experience using the world's most advanced facial animation technology. Led by alumnus Professor Greg Maguire, the game is now commercialised through Inlifesize, a new company drawing on a global team of developer and animator talent.

Established Art and Design researchers Professor Donovan Wylie and Professor Paul Seawright's photographic work has enhanced public and national understanding of conflicts in which the UK has been directly involved, while Professor Willie Doherty's video works have been acquired by national and international public collections including Tate, London, Imperial War Museum, London, IMMA, Dublin and MOMA, New York.

Early career Art and Design researchers are also making an impact. Alumna Megan Johnston, Director of The Model Gallery, Sligo, is currently finishing her practice-based PhD dissertation in curating and museology at the University. She broke new ground with research focusing on the visual manifestations of the construction of Orange culture. It is now recognised as a benchmark for the utilisation of art in conflict resolution.

Alumna Kayla Rose is currently a Research Fellow in Design History on 'Bristol and Bath by Design', a comprehensive 18-month project mapping and measuring the value of design to the city region.

THE UNIVERSITY SAYS THANK YOU

When people support, help and give, your University is a better place. It's more connected, more informed and more engaged...



As a world-class university, Ulster makes a massive impact locally and globally.

It influences individual lives and public life, positively affects significant issues like social justice and conflict resolution and impacts on people's culture, health and wellbeing, business, industry and the inspired application of new technologies.

But to ensure the University stays world-class and first-class, a great many people – friends, staff, alumni and students – give of their time, information, goods and services, voice and influence, as well as money. Sometimes they are in the background; on occasion in the spotlight.

The University profits tremendously from a great number of individuals who are willing to help and give to others, and one of those people is **Dr Gerard O'Hare CBE**.



Dr Gerard O'Hare CBE

Dr O'Hare has a long history of working and engaging with the University.

As Chair and Managing Director of Parker Green International, he is one of Northern Ireland's most successful property and business entrepreneurs with a portfolio of developments and investments across Ireland, the UK, Central Europe and the USA.

As far back as 2004 Gerard took a leading role as Chair of the University's Foundation Board, and in the same year he established a Chair in Property Development and Design to promote academic excellence.

In addition, Dr O'Hare has supported degree development at Ulster, including an international postgraduate programme, and he has mentored students and contributed thousands of pounds to travel scholarships. He is also part of the University's Real Estate Initiative.

Dr O'Hare contributes to academic life in his role as Visiting Professor at Ulster's School of the Built Environment, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in Letters by Ulster for his dedication to the championing of public private partnerships and urban regeneration. His CBE was awarded for his services to higher education and urban regeneration.

As a strong believer in corporate responsibility, Gerard uses his position and influence to support the University's students, graduates, staff and indeed the institution itself.

Dr O'Hare has assisted many other causes in Northern Ireland and in his home town of Newry, and Ulster University is clearly a better place because of his philanthropy.



Anne Rowe

Someone else who has given of themselves for the good of the University over a long period is alumna and former staff member Anne Rowe.

As a former Chair of the Alumni Association Executive Committee, which represents the interests of graduates of Ulster University, Anne has spent many long hours in the service of alumni and students.

As a current member of the Ulster University Student Fund's Disbursement Committee she sees the stories behind the many applications from students who, for various reasons, seek financial support.

As well as giving her time, Anne also makes regular, and very generous, donations to the Student Fund.

The University says thank you.



Giving can have a tremendous impact on the University. To find out more or to make a gift today visit daro.ulster.ac.uk

Shane Kelly with Patricia Arquette on the set of *Boyhood*

THE ULSTER GRADUATE BEHIND

BOYHOOD SUCCESS

The skilled camerawork of Ulster graduate Shane Kelly is behind one of the most successful and talked about films of the past year.

Shane was Director of Cinematography on *Boyhood*, which was nominated for a string of Academy Awards and won Best Film and Best Director at the BAFTAs, plus three Golden Globes and a host of other top industry awards.

Having attracted some of the most positive film criticism ever written, *Boyhood's* place as one of, if not the, defining film of the last year is secure. Actress Patricia Arquette won an Academy Award for her role in the film, for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role.

Boyhood is a moving, ground-breaking film about growing up, shot with the same actors a few consecutive Sundays at a time over 12 years.

Directed by Richard Linklater and with a cast including Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke, the film traces the life of Mason (Ellar Coltrane) growing up in Texas. Described as 'human time-lapse photography', it owes much of its success to Shane.

As Director of Cinematography the Tyrone native's role on *Boyhood* was to create the look of the film with lights, frames and camera angles while also managing and directing the film crew.



"The challenges in making this movie over 12 years were really about consistency and making sure that each year flowed into the next without a major style change. We were also hoping that the cast came back each year!

"The fact that it has been so successful is a very satisfying reward for the years of hard work and commitment that everyone on the cast and the crew put in."

Now living in Austin, Texas, Shane's eye for film and photography was apparent from an early stage. After graduating from Ulster's Coleraine campus with a BA Hons Media Studies, he worked in London for a number of years before moving to Seattle and then Los Angeles in the early 1990s.

Since then the talented cinematographer's credits have included a host of well-known TV productions and films. They include *A Scanner Darkly* (2006), *Urbana* (2000) and *Tim's Vermeer* (2013).

In 2003 he was involved in *Catching Out*, a documentary film exploring the world of hobos and freight train hopping. Shane also shoots 'a ton' of commercials.

"*Boyhood* has probably been my most rewarding professional experience, and I hope that its success will soon allow me to shoot a movie back in Ireland, which is something which I've been wanting to do for some years," said the Ulster graduate.



Colin Walsh

CELEBRATING ULSTER'S HIGH ACHIEVERS

EVERYTHING VENTURED, DISTINGUISHED GAIN

Local businessman and venture capital investor Colin Walsh has been presented with the prestigious First Trust Bank/Ulster University Distinguished Graduate Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the local economy.

Colin graduated from Ulster University in 1988 with an MBA in International Business and went on to carve out a successful career in venture capital, founding his investment firm Crescent Capital in 1995.

The firm has raised £70m to date from government, private and institutional investors in the UK, Europe and the US and has completed investments in some 27 companies in Northern Ireland.

Accepting the Award, Colin detailed how the University's input and support helped to launch him onto a career path that would otherwise not have been possible.



Nominations for next year's Distinguished Graduate will open in early 2016. Readers considering a graduate for nomination should contact: alumni@ulster.ac.uk

QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS 2015

Deserving and high-achieving Ulster graduates, staff and associates appear regularly in the UK honours system, which rewards merit, service and bravery. Here are just some of the people recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours 2015.

Knighthood for Vice-Chancellor
Ulster's former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, who retired in March this year, was fittingly awarded the honour of Knight Bachelor for services to higher education and business in the Queen's New Year Honours.

His strong leadership as Vice-Chancellor from April 2006 included stabilising the University's financial position against a backdrop of economic challenge and a commitment to widening access and participation in higher education.

His vision for the future of higher education and his contribution to business and the

economy was also evident in his leadership of the plans for the enhancement of the Belfast City campus. He served Ulster University with distinction.

Members of the Order of the Companions of Honour

Dame Mary Peters DBE
for services to sport and to the community in Northern Ireland

OBE
Dr John Fay
for services to agri-food education

Dr Anne Murray
for services to education

Professor Sean Strain
for services to nutrition research and higher education

MBE
Dr Audrey Cassidy
for services to people with autism in Northern Ireland

Mr Geoffrey Dunn
for services to education and the community in Northern Ireland

Mr William Greer
for services to education in Northern Ireland

Mrs Florence Mairs
for services to education and the community in County Antrim

Ms Celine McCartan
for services to further education in Northern Ireland

Mr Brendan Joseph McCusker
for services to education in Northern Ireland

BEM
Mr Christopher Hagan
for services to the community in Killyleagh, County Down

Mr William Short
for voluntary service to the community in Northern Ireland



DEGREE HONOURS FOR HIGH ACHIEVERS

Fifteen individuals who have displayed leadership, progressive thinking and integrity will receive honorary degrees from Ulster University this summer. The distinguished list includes representatives from healthcare, sport, business and public service.

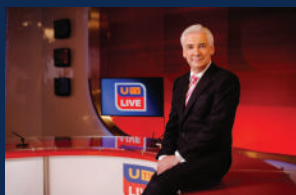
Dr Olive Buckley

Ulster graduate and Director, Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to the vulnerable in society

Ms Margaret Byrne

Ulster graduate and CEO, Sunderland FC, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to sport and business

Mr Paul Clark



Presenter, UTV, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to broadcasting and charity

Mr John 'Tommy Joe' Farrell

Ulster University Jordanstown GAA, and Ulster graduate, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for distinguished service to sport at the University

David Holmes

Musician and Composer, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of his work as a DJ and producer

Mr John Leckey

Senior Coroner, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished public service

Mr Gerry Mallon

Ulster graduate and former Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding service to Ulster University

Insp. Anne Marks

Rowan Sexual Assault and Referral Centre, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to the vulnerable in society

Mr Seamus McGarvey

Cinematographer, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA), in recognition of outstanding contribution to film making, contemporary art and cinematography

Mr Thomas P O'Neill III



CEO O'Neill & Associates, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to the University

Ms Nóirín O'Sullivan

Commissioner, An Garda Síochána, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished public service

Mr Michael Ryan

Vice President and General Manager Bombardier Aerospace, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to business and corporate social responsibility

Rev Bill Shaw

Director, 174Trust, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to the community

Ms Janice Smyth

Director, Royal College of Nursing NI, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to nursing

Mr Gerry Storey

Holy Family Boxing Club, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to sport and cross community development

CLASS NOTES

Ulster University graduates making an impact



Stephen McAleer

BSc Hons Physiotherapy 2010, Jordanstown

Having worked with Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, Monaghan Harps Gaelic Football Club and Middlesbrough Football Club in the last number of years, Stephen is now a Consultant Physiotherapist with British Athletics. His role is to prevent British athletes getting injured in the run up to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.



Gail Prentice

BA Hons Fine Craft Design 1997 Belfast, MA Irish Visual Culture 1998, Belfast

Gail, who founded the Golden Thread Gallery in the city in 1998, is now the Manager of Flax Art Studios which is at the cutting edge of contemporary art in Belfast. The Cathedral Quarter studio provides space for local and international artists working on large-scale projects across a range of media and is one of the key components of the cultural structure of the city. Gail is still associated with the University through a partnership with Flax Art that offers a graduate residency programme.



Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh

BA Hons Irish with Media Studies 2010, Coleraine

Pádraig, who graduates with a PhD from Ulster University this summer, has a number of prominent roles at the forefront of the political, governmental and community development of the Irish language. In January he was appointed Language Protection, Representation and Communications Officer with the national Irish language advocacy group Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League). He still teaches part-time at Ulster University.

Suzanne Hill

BA Hons Applied Languages 1993, PG Dip Applied Languages for Business 1994, Coleraine

Suzanne's successful career in international business has now taken her to around 60 different countries. As Managing Director of Handel Export Consulting she continues to help hundreds of Northern Ireland companies explore opportunities in international markets. Suzanne is a speaker on international trade at many events within the UK and internationally and also promotes trade, tourism and culture between Slovenia and Northern Ireland in her role as an Honorary Consul for Slovenia.

Paul Martin Jnr

BA Hons Business Studies 2007, Magee

Still in his 20s, Paul is now a Director of 12 companies including the leading building and property firm, Martin Construction & Development, founded by his father. Paul has been developing property from the age of 18. Having worked on hundreds of residential and commercial deals of all sizes throughout the UK and Ireland, Paul now oversees existing projects and heads up new businesses for the firm.

Obituaries



Thomas Edgar Cooke

Thomas Edgar Cooke died peacefully at home, aged 79 years, on 23 September 2014.

He was educated at Foyle College, Derry~Londonderry. He captained the Foyle College Medallion XV, and was secretary and a member of the athletics team where he was the winner of the Victor Ludorum, winning a variety of events and coming second in the all-Ireland 880 yards.

Edgar attended Stranmillis College where he represented the Senior NI Amateur Association in the 880 yards, winning Commonwealth Games trials in 1958. He also played rugby for Stranmillis College First XV winning the Junior Cup. He continued to play rugby for CIYMS, Ballyclare and Derry~Londonderry teams after graduating.

He attended Queen's University Belfast, obtaining a BSc Economics in 1968, and diplomas in Education and in Religious Studies. His devotion to teaching and his deep Christian faith led him to further study at Ulster University in Jordanstown, graduating with a BEd in 1987 and an MEd in 1990.

In 1987 Edgar, along with some parents and teachers from Monkstown Community School and Mossley Primary School, where he was Principal for 25 years, took a pipe band to Sydney, Australia, where they won five world championships at the Festival of Tartans.

Edgar met his devoted wife Anne in his first month at Stranmillis College. They were married for 56 years and had one daughter, a doctor, and two grandchildren, both graduates in Finance and Accountancy. His other interests were golf, bowls and gardening.

His family and friends, devastated by his death, described him as a 'true gentleman'.

Mrs Anne Cooke



Professor Norman Gibson

Professor Norman Gibson, one of the key figures in the establishment of Ulster University, died on 8 July 2014.

Born in Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh, in 1931, he obtained a first class honours degree in Economics and a PhD at Queen's University, Belfast. While undertaking further study at the University of Chicago he met his wife Faith, whom he married in 1959.

After lecturing at Queen's University and the University of Manchester, Professor Gibson was appointed founding Professor of Economics at the New University of Ulster (NUU) in 1968, where his research in economics became increasingly focused on its application to the local economy. Though he had initial misgivings about the merger of NUU and other higher education institutions to create the University of Ulster, he played an active role in its establishment in 1984 and was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor.

He continued as a key figure in the subsequent development of the University, notably in its expansion at the Magee and Coleraine campuses, and the development of the University's research programme that established Ulster as one of only 20 Universities to have a 5-star rated research area in the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise, the year of his retirement from Ulster.

Professor Gibson, who was appointed CBE in the 1991 birthday honours list, remained active following his retirement, continuing his interests in theology, philosophy and Irish history. He is survived by his wife Faith, daughter, sons and grandchildren.



10% DISCOUNT FOR ULSTER ALUMNI

There's never been a better time to take your learning – and career – to the next level. Ulster alumni can now benefit from a 10% discount in tuition fees across our wide range of postgraduate courses.

What's more, our new flexible payment plans allow you to spread the cost of your studies across five or ten equal monthly payments, each year of your course.

With most of our master's programmes priced at £4,995*, Ulster alumni can save nearly £500 and complete a master's degree for less than £150 per month**.

Cost is often cited as a barrier to postgraduate study. Our new and improved fees structure means it may now be more affordable than you think as you can learn on your terms and pay in a way that suits you.

So whether you want to enhance your employment opportunities, differentiate yourself in a competitive labour market, or diversify your skills, we can help shape your future with a relevant, career-focused education, designed with convenience and flexibility in mind.

**Visit ulster.ac.uk/learnyourway
to find out more**

THE PART-TIME MSC IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AT JORDANSTOWN COSTS

£4,995* Minus 10% alumni discount

£4,495.50

Year 1 Cost = £1,498.50

(£149.85 deposit, payable at registration, followed by 9 monthly payments of £149.85)

Year 2 Cost = £1,498.50

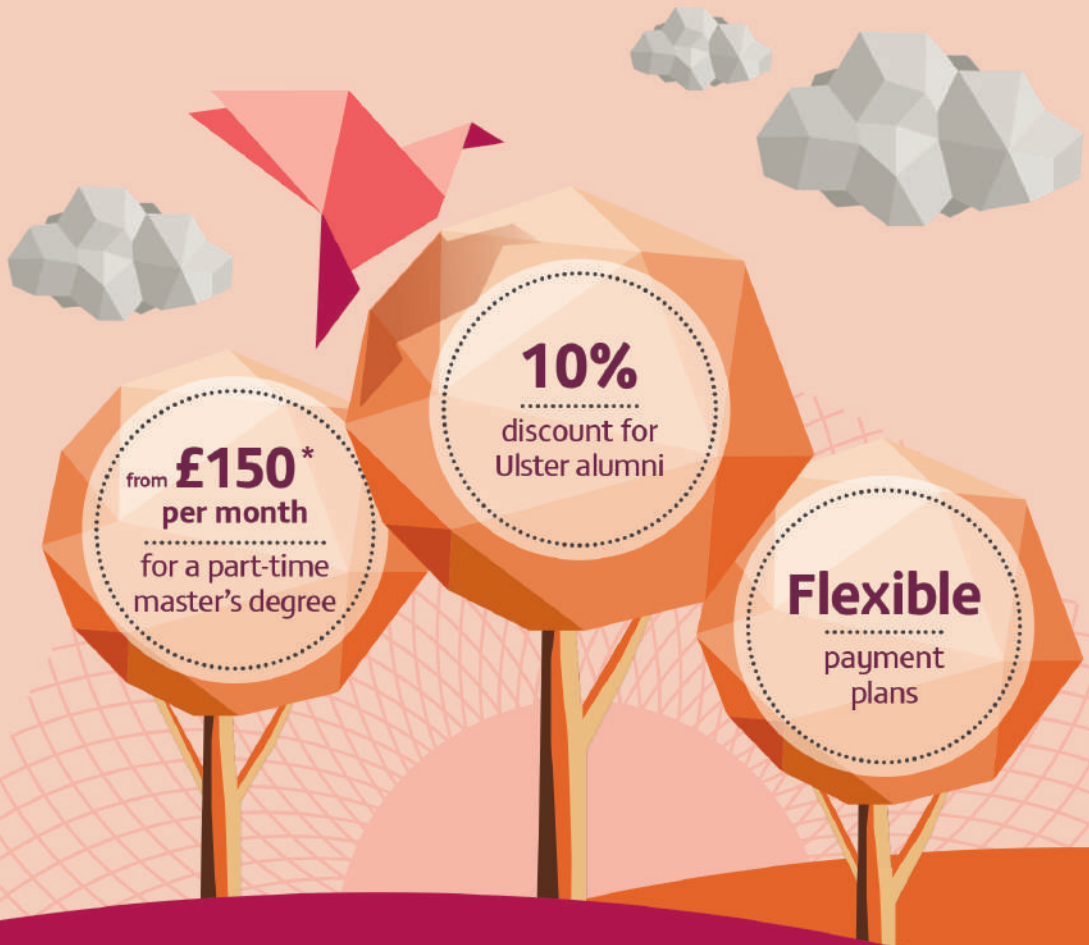
(£149.85 deposit, payable at registration, followed by 9 monthly payments of £149.85)

Year 3 Cost = £1,498.50

(£149.85 deposit, payable at registration, followed by 9 monthly payments of £149.85)

*Correct at time of print. Exclusions apply. Terms and conditions apply.

**Figure based on standard master's degree at £4,995 minus 10% discount for Ulster University alumni = £4,495.50. Course completed over three years part-time (£4,495.50 / 3 = £1,498.50 each year), paid in ten monthly instalments each year (£1,498.50 / 10 = £149.85 per month).



Ulster
University

Learn your way Pay your way Shape your future

Flexible and affordable postgraduate opportunities with Ulster University. Exclusive discount for Ulster graduates.

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*Correct at time of print. Exclusions apply.
Terms and conditions apply.



INCREASED GIVING CHANGING STUDENTS' LIVES

Great news – more and more alumni are supporting the Ulster University Student Fund and we hope you'll consider joining them.

There has been a significant increase in the number of alumni donating, many in response to the last edition of *Ulster Graduate*, as well as to a recent letter from Norma Patterson, Student Health and Wellbeing Advisory Services Manager, explaining how a growing number of students are struggling to make ends meet while working toward their dream of completing a degree.

Our recent telephone fundraising campaign, highlighting the needs of today's students to alumni, also drew a great response with many deciding to give something back to their University.

As the cost of living increases, the costs of student life can seem daunting, especially for young people whose families can't afford to help out.

The increase in donations means we will be able to support more students who have the ability to avail of higher education, but each year there is still a huge need.

In 2014, we could only help 14% of the students who applied to the Ulster University Student Fund. With your help we can significantly increase this.

100% of each gift goes directly towards supporting our students



To make a gift, please complete the **enclosed donation form** or visit **daro.ulster.ac.uk/donateonline**



YOUR SUPPORT IMPACTS ON STUDENTS

Your gift to the Ulster University Student Fund makes a real difference to the lives of students. Through a range of scholarships it encourages and rewards excellence, provides much needed financial assistance and supports activities that add value to students' academic experience.



REWARDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Shweta Agarwal was awarded the Academic Excellence Award after being placed top in her first year studies for the overall Faculty of Computing and Engineering. An international student from Uttar Pradesh in India, now studying for her PhD at Imperial College London, Shweta came to Northern Ireland for the first time to take up her hard won place on Ulster's Biomedical Engineering course from which she graduated with a first class honours degree.

"The Award helped me recognise that I could perform well and encouraged and motivated me to perform better still in the next year. It helped me set targets and made me determined never to go below them."

GATEWAY SCHOLARSHIP BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

Breege McDonald, a part-time student studying a BSc Professional Development in Counselling, was awarded the Gateway Scholarship in 2014 from the Ulster University Student Fund.

This scholarship, which awards £1,000 to a student in need of financial support, is making a huge difference to Breege, who, following deeply traumatic life experiences, is striving to realign her life and realise her dreams.



"As a single mother who works part-time, the Gateway Scholarship has been a godsend," she said. **"It has given me peace of mind that I can afford to travel to Jordanstown two days per week to attend my lectures and seminars. It allows me to concentrate on my studies without the stress and distractions which a tighter financial situation would have on my ability to focus on the successful completion of my course."**

FUND STIMULATES INNOVATIVE EMERGENCY SERVICES APP

Rebecca Hume was granted a Vice-Chancellor's Award to develop her design of a mobile app, which will provide a method of contacting the Emergency Services.

Becca is working closely with Action on Hearing Loss to develop the design of the app ensuring that it provides easy access and rapid connection while dealing with an emergency. Available for all users, this application can also be used by people with speech impediments, are mute, or for a person who may struggle to make the link between 999 and the emergency they are presented with.

"This award has enabled me to quickly achieve several early start-up requirements in my business, allowing me to focus on networking and product development."



BROADENING HORIZONS ON AN ORPHANAGE PLACEMENT

In 2014, BSc Occupational Therapy students Helen Heyburn and Sonja Wilson secured a Broadening Horizons Travel Bursary to travel to Zimbabwe for a month long placement in an orphanage.

They wanted to make a difference to people in a place where occupational therapy is not available.

Through this life changing experience they were able to see significant improvements in the children they worked closest with. Helen said: **"It was incredible to see the progress they made. We documented everything we did and prepared a detailed file on each child for staff to use so that they continue to progress. We are still very much in touch and we know they are working away. It is just fantastic."**





CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

The Development and Alumni Relations Office held a celebration to mark the achievements of the University's scholarship and award recipients, many of whom are pictured above and the generosity of alumni, donors, corporate supporters, staff and friends in December.

Guests included awardees, their families, staff, donors and alumni, as well as representatives from SSE Airtricity, Norbrook Laboratories, the Department

of Justice and Subway Ireland, all key supporters of scholarships and awards. In total, 44 students received awards and additional donations were presented to the Library and Student Support. The impact of both the scholarships and awards is far-reaching and many of the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the donors of the Ulster University Student Fund.

First year Architecture student Bradley Lynch, who received a Gateway Scholarship which helps students overcome financial barriers to education, said he felt humbled by the compassion shown by those who support the Student Fund.

"I only hope that one day I am in a position to change someone's life in the same way as this scholarship has changed mine," he added.

THANK YOU

for giving back

Your gifts to the Ulster University Student Fund make a real difference to the lives of students – **100% of each gift goes directly to supporting students.**

Donations to the Ulster University Student Fund help us to foster and develop the sports stars, the scientists, the creatives, the entrepreneurs and the leaders of tomorrow. In a nutshell, you can help students fulfil their potential and transform their futures.

JESSICA MYERS
Washington DC



Voting Systems Certification Specialist at US Election Assistance Commission MA History, 2005, Belfast
"I support the Student Fund because it is an easy, pain-free way for me to give back to the University that gave so much to me. My time there changed my life and I hope to help other students have that same opportunity."

ALICK HODGSON
London



Insurance Broker at Velos, BSc Hons Geography, 1974, Coleraine

"I consider it a priority to maintain student support. No one should be deterred from starting or prevented from completing their degree because of financial stringency. The part to be played by the Ulster alumni will become more and more important in the raising of funds to provide this support."

SUZANNE MARTIN
Northern Ireland



Professor of Occupational Therapy at Ulster University

"I give a little each month hoping that collectively we can make a difference to our students at Ulster. Financial hardship causes stress, distracting students, sapping motivation and dampening their creativity, making it harder to focus on the academic aspects of University life. I'm delighted to help."



FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR'S LEGACY LIVES ON

Thank you to former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Richard Barnett, who has been a generous contributor to the University's work over the years. He has supported the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, the Evelyn Burges Scholarship for Drama, the Law School, the Ulster University Student Fund and the Greater Belfast Development to name but a few.

His generosity was always extremely valued and played an important part in helping Ulster realise its ambitions.

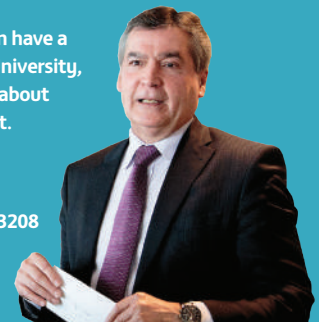
In addition to continuing to make a monthly contribution, Professor Sir Richard in his retirement has left a legacy to the University in his will. This represents a meaningful and personal legacy in recognition of the time he has given and the personal investment he has made to the University over the years.

Legacy giving is a very special way to support the University long into the future. It's easy to leave a legacy, and it ensures that our ground-breaking work and world-class research continues well beyond your lifetime.

Any gift – large or small – can have a tremendous impact on the University, and you can be very specific about how your legacy will be spent.



Please contact giving@ulster.ac.uk or call +44 (0)28 7012 3208 to find out more.



HOW YOU CAN GIVE TO ULSTER

Your gift will create opportunities for the students of today and tomorrow. You'll be stimulating academic excellence and helping to form the next generation of leaders. You can make a donation by the following methods:

- One-off donation
- Regular giving
- Leave a legacy
- Make a corporate gift



Make a gift by completing the form enclosed with this magazine, or by going online: daro.ulster.ac.uk/donateonline

The Development and Alumni Relations team also works with supporters to develop bespoke ways to support the many different areas of Ulster University's work.



To discuss your support with a member of our team, please contact giving@ulster.ac.uk or call +44 (0)28 7012 3208

Peter Coll QC and Steven Lowry, connected through the Ulster University Student Fund



Silk support

for the Ulster University Student Fund

Ulster Graduate meets high-achieving alumnus Peter Coll QC, one of Northern Ireland's leading legal practitioners and a strong supporter of the University...

Among the first cohort of law students to emerge from Ulster University in the summer of 1995 was a young Belfast man graduating with a BA Hons in Government and Law.

Twenty years on, and just short of 19 years after being first called to the Bar, the summer of 2015 will see Peter Coll gather for a reunion with his classmates, older, wiser, and sitting on the top rank of the legal profession as a recently appointed Queen's Counsel.

Being appointed to the rank of QC is a badge of excellence and high achievement. The process of becoming a 'Silk' is merit-based and the appointment is recognised internationally as a mark of outstanding ability.

Peter officially 'took silk' at a ceremony held in the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast last December. It was a proud moment for his law oriented family that includes his wife and sister, who are both solicitors, as was his late father.

As a senior barrister Peter has been involved in some of the most high-profile legal cases in Northern Ireland, among them the much-in-the-news Boston College tapes case. He is also elected to The Bar Council, which is responsible for the governance, regulation and representation of the profession.

As a QC he specialises in judicial reviews and public law, a legal area that involves challenges to government or public authority decisions and decision-making processes, and is also involved in inquests and a lot of legacy cases and issues arising from the Troubles.

"While it can be hard to switch off from the pressure of work, the compensation of this career is that it is extremely interesting and challenging," he said. "I feel very lucky to be involved in it and to have the opportunity to try to help people. I find that very rewarding."

The QC is very grateful for his time as an undergraduate at Ulster, which, he believes, was crucial to his career prospects and later achievements.

"I was very lucky to be in that first year of a new Government and Law course," he said. "There was a lot of innovative teaching and a big emphasis on self-learning, making presentations and ongoing assessment, so it was great training for life at the Bar."

It was a phone call from student Steven Lowry in 2013 that brought Peter back in contact with his University and persuaded him to start donating regularly to the Ulster University Student Fund.

"I decided to give for two reasons. One is that I am conscious that it is difficult for many students nowadays. They are under a lot of financial pressure, so I thought it was innovative of the University to run a campaign to support them in achieving their potential.

"The second reason is that I have been very taken by the University's efforts to construct the new Belfast campus. It struck me as a sign of being extremely forward thinking and progressive in trying to be a driver for change in Belfast and further afield.

"Donating to the fund is a way of expressing a degree of solidarity with that, the University and the students."



Peter Coll QC



It's your University - get involved

Roisin McNamara,
Alumni Relations
Manager

As an Ulster graduate you have an array of opportunities to reconnect to your University. Why not get involved and reap the benefits?

SHARING THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE

The Development and Alumni Relations Office has launched an innovative new e-mentoring platform that lets alumni share their experience and expertise to support current students and fellow Ulster graduates.

The Ulster University Alumni Network allows alumni to register online as mentors to provide advice and expertise, particularly around career development with current students, but also with fellow graduates. This social network, exclusively for alumni, is set to become a great place for graduates to connect, interact and share their experiences.

The secure online platform launched in March 2015 has already gained substantial support from alumni as far afield as the USA and Canada who are offering support by email, phone, Skype and face to face.

The launch followed a successful pilot mentoring programme in 2014 by the University's Development and Alumni Relations Office and Employability and Marketing teams. The aim is to roll out the e-mentoring programme across all alumni and current students over the coming years.

Roisin McNamara, Alumni Relations Manager said: "Ulster is continuously looking for ways to enable alumni who have an affinity with the University based on their positive shared experiences. We want to help develop relationships with both the University and fellow graduates. This great new platform is a safe, secure and trusted environment. We believe it will be a tremendous boost to students and alumni alike, both of whom stand to benefit by connecting."

Mentoring was "an honour and a pleasure"

Mentoring is well known to have a profound influence on mentees – from enhancing employability skills to developing a clearer career plan, to increasing professional networks and benefitting from the expertise of experienced alumni.

But there are benefits for the mentors too, according to **Kelly Hardman**, one of the alumni who offered her experience in the University's pilot mentoring programme in advance of the launch of the online Alumni Network.

Second year Law students and final year Hospitality and Tourism Management students – 22 in all – took part. Kelly, a London-based trainee solicitor, partnered with Law student Alexandra Duffy.

Throughout the three-month pilot period the students and alumni initiated a range of contacts face to face, by email, telephone and via Skype and discussed a variety of employability related issues.

Kelly, who graduated in Law with Criminology in 2010, said: "It was an honour and a pleasure being a mentor in this initiative. Had a mentor-mentee programme been available when I was at Ulster, it is one that I would not have hesitated to apply for – I cannot reiterate enough how useful this opportunity is.

"Mentoring has developed my own confidence as well as instilling confidence in the mentee. I have been able to discover new opportunities, share knowledge and exchange insights about a wide variety of topics and interests with my mentee.

"I have also been able to make connections with leaders in the business community, as well as receive information about other alumni opportunities which I would not have known about had I not become a mentor. I highly recommend registering to get involved"



Help us grow our bank of alumni mentors, register here:
daru.ulster.ac.uk/mentor

"I highly recommend registering to get involved."

Kelly Hardman



Seven degrees for seven brothers



The Carty family: Rory, Paul Og, Sinéad, Paul (father), Pauline (mother), Colm, Brendan, Conor, Sean and Eamon

In the last issue of your alumni magazine we brought you the Walkers – a family of five who all graduated from Ulster University and we asked if this was a record.

Now we bring you the seven Carty brothers, originally from Warrenpoint in County Down. The brothers have been a continuous part of the student body at Ulster University since 2002 and are making an impact in various parts of the world.

Five of the Carty brothers are already graduates from Ulster, a sixth graduates this summer and in three years' time all seven of the brothers will have passed through the University – remarkable achievement.

“We wonder if this is a record for the number of children from the same family attending Ulster University, or any other university for that matter,” said Sean Carty.

“My parents would be very proud if it is a record, as they made a big effort for us. Our sister Sinéad is also a graduate, though not of Ulster, and works as a pharmacist in Dublin. So all eight Carty children went to university.

“The variety of subjects my brothers and I have studied, and our success, speaks volumes about the quality of teaching at Ulster University itself, and highlights its ability to inspire students enabling them to have an impact around the world.”

So, is this the record for the most family members graduating from Ulster? Only you know. Please get in touch and tell us your stories: alumni@ulster.ac.uk



- 1 **Sean Carty** graduated in 2005 in Law with Government and is an associate solicitor in Liverpool.
- 2 **Eamon Carty** graduated in Quantity Surveying in 2008 and is currently working in Japan.
- 3 **Brendan Carty** graduated in Architecture in 2008 and is practising in Sydney, Australia.
- 4 **Colm Carty** graduated in Quantity Surveying in 2010 and is currently working in Sydney, Australia.
- 5 **Rory Carty** graduated in Marketing in 2014 and is working in Belfast.
- 6 **Paul Carty** graduates this summer in Radiography.
- 7 **Conor Carty** is in his first year of Building Surveying and will graduate in 2018.

Kielty comes home

Comedian, radio presenter and TV personality, Patrick Kielty rocked the Belfast campus in October at the latest in the University's 'Life Stories: In Conversation With...' series.

During an interview with Professor Paul Moore the audience of alumni, staff and guests were in raptures as the Northern Ireland funny man shared some great stories about childhood, career and fame; both funny and emotional.

Alumni scrambled to grab one of the free exclusive seats for the evening, with the tickets being snapped up in just one hour – the fastest sell-out of one of these events to date.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office runs various business, social, arts, culture and educational networking events throughout the year. To hear about similar events, keep in touch and make sure the University has your email address.



Register online:
dar0.ulster.ac.uk/login
or email us at
alumni@ulster.ac.uk





CALLING ALL ALUMNI could you offer a placement?

As an Ulster graduate you are connected to one of the world's largest alumni networks with the potential to hook up with thousands of influential professionals.

As a successful graduate you could be key to offering a placement or work experience opportunity that could give a student or graduate from Ulster a great start to their career, particularly in an international context. It could be as simple as a work place visit or a few weeks' work experience. But it could also be a year-long placement or some other employability opportunity.

Taking a student or Ulster graduate into your company or organisation might not just give them a boost in their career, it could also help you to develop a new business idea, research niche markets, solve technical problems, improve profitability or restart projects put on hold due to lack of time.

If you are interested in offering a work placement opportunity at your organisation, no matter how short or long, please contact us at alumni@ulster.ac.uk, we'd love to hear from you.

As a successful graduate you could be the key to offering a placement or work experience opportunity.

EXTRA HELP WITH YOUR CAREER

Current students and recent graduates are set to benefit from a new partnership between the Alumni Relations Office and the University's Career Development Centre.

They have come together to introduce a new way of adding value to developing both current students and recent graduates with the support of the contacts and networks of more experienced alumni.

The initiative includes recruiting alumni volunteers to help with mock interviews, inviting alumni into the University for career talks, speed networking events, generating interest in offering placements and supporting recent graduates with internship opportunities.

A career bootcamp which ran as part of the new partnership in March saw 22 recent graduates put through their paces on how to stand out from the crowd, how to use their online profile professionally for career progression and future jobs, and how to secure that all-important job.

Expert speakers and successful alumni volunteers helped the graduates build confidence, self reflect and examine their own mindsets in relation to their careers. The day included Career Development Centre talks about the additional support and internship programmes it can offer.

As an Ulster graduate you can access additional careers support from the Career Development Centre for up to three years after graduation. To make sure you do not miss out on such volunteering opportunities or attendance at valuable careers focused events, stay in touch with the Alumni Relations Office.

For more information on the services provided by the Career Development Centre go to: careers.ulster.ac.uk/graduates

ALUMNI BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Receive 10% off further study (see page 26 for more information)
- Enhance your CV by volunteering as a:
 - Mentor
 - Guest speaker
 - International ambassador
- Benefit from engaging students on placements, work experience or internships
- Connect and network with classmates and fellow graduates
- Receive invites for exclusive events
- Profit from additional careers support
- Avail of discounted gym and exclusive library membership
- Keep up to date on developments within your University.

Stay
connected
with us



Stay connected with your University, reap the benefits of keeping in touch with home, fellow graduates and networks across the world. Make new contacts, open doors, do new business – it pays to keep in touch. Visit us at: daro.ulster.ac.uk/alumnirelations



Ulster University Alumni



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Take the memories *with you*

A full range of official Ulster University branded souvenirs and gifts is available from our online store.

From pens to branded clothing to artist edition giftware, there is a huge range to choose from so you can remember your time at Ulster.



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