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ULSTER
GRADUATE

Ulster
University

The magazine
for alumni and friends
of Ulster University

Edition 39
Summer/Autumn 2016

Colin Davidson: the artist who had a brush with TIME

Inside

Ulster University's breakthrough in
pancreatic cancer research | Alumni
around the world

PLUS Impact of your support





WELCOME

A warm welcome to the 2016 edition of *Ulster Graduate*, and especially to our new readers who have graduated and joined our alumni network since the last issue.

Dispersed around the globe, this extensive network now numbers 180,000 and comprises a diverse range of ages, nationalities and expertise, representative of the rich traditions and heritage of Ulster University. We celebrated that heritage in many ways over the past year, especially through celebrations for the 150-year anniversary of our Magee campus.

In the past year it was very pleasing that an increasing number of alumni, friends and range of corporate donors supported the University financially. Both continued and

fresh support for the Ulster University Student Fund and a range of scholarships will help to improve the lives of current and future students. If you were one of our donors, please accept my sincere thanks.

It is always a delight to see our graduates make their mark in the world, and you can read about many of them in this issue. I hope that *Ulster Graduate* gives you a flavour of the impact Ulster University has on society and how it continues to be a university you can be proud of.

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MR ROBERT CORBETT, CHAIR OF CONVOCATION AND THE VERY REV DR GODFREY BROWN ATTENDING THE 150-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT THE MAGEE CAMPUS

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Ulster Graduate

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We want our magazine to be fully accessible, therefore, we have made the content available online if you have difficulty accessing the printed media. Should you require it in another format, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try our best to assist you.

Front cover image: Distinguished Ulster Graduate and renowned artist Colin Davidson pictured in the studio with his latest large-scale portrait of the poet John Montague, who was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) by Ulster University in 2009 for his services to poetry.

Moving forward together

Ulster University has always been about progress. The idea of moving forward, renewal and growth are woven into our history and will continue to shape our future.

Our roots stretch to the 1840s when Magee was founded in Derry~Londonderry and the School of Art and Design was inaugurated in Belfast. Both these 'founding institutions' were very much civic in nature and established through the goodwill and spirit of altruism of the leaders of the day. The modern University was established in 1984 and continued an ethos of higher education developing civic society. I have been in post for almost a year and I have been working with colleagues to develop a Strategic Plan that both builds upon this legacy and confidently takes us forward into the future.

Universities make a huge contribution to the life and success of society. Collectively our teaching, research and networks have a very powerful impact. The people who make up Ulster University are perhaps the most important factor in this mix. We have excellent staff and students and I am always very proud to hear how our alumni have used their skills and talents, in their own way, to contribute to the economic, intellectual, social and cultural life of Northern Ireland and beyond.

I am greatly encouraged by your commitment as alumni. Your time, leadership experience and financial contributions continue to encourage and support our students. I have added my personal support to the Student Fund, joining those many graduates and staff whose contribution enhances student experience and potential.

Our cover story for this edition features one of the many celebrated talents to emerge from our Belfast School of Art, Colin Davidson. The University's founding School of Design established a creative hub in Belfast over 160 years ago. Now Ulster University's historical, creative heart is the first to occupy this dynamic future home in the enhanced Belfast campus. The first phase of this landmark development opened its doors to welcome staff and students in October 2015. It marks a new era for the University and is crucial to Belfast's ambitions for a world-class city centre in which to live, work and learn.



We are also investing outside Belfast. I am delighted to share the progress of the new and emerging learning spaces in Coleraine and on our Magee campus. Students are central to the process of creating these new environments.

In this edition you will also read of some of our recent research impact. From policy direction to patient outcomes, Ulster University research informs progressive action and breaks new ground. There are few, if any, areas of life that our research and leadership does not touch – from culture and creativity to sustainability, scientific, health and medical outcomes to social, economic, public policy and business development. This is how, and where, we make a difference.

These are without doubt challenging times for our sector. We are evolving against a backdrop of funding inequality. A sound, sustainable future for higher education in Northern Ireland must be debated and agreed. It is often said that necessity is the mother of invention. Certainly the challenges sharpen our focus and shape our future direction.

We have strong foundations and much to be proud of and build upon. With over 25,000 students we are one of the largest universities on these islands. Internationally we are amongst the top 3% of universities in the world and within the world's top 100 young universities. We have an 89% overall student satisfaction rating in the National Student Survey. And we have established ourselves as research leaders, nationally and internationally, in many of our areas of expertise.

Your continued interest is greatly valued and I look forward to discussing our plans with you when our paths cross in the months ahead. Your input, experience and observations are always welcome and appreciated.

Professor Paddy Nixon
Vice-Chancellor and President

Royal opening for new Belfast campus building

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has opened the completed phase I of the University's vibrant new Belfast campus development.

The new home for Ulster's Arts students provides a progressive practice-based learning and teaching environment, supported by the best innovative technology in flexible spaces.

The royal visitor toured the modern building in April and met with students from Ulster University's Belfast School of Art, who showcased their creative skills in silversmithing, fine art and ceramics and presented her with a piece of jewellery based on the Giant's Causeway.

The Princess also unveiled a plaque officially opening the building in York Street and signed the visitors' book.

The University is transforming higher education in the heart of the city with an investment of £250 million to create a dynamic state-of-the-art teaching, learning and research environment.

Due for completion in 2019, the campus development will provide a space for academia, industry and local communities to collaborate and thrive.

The transformative redevelopment programme on the northern edge of the city centre is widely regarded as inspirational in design and experience and its scale and impact are already evident.

The project will have a huge regenerative impact on the northern part of Belfast, bringing students and staff into the city and creating learning and business opportunities for the communities surrounding it.

The project is boosting the construction industry, and is also set to reinvigorate the retail, hospitality, tourism and property market sectors, as well as transform the atmosphere in the city centre.

Ulster University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alastair Adair, heads the Greater Belfast Development project. He said: 'Many people are referring to this project as the regeneration opportunity of the century. We believe it is.

'As well as demonstrating the University's commitment to the long-term future of higher education, this project will also make a major contribution to Belfast's regeneration and Northern Ireland's economic, social and cultural development for years to come.

'It's a big challenge to deliver, but it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It will transform people's lives for the better.'

The campus currently houses around 2,000 students, but on completion there will be 15,000 people studying there, with around 6,000 on campus each day.

Phase II construction of the landmark building will see two new blocks developed on York Street, directly opposite the existing campus building.

Suzanne Wylie, Belfast City Council Chief Executive and an Ulster University graduate, said the development will have a 'massive catalytic effect' on the city centre and that the benefits are already being felt.

'This inner city investment will both shape the cityscape and regenerate the whole area for years to come, and will help Belfast move into a new era of growth, vitality and prosperity,' she added.

'This inner city investment will both shape the cityscape and regenerate the whole area for years to come.'



Changing the face of Northern Ireland

Transformations to the University's estate are in full swing.

COLERAINE SPORTS CENTRE NEARS STARTING LINE

The new £5.1 million sports centre development at the Coleraine campus is expected to open in late 2016. This Department for Employment and Learning-funded project will include eight multi-sport indoor courts, a fitness studio and upgraded changing facilities. A broad range of activities will take place at the state-of-the-art centre throughout the year including student sports, intervarsity competitions and University club training. The facility will also be the hub for the teaching and learning provision of PGCE courses in Physical Education and Primary Education. The wider community will also be able to access the facilities. Professor Deirdre Heenan, Provost of Coleraine campus, said: 'This is a significant investment in the Coleraine campus and bolsters the University's commitment to sport at all levels.'

MAGEE DEVELOPMENTS

The new £11 million teaching block at the Magee campus is currently emerging into the Derry-Londonderry skyline.

The four-storey extension adjoins the existing campus library building and will provide modern new facilities featuring a 340-seat lecture theatre, two further lecture theatres, 20 classrooms and a café. The University's growing presence is part of its overall drive to reinforce and grow Derry-Londonderry's reputation as a vibrant university city.

In January, an ambitious new business plan to increase student numbers at Magee was put forward, as Ulster University and Derry City and Strabane District Council proposed an increase to full-time undergraduate places by over 2,600 to 6,000 by 2024, with overall student numbers rising to 9,400 by the following year.

In March, moves to locate a medical school at the Magee campus also took a significant step forward when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paddy Nixon, met Northern Ireland's then Health Minister Simon Hamilton to discuss establishing a Graduate Entry Medical (GEM) school.

The Minister said: 'It is proven that medical graduates are more likely to seek employment close to where they have been educated. Such a school could provide a platform to attract and retain skilled people into the medical profession, especially those from the North West area. That is good for the economy, skills development and will improve the overall health and well-being of citizens.'

The Vice-Chancellor said the expansion of Magee was essential to sustain the University's positive impact within communities. He added: 'We have strong ambitions for Ulster University in Derry-Londonderry and remain fully committed to realising its full potential and delivering significant skills and economic benefits to the wider region.'

SPORTS CENTRE, COLERAINE CAMPUS



ABOVE: THE BELFAST CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER BARR

Life-saving University technology goes global

Major University spin-out HeartSine Technologies has another new parent company after its previous owner was acquired by a US Fortune 500 firm in February.

Physio-Control had bought HeartSine last September for an undisclosed sum, in a move that created one of the world's largest automated external defibrillator (AED) solutions providers.

Publicly-traded medical device maker Stryker Corp bought Physio-Control International Inc for \$1.28 billion, to expand its emergency medical services business.

The acquisition of the Belfast-based defibrillator maker creates a global organisation with the potential to save many thousands of lives.

Founded in 1998 by Professor John Anderson, HeartSine Technologies has become a world leader in the development and production of portable AEDs, which are now sold in 104 countries. It employs over 100 staff in its Belfast premises.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Professor Hugh McKenna, said: 'HeartSine and its founder, the late Professor John Anderson, can be credited with saving countless lives globally by developing the world's first truly portable defibrillator technology which has its roots in early stage research at Ulster University and which HeartSine has continued to advance.

'I hope that the acquisition by this US healthcare giant will cement HeartSine's reputation for pioneering life-saving devices which continue to revolutionise the medical sector.'



US-Ireland research project secures \$3 million

Ulster University scientists have secured \$3 million in research funding to transform internet connectivity and computer storage capacity for the global telecommunications industry.

The major three-year project is the first of its kind funded by a US-Ireland R&D programme.

The research will develop innovations that will meet the growing global demand for digital technologies including social media, the Internet and cloud computing, by intelligently managing the fastest, next generation networks and systems.

Ulster's involvement is part of a tri-jurisdictional approach, driving significant research between internationally leading partners in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United States.

Led by Professor Gerard Parr, the research work has already started on

the Coleraine campus, which has unique access to the Kelvin Trans-Atlantic Fibre Interconnector and can be used as a test-bed to facilitate research between Europe and the United States.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paddy Nixon said: 'Building upon the University's internationally excellent research capability in computer science, our unique connection to the Kelvin Interconnector allows physical and networking technologies to be developed, benchmarked and stress-tested in a practical, real-world environment. This, combined with our expertise in big data, security and management protocols, as well as software defined and virtual networks at our Cloud Technologies Research Centre, means the University is now at the forefront of this exciting global research project.'

ABOVE: PROFESSOR GERARD PARR WILL LEAD THE MAJOR THREE YEAR PROJECT

High degrees of satisfaction

The University has achieved its best rating to date in the eleventh annual National Student Survey.

The census of nearly half a million students across the UK saw Ulster University achieve an overall satisfaction rating of 89%, the fourth year in a row it has achieved a rating greater than the sector average.

The rating is four percentage points higher than the Higher Education Funding Council for England's benchmark of 85%.



World first in better understanding of brain disorders

In a world first, researchers at Ulster University have discovered how to measure the speed and direction of visual signals between parts of the brain.

The breakthrough could help medical professionals better understand and treat disorders such as stroke and neurodegenerative diseases.

Computer science experts at Ulster, in partnership with Trinity College Dublin, used 3D computer modelling of the brain to explore the speed and pathway that visual signals travel from the optical lobe, the part of the brain that first interprets what we see, to the frontal, parietal and temporal lobes, which process more complex cognition such as decision-making.

This research, published in *The Journal of Neuroscience*, one of the leading journals in brain sciences, has the potential to identify areas of the brain that are not functioning correctly, or at all, and provide clinicians with crucial information regarding the most appropriate patient treatment.

Lead researcher, Dr KongFatt Wong-Lin, said: 'This research lays an important foundation for better understanding of the human visual system.'

The University hopes to extend the work using the recently acquired magnetoencephalography (MEG) scanner, the only one of its kind in Ireland.



DR KONGFATT WONG-LIN

Carbon-based material could transform global manufacturing

World-leading engineering experts from Ulster University and the University of Cambridge have received £2.8 million of funding for research into a carbon-based material that could transform the global manufacturing sector.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council-funded project will focus on carbon nanotubes, electrically and thermally conductive materials that are extremely lightweight yet strong, and address

the production of carbon nanotubes on an industrial scale, which is currently expensive and requires long manufacturing lead times.

The properties of the material make it ideal for a range of manufacturing applications, particularly in the aerospace and energy storage industries.

Professor Davide Mariotti said: 'The applications of carbon nanotubes are endless and Ulster University is at the forefront of driving this research. As well as aerospace and energy storage industries, we will be working with some of the UK's leading manufacturing companies to explore further applications of this innovative material.'

ABOVE: PROFESSOR DAVIDE MARIOTTI WILL LEAD THE RESEARCH ALONGSIDE PROFESSOR PAUL MAGUIRE

Inspiring the next generation

The University celebrated its collaborations and commitments to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects in February at the Northern Ireland Science Festival. Our experts delivered sessions on stem cells, the genetics of human fitness, health

wearables, aerospace, the future for transport and sustainable energy. Also at the 'Grand Challenges for Females in Engineering' event, held at the Jordanstown campus, women were encouraged to explore STEM-related careers.



HADIA ASHFAQ FROM BANGOR ACADEMY GETS TO GRIPS WITH 3D PRINTING AT THE UNIVERSITY DURING THE NORTHERN IRELAND SCIENCE FESTIVAL

BELFAST, MAGEE & COLERAINE

End of Year Shows, a wealth of innovation

The annual spectacle of students' End of Year Shows took place this year in May and June across the Magee, Coleraime and Belfast campuses.

First out of the blocks was the Drama showcase in the Foyle Arts Building. It started with a poignant memorial to the late Dr Paul Devlin, a dedicated and passionate teacher. Costuming the Mechanized Body, an exhibition created by Chloe Gamble was an apposite backdrop to the evening's events.

The Belfast School of Art's Fashion Show came next. Over 500 guests attended the glamorous sold-out occasion in the Europa Hotel. Graduating students showed their capsule collections that demonstrated a breathtaking range of highly innovative concepts and garments.

The Coleraime campus hosted the End of Year Show for the School of Media, Film and Journalism on 2 June, which was opened by the Director of BBC Northern Ireland, Peter Johnston.

This was followed by the Magee Live Music Showcase, comprising two separate concerts spanning classical, traditional, rock, pop and jazz. It was the perfect platform to showcase the students' amazing talent, helped by a trio of special guests, Mickey Bradley, Lynette Fay and Andrew Strong.

The Belfast Schools of Art and Architecture Shows took



place in early June, drawing huge crowds to see the latest work by this year's emerging artists and designers in their new purpose-built studios on York Street. The opening night's boisterous hubbub was a colourful occasion befitting the End of Year exuberance.

The final End of Year Show was an exhibition celebrating the work of design students from

the School of Creative Arts and Technologies based at Magee. With a busy opening viewing and a programme of tours for schools, the week-long showcase was a magnet of creativity for the city.

Ulster University's wealth in creativity is evident throughout the year, but these showcases are a chance for graduating students to present the culmination of their three years study. They are a window onto the next generation of entrepreneurs in the creative industries - an important element for Ulster's leading role as a civic university that contributes demonstrably to our society and beyond.

STATE-OF-THE-ART MEDIA PRODUCTION FACILITIES AT COLERAINE CAMPUS



COLERAINE

World-class media facilities

Following the completion of the extension to the Faculty of Arts building, the next generation of media production – high quality, low cost and run over fibre optics – is now a reality in the new Media Centre at the Coleraime campus.

The £6.5 million project has placed the Faculty of Arts at the forefront of media production in the UK. With an energy-efficient building connected by fibre optics to a 72 terabyte server in the University's new data centre, it all adds up to faster production and editing.

The central feature of the building is a multi-use atrium space which leads to the fully equipped HD television studio, green screens and full gallery. The radio studio is equipped to BBC standards.

Multimedia edit labs and news rooms with a capacity for up to 60 people provide additional capability. Live HD broadcasts produced from the studio can be transmitted around the building.

Dr Colm Murphy, Head of the School of Media, Film and Journalism said: 'Students, staff and industry professionals can now learn how to produce the next generation of media content, for mobile, online and traditional TV and cinema using some of the best facilities in Europe.'

There has already been praise for the new facilities. After a recent accreditation visit, the UK-based National Council for the Training of Journalists reported: 'The building has a real wow factor, with well-designed teaching and socialising spaces and the latest technology in broadcast studios. This is one of the most impressive facilities for teaching among the centres running accredited courses.'



JORDANSTOWN

Sporting achievements

Ulster University is one of the UK's leading universities for sport. With our academic programmes, world-class sports and exercise research and multi-campus sports hubs, we are home to athletes of all levels of ability across a wide range of sports. The advanced facilities at Jordanstown campus also regularly play host to major national and international sporting events.

With the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro capturing global attention, the University's world-class sporting facilities and coaching expertise at Jordanstown continue to deliver high-level support to Northern Ireland's elite athletes and coaches.

Olympic boxers Paddy Barnes, Michael Conlan and Stephen Donnelly were among local athletes heading for the Games, and they took part in an intensive training camp at Jordanstown in February this year as part of their preparations. The boxers underwent a series of strength and conditioning training sessions, bag and pad sessions, as well as sparring matches with Russian boxers at the Jordanstown campus.

Meanwhile, having won the Irish Senior Cup for the first time last year, the Ulster University Elks ladies hockey team retained their champions crown, and won gold at the European Champions Challenge in Prague, beating Lithuanian side Gintra Stretke University 3-0 in the final.

In February it was the turn of the Sigerson Cup. The tournament, and the University, welcomed 14 teams, over 500 players and coaches, and thousands of spectators for the pinnacle of university Gaelic football. The Ulster team made the semi-finals, and alumnus and honorary graduate, John Farrell who is President of the GAA Club at the Jordanstown campus, praised the 'enormous effort' from volunteers, enthusiasts and the staff of Ulster University in hosting the weekend.

In other sporting developments, Ulster University is now the official Northern Ireland university partner of Cricket Ireland. The collaboration will provide academic opportunities for elite cricket players based in the Ulster region, as well as access to indoor and outdoor training facilities and strength and conditioning gyms at Ulster's campuses in Jordanstown, Coleraine and Magee.

MAGEE

Peace through progress

The 2016 Clinton International Summer School at the Magee campus hosted a group of young entrepreneurs from post-conflict and developing regions around the world.

The summer school, held annually in June at Ulster's prestigious International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE), this year focused on examining how peacebuilding can be enhanced by economic development.

Among the issues the week-long programme examined were the challenges and opportunities facing 'wantrepreneurs' and entrepreneurs in peacebuilding communities, and digital innovation in post-conflict societies.

The delegates were also helped to develop their own enterprise ideas and to explore their potential for making a difference in societies emerging from conflict.

The summer school drew on a unique partnership between INCORE's conflict transformation skills and facilitators from the University.

Facilitators included Professor Brandon Hamber, the newly appointed John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace at Ulster University.

He was joined by Michael McQuillan, Director of The Business Institute, and Timothy Brundle, Director of Research and Innovation.

The summer school's closing dinner was attended by Honorary Professor of Peace Studies and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, John Hume.



Engaging festival brings arts to communities

A host of featured events within a new strand of socially engaged public art commissions saw a tremendous 2016 Ulster University Festival of Art and Design explore a shared enquiry into the themes of gender justice, place and identity.

The eighth edition of the festival welcomed researchers, writers and practitioners into a range of local communities, as well as to featured events in Coleraine, Magee and Belfast.

Attracting an audience of over 2,800 across four days and 26 events, the festival opened on International Women's Day (8 March) with a presentation by Helen Hester of the international feminist collective Laboria Cuboniks.

Highlight events featured Malu Halasa, editor of *Syria Speaks*; Guardian editor at large, Gary Younge, on *Black Lives Matter in the Age of Obama*; photographers Hannah

Starkey and Osama Esid; and a performative lecture by artists Jesse Jones and Sarah Browne.

In addition to the featured events the University engaged with communities in Belfast, Ballycastle and Lisburn.

Over 600 people gathered at the Giant's Ring near Belfast for *The Stone Tapes*, in association with Ballynafeigh Community Development Association. The event was led by sound artist Augustine Leudar, whose sound art installation, one of the world's largest, responded to the heritage of the Neolithic site as an exploration of place and time.

In Belfast's Shankill area, Interior Design and Architecture students worked with Aberrant Architecture and the Spectrum Centre on a public art commission that created a pop-up

GARY YOUNGE





University pitches in with youth football facilities

Ulster University's commitment to community engagement was reflected in the faces of over 1,000 smiling school children on the Coleraine campus football pitches last October as legendary Manchester United goalkeeper Harry Gregg looked on.

They had gathered for a special launch, hosted by the Harry Gregg Foundation, marking the relocation of its Small Sided Games Centre to the campus.

Harry, who holds an honorary degree from the University, ran his eye over the Saturday morning session and complimented all those involved. He added that it was 'marvellous' to see so many young people enjoying football.

Harry was joined by guests including Irish Football Association President Jim Shaw, former Manchester United players Keith Gillespie and Pat McGibbon, and Provost of the Coleraine campus, Professor Deirdre Heenan, who is an avid Manchester United fan and supporter of the Harry Gregg Foundation.

Welcoming the Small Sided Games Centre to the Coleraine campus, she told those present that civic engagement and sport were 'at the heart' of the University, adding that 'the new sports centre at Coleraine will be a resource for the whole community; it is our aim to be a civic university.'

Awarded the MBE in 1995 for services to football, Harry Gregg survived the 1958 Munich air disaster and was praised for staying with the burning plane to help passengers to safety. In the same year he was voted goalkeeper of the tournament at the World Cup finals in Sweden.

The University hosted an event attended by leading figures from sport and politics to launch his foundation early last year.

booth where the local community could record their own one-off vinyl records of music, poems and the spoken word.

Transmission Ballycastle presented a series of exhibitions, installations, screenings and talks developed by the Belfast School of Architecture and the Environmental Sciences Research Institute, in collaboration with local residents and shopkeepers.

The circulation of events between regional venues and University campuses brought global stories to Northern Ireland and built a host of local, regional, national and international connections.

Further highlights included public talks by BAFTA nominated Sean McAllister and acclaimed illustrator and author Kitty Crowther.

The University is planning to host its inaugural International Literary Festival at the Riverside Theatre in Coleraine from 4 – 7 October 2016. An exciting programme of guest writers' talks, workshops and discussions is in preparation.

We gratefully recognise the impact our corporate relationships make on the lives of students across four campuses, local communities and the Northern Ireland economy.

Allen & Overy package supports students and improves access to justice

The University was delighted to partner with international law firm Allen & Overy on a new package of scholarship support for students.

The company, which employs more than 400 staff in Belfast, has provided support for students Niall Byrne, Frederick Reilly and Emma Hutchinson, who are enrolled on the LLM Clinical Legal Education course, the only one of its kind in the UK.

The funding will support three full-fee scholarships and provide a maintenance award for one scholarship student over a three-year period. This generous scholarship package will help the next generation of social justice lawyers develop research and clinical capacity at a critical time for access to justice across the UK and further afield.

Jane Townsend, Partner and Head of Allen & Overy's Legal Services Centre in Belfast, said: 'Encouraging young, promising talent and improving access to justice are important right across our law firm. We will follow our scholars' progress with great interest.'

ALLEN & OVERY'S JANE TOWNSEND, SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NIALL BYRNE AND FREDERICK REILLY, AND DR GRAINNE MCKEEVER FROM THE SCHOOL OF LAW



SSE Airtricity continues backing for bright sparks

SSE scholar Mark Daly is pictured in the Centre for Engineering and Renewable Energy at the Magee campus thanks to the second year of our partnership with SSE Airtricity.

To date this significant scheme has provided scholarships to 24 students – paying the equivalent of 50% of each student's fees for every year of their degree. Mark and the other scholars have benefited greatly from this support helping them to make their educational and career aspirations a reality.



Santander Universities funding enables international mobility

Now in its fifth year, the partnership between Santander Universities and Ulster University continues to go from strength to strength.

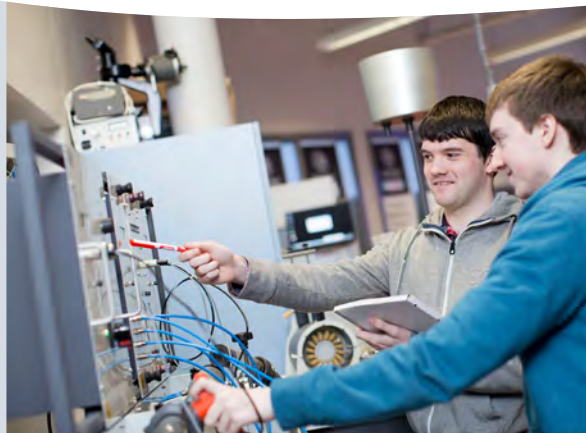
Support from Santander Universities includes internship funding and entrepreneurship support within all faculties for both staff and students, and mobility scholarships for both inward and outward travel from Ulster, all of which have had a huge impact this year.

More students than ever have benefited from the opportunity to travel and some amazing mobility opportunities have been enabled, both for international students coming to Ulster to study and for home students to travel to distant countries.

Among the home students gaining opportunities was Occupational Therapy student, Jerusha Greer, who went to Kenya to help reduce occupational deprivation among adults, young people and children.

Additionally, Leah McDaid, a student on the Geography with International Development course, travelled to the Ecuadorian Amazon to provide remote villages with fresh water, teach English to children and help rebuild basic amenities.

ABOVE: SANTANDER MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER JERUSHA GREER HELPING A KENYAN GIRL





Ulster singing wows the Big Apple

A standing ovation at Carnegie Hall, a moving performance at Ground Zero and a stunning performance at the American Irish Historical Society on Fifth Avenue were all part of Ulster University Choir's triumphant tour to New York in February.

At the legendary Carnegie Hall, the choir participated in a performance of *The Music of Paul Mealeor*, a New York premiere of *Stabat Mater*

and a new world premiere as part of the Distinguished Concerts International New York, DCINY.

The choir was also honoured to be invited to perform along with the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Choir at Ground Zero, in memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11. Despite the torrential rain, a crowd still gathered around to hear their deeply moving performance, which included *Danny Boy*.

A performance at the American Irish Historical Society on Fifth Avenue included a welcome for New York-based alumni, friends and supporters and was attended by Lord Alderdice, Chair of the Centre for Democracy and Peacebuilding. Ulster alumna Sophie Colgan (BSc Hons Communication with PR), who is Marketing and Events Coordinator at the venue, helped make the event a huge success.

This New York tour was made possible by support from Culture Ireland (as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme), the Ulster University Student Fund, Santander Universities, the Northern Ireland Bureau, the American Irish Historical Society, alumni and University staff, including Vice-Chancellor Professor Paddy Nixon.

The impact of this visit on the students should not be underestimated – at the same time as underlining the esteem in which the Choir is held, they have broadened their horizons and raised their aspirations as to what is possible.

Inaugural Rotary Club scholarships launched

The Rotary Club of Londonderry has secured support to the value of £42,000 to support students undertaking the MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies on a full-time basis.

The scholarships are supported as a legacy of the Rotary Global Peace Forum held in Derry~Londonderry as part of the City of Culture 2013, in which Ulster University's International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) played an integral part.

The University welcomed President Peter O'Connor and other Rotary Club members to an event at the Magee campus in January to celebrate the award of the first two scholarships to Hugo Maguire and Garry Lynn.

Three further awards will be made, two to support one local scholar in the academic years 2016/17 and 2017/18 and one to support an international scholar in 2016/17.



Hugo Maguire said: 'This scholarship has enabled me to commit to this course unburdened by the financial constraints which would have impacted on my ability to focus exclusively on my academic objective. It has also allowed me to continue my research in a subject area which I believe is integral to achieving a stable and peaceful society.'

ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT PETER O'CONNOR, HUGO MAGUIRE, GARRY LYNN AND PROFESSOR BRANDON HAMBER AT AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LONDONDERRY PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS

KNOW YOUR UNIVERSITY



90%
of our graduates are in
work or further study
6 MONTHS
after leaving university



We are in
the world's
Top 100
Universities
UNDER 50
YEARS OLD



£49M
How much we
invest each year
in research



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2,000

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We recruit
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89% **OVERALL
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A lifetime of business innovation and education

It was a busy year for Ulster University Business School, which was celebrating its 40th anniversary with students, alumni, colleagues, international partners and stakeholders in the business community.

And what a celebration – the sixth largest business school in Britain or Ireland has over 60,000 alumni in over 120 countries and over the course of the year, 5,000 alumni reconnected with it.

With global reach, over four decades of business leadership, business growth, entrepreneurship and influence on economic policy the Business School has made a massive contribution to every aspect of the Northern Ireland economy and impacted on the international stage.

Around 450 alumni gathered to mark the School's past, present and future with a gala lunch at Titanic Belfast in November 2015, one of over 20 events held throughout the year to mark the occasion.



The anniversary year was rounded off when Professor Marie McHugh, Dean, Ulster University Business School, won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the UTV Business Eye Awards in association with Flybe.

The award is given to a person who has made an 'outstanding contribution to business and the economy in Northern Ireland throughout his or her career'.

In announcing the winner, category sponsor Gary Irvine from 4C Executive Search described Professor McHugh as 'an innovator, an educator and a leading lady of the business scene in Northern Ireland'.

He added that during her time at Ulster University she has been 'responsible for the growth of the Business School which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary and has built up an international reputation'.

Professor McHugh was also presented with a bursary by Flybe as a contribution to the Business School's 40th anniversary scholarship fund.

ABOVE: COLIN WALSH, CBI, JAMIE DELARGY, UTV, PROFESSOR MARIE MCHUGH, DEAN OF ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL; JILL MINNE, BELFAST CITY COUNCIL; IAN LARMOUR, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE SWITZERLAND AND HELEN KIRKPATRICK, KINGSPAN GROUP.

Gender principles for dealing with 'Troubles'

Work by Ulster University academics has helped in the creation of an important new set of gender principles for addressing the legacy of the Northern Ireland conflict.

The Gender Principles for Dealing with the Legacy of the Past, launched at Parliament Buildings last September, were developed to respond to the absence of a gendered lens and the sustained exclusion of women in dealing with the past.

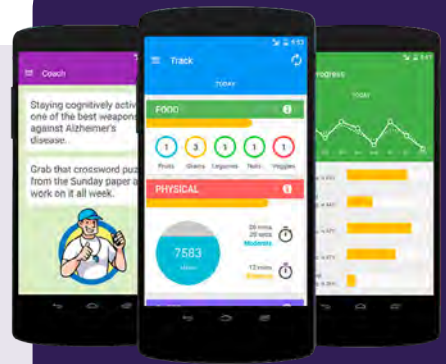
The vast majority of the people killed in the conflict were men, however the majority of surviving family members are women.

The principles are designed to ensure that the gendered impact of the conflict and post-conflict legacy needs of women will be adequately addressed in processes emerging from the Stormont House Agreement.

Catherine O'Rourke, Senior Lecturer and Gender Research Coordinator at the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) and Patricia Lundy, Professor of Sociology, were members of the Legacy Gender Integration Group which developed the principles. Philipp Schulz, a PhD student at the TJI also assisted in the project.

Supported by the Reconciliation Fund of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, this independent initiative is made up of a multidisciplinary group of individuals with different perspectives and affiliations.

The principles were formulated following consultations with women affected by the conflict, including those who suffered bereavement.



App development could help prevent Alzheimer's

Scientists at Ulster University's Computer Science Research Institute (CSRI), in collaboration with Utah State University in the United States, have developed a unique new smartphone app that could hold the key to preventing the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

The Gray Matters app encourages individuals to set lifestyle goals, ranging from exercise and nutrition to stress management and brain stimulation – all of which are known to have an impact on the onset and progression of the disease.

The app provides daily facts on the link between healthy lifestyle behaviours and improved cognitive well-being.

Targeted at people aged 40 to 64 who do not have dementia, users can track their lifestyle across a range of areas, including diet, physical activity, mental well-being and social engagement.

The Smart Environments Research Group within the CSRI is also developing innovative ambient assisted living solutions through research in sensor-based technologies and pervasive and mobile computing.

Professor Chris Nugent, Acting Director of the CSRI, said: 'Ulster University's leading research in assistive technologies is not only helping to solve challenges faced by people already living with Alzheimer's disease, it is also creating pioneering solutions that are improving prevention strategies.'



TIME comes calling for Colin Davidson

It was a surprise phone call last October that brushed contemporary artist Colin Davidson into an auspicious date with TIME.

The American publication had come calling for the talents of the renowned Ulster alumnus, who has gained widespread and critical acclaim for his work in large format portraits.

He was contacted by the world-famous magazine and asked to paint the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had been selected as the 2015 TIME 'Person of the Year'.

Published in New York, TIME has a readership measured in millions and has previously commissioned artists of the stature of Marc Chagall, Andy

Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein to feature on its pages.

'I wasn't aware of what the end use was going to be,' Colin told *Ulster Graduate*, 'so my initial response was to be quite doubtful about doing it because I've always insisted on meeting the person I paint and sitting with them at least. But after a few hours I came to the conclusion that you don't turn TIME down.'

Only after fulfilling the commission, and only on the day of publication, did Colin discover that his portrait of

the German Chancellor was adorning the magazine's December cover, being beamed across the globe.

Having appeared on the year's most widely circulated magazine cover, the artist's instantly recognisable work had found its biggest audience yet.

But while Colin feels there has been a certain increase in enquiries for commissions from around the world as a result, he remains modest and somewhat unfazed by the upturn in international attention and exposure.

'It was a total surprise when I found out,' said Colin, 'though I was immediately conscious of the coverage TIME has, and the potential of its famous 'Person of the Year' issue. But on the other hand I am keenly aware that it's not me on the cover. It was simply a wonderful opportunity and I am glad I took it.'

The Merkel portrait has since been snapped up by a museum in Berlin, yet another boost to Colin's standing as a master of the large format portrait.

Larger than life

The artist's venture into the form started in 2010 with the painting of his friend, Duke Special, a well-known Northern Irish songwriter and performer with a distinctive hobo chic look.

'I instinctively wanted to make a painting of him larger than life,' said Colin, 'When we got around to it, I picked up a large canvas I had just stretched, and that was the beginning. It was never meant to be the start of a new theme, it just evolved from there.'

On canvases that are typically around 1.2m square, the Belfast-born artist has subsequently painted a string of famous faces in this unique style.

He painted the last portrait of Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney, before he died, and subjects such as musicians Mark Knopfler and Ed Sheeran. He has also painted Hollywood actor Brad Pitt, and at the star's request, also taught him to paint. One of his most recent works, of actor Liam Neeson, has joined a permanent exhibition in Belfast's Lyric Theatre.

Colin's portraits yield what can only be described as intimate and revealing 'landscapes of the face'.

His work is held in public and corporate collections worldwide and he has exhibited extensively in London, New York, Milan, across Ireland, and most recently in Paris, garnering many international awards along the way.

Colin graduated from Ulster University's Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment with a first-class honours degree in Design



in 1991. As a young graduate he had spells in an advertising agency and even started his own graphic design business. In 1999, however, he decided to become a full-time artist.

The artist established his reputation with an acclaimed series of cityscapes and a sequence of fluid street scenes reflected in glass, though it is for his grand scale portraiture that he has gained most international momentum and recognition.

Silent Testimony

His most recent collection in this theme is the stunning *Silent Testimony* exhibition, which features 18 portraits of people connected by having lost loved ones or who were directly affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

This haunting show captured the public imagination at Belfast's Ulster Museum last year, attracting over 70,000 visitors and moving many to tears.

Silent Testimony transferred to the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris in the spring of this year, drawing another great response, and in conjunction with the Ulster Museum Colin is discussing taking the exhibition to the United States. It is likely that Boston will host it at some stage in 2016.

In 2012 Ulster University acknowledged Colin's remarkable career by presenting him with the First Trust Bank and Ulster University Distinguished Graduate of the Year Award, made annually to a graduate 'in recognition of outstanding achievement in their chosen field'.

The past President of the Royal Ulster Academy remembers his time at Ulster University with 'great fondness and great affection'.

'When I travel and when I give talks I am often asked about my time at the University, and I can honestly say that I am immensely proud to tell people that I went there and that it gave me an excellent foundation on which to build a career.

'I think with university we get out of it what we put in, and back then I was convinced that I was going to use my time in the most profitable way possible, and I think I did.'

He certainly did, and on a grand scale.

Ulster's reach across the globe

One of the countless benefits of an Ulster University education is that it sets up our graduates to 'go global'.

Wherever Ulster graduates go, we're great achievers, networkers, business partners and researchers, making an impact in a wide range of disciplines, companies and societies.

Ulster alumni are leaders, role models, people who take their education around the globe.

You're part of it.



NEW YORK



Gavin Morgan

BSc Hons Estate Management

1994

Current role? I'm now Vice Chairman, New York Operations, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL).

Tell me more: JLL is the largest professional services and investment management company specialising in real estate.

How's it going? Fantastic career so far. I've worked on a broad range of commercial projects including the leasing of some of the world's largest tower office buildings.

Ulster memory? My three years in the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment were an enormous help and real preparation for working across many different cultures, from Europe to Asia Pacific and now the United States.

Luiz Monfardini

PGD Telecommunications and Distributed Systems

2001

Current role? Tax Auditor, Brazilian Federal Revenue.

Tell me more: I am responsible for the development and maintenance of all information systems that support tax revenue collection and customs in Brazil.

How's it going? Although Brazil is going through a difficult political situation, affecting everyone here, I am lucky in that life is going very well.

Ulster memory? I have very good memories of my time at the Coleraine campus and I have a lot of friends from all around the world with whom I still keep in regular contact.

Belal Hijji

PhD Life and Health Sciences

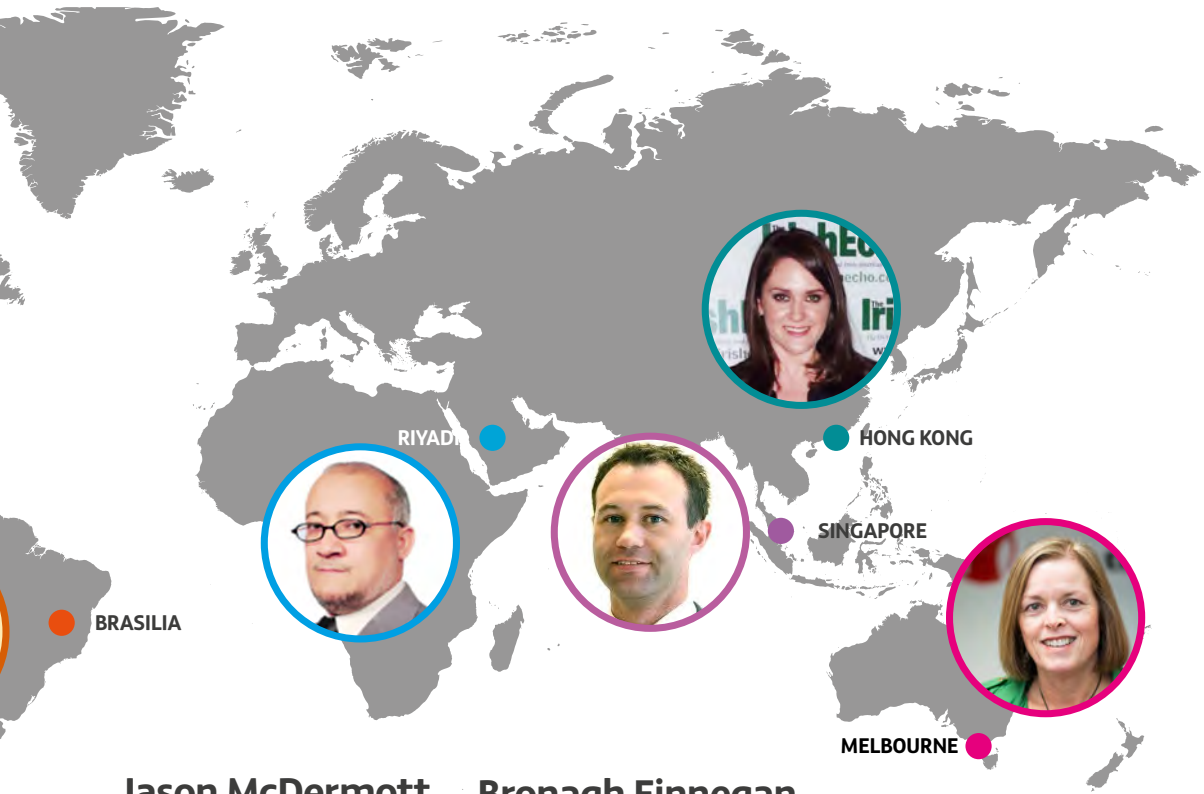
2007

Current role? Assistant Professor of Nursing at Al-Ghad International College for Applied Medical Sciences.

Tell me more: It is a college with eight campuses spread around the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, providing graduates to serve in the health sectors.

How's it going? Life is going very well, I feel I am making a difference in medical science education here in Riyadh.

Ulster memory? The ongoing and genuine support I received throughout my study from my supervisors, Professor Kader Parahoo and Professor Owen Barr.



Jason McDermott

MSc Computing and Information Systems and BSc Hons Geography

2000 and 1998

Current role? I head up the Google for Work team in Asia.

Tell me more: We take to market a set of pioneering cloud technologies that allow our customers to build and run innovative enterprise applications leveraging services such as big data analytics, machine learning and real-time collaboration tools on Google's infrastructure.

How's it going? It's crazy as I travel outside Singapore almost every single week. I left Ireland in 2001 on a round the world ticket and I still like to think I will return some day. I spent nine years in Australia and the last six in Singapore. But for now Asia is the place to be with so much opportunity. There is so much left for me to see and do around here.

Ulster memory? So many but I'd have to say the Ulster University Soccer Club as it was a huge part of the experience when I was there.

Bronagh Finnegan

LLB Law with Politics

2011

Current role? Financial Engineer, First Derivatives PLC, currently seconded on a legal project in Hong Kong.

Tell me more: Based in Northern Ireland, First Derivatives is a leading provider of products and consulting services to the capital markets industry, with offices all around the world.

How's it going? My role in Hong Kong is quite a change from my previous role in the diplomatic mission of the Northern Ireland Executive in Washington, DC, but I love it! I am learning a lot while working in one of the most international cities in the world and having lots of fun! I have been very fortunate in my career so far.

Ulster memory? I relished my time at Ulster University and particularly look back with fondness on the friends that I made throughout my studies and professors that I encountered, with whom I still keep in regular contact.

Karen Flanagan

BSc Hons Social Administration and Diploma in Social Work


1982 and 1984

Current role? Manager, Child Protection Technical Unit, Save the Children Australia.

Tell me more: I am the Head of Child Protection for Save the Children's child protection programming work in Australia and in the South East Asia Pacific Region.

How's it going? Well, not long ago I got the Order of Australia Medal for my work, so pretty good. I am proud to be regarded as one of the country's foremost educators and practitioners in the field of child sexual abuse and child abuse prevention.

Ulster memory? The amazing friends made for life that transcend international borders, a degree and social work qualification that enabled me to have a career that I am still as enthusiastic about today as I was in 1984 when I graduated! And of course, the Anchor Bar in Portstewart!



Ulster makes pancreatic cancer breakthrough

Ulster University research made news all over the world last November following the discovery of a breakthrough treatment in the fight against pancreatic cancer.

Hailed as one of the most promising advances in pancreatic cancer research for decades, the novel treatment comprises tiny oxygen-filled microbubbles which have a non-active drug attached to their surfaces.

Delivered by injection, once inside the tumour the bubbles are intentionally burst by ultrasound waves that activate the drug.

The research team's initial tests on the most common type of pancreatic tumour, called Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC), have shown a five-fold reduction in tumour size, making it potentially

one of the most significant breakthroughs in the treatment of the cancer in recent years.

The technology is being developed by Ulster University Professors John Callan and Tony McHale, based at the world-leading Biomedical Sciences Research Institute in Coleraine, along with University of Oxford's Professor Eleanor Stride and one of Northern Ireland's top pancreatic cancer surgeons, Mr Mark Taylor.

'After the microbubbles have been delivered by injection, they are burst in the tumour using harmless sound waves, releasing the oxygen and non-active

drug,' explained Professor Callan, who, as the Norbrook Chair of Pharmaceutical Science, leads the research.

'These sound waves also activate the drug, a treatment known as sonodynamic therapy (SDT), making it kill the tumour cells. As we can selectively target the tumour and spare healthy tissue, this is a highly targeted therapy with reduced side-effects,' he said.

Pancreatic tumours are notorious as being among the hardest cancers to detect and treat. More than 200,000 people around the world die from the disease annually and it has claimed the

lives of high-profile figures such as the actor Alan Rickman, Apple tycoon Steve Jobs and classical singer Pavarotti.

Of the top 21 most common types of cancer in the UK, pancreatic has the lowest survival rate. Just 4% of patients survive five years or more, a figure which has barely changed in more than 40 years. This new treatment offers fresh hope to patients.

Surgeon Mark Taylor said the work was a very exciting development. 'Pancreatic cancer patients typically present at an advanced stage, because the disease tends to have few symptoms until it is well established. By the time patients seek medical advice the tumour tends to be large and deep-seated in the abdomen, making surgical intervention and other treatments largely unsuccessful.

'This therapy has the potential to reduce pancreatic tumours to a size which would make surgery an option for a greater number of patients, as well as increasing palliative care options at the very advanced stage. It is a very positive step forward in treating one of the most challenging forms of the disease.

'We are currently working with the research team at Ulster University to identify the best possible way to move this technology to the clinic in as timely a manner as is possible.'

The research has been published in the influential *Journal of Controlled Release* and the team's latest work has been accepted for publication in leading international drug delivery journal *Biomaterials*.

The University is hopeful that clinical trials for the ground-breaking technology can begin within the next two years.



Norbrook congratulates Ulster University research team

Ulster University's breakthrough in pancreatic cancer research illustrates the real-world impact flowing from the generous corporate support of Norbrook Laboratories, a local company with a global presence.

The academic-industry partnership with the world-leading Northern Ireland-based company is yielding internationally competitive agenda-setting research, focusing on the development of new, targeted therapies for the treatment of disease.

The partnership was established through a donation of £1 million from Norbrook Laboratories, founded by the late entrepreneur, politician and philanthropist, Lord Ballyedmond. He established the Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science in 2011. The company generously

increased its support for Ulster University research in 2013 through funding of an annual scholarship worth £10,000 for a 10-year period.

Professor James Haughey, Visiting Professor to Ulster University and a board member at Norbrook, said: 'I am delighted at this excellent research development. It has the potential to change lives and offer hope to sufferers of a cancer that is notoriously difficult to treat.

'The research team is to be congratulated. I am confident that under Professor Callan, the Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science will continue to provide research leadership and support the University's ground-breaking activities in Biomedical Sciences, and, in particular, pharmaceutical science research.'

Ulster fosters high achievers

Ulster University is very proud of the achievements of our amazing alumni. Our tremendous impact in the world keeps on growing...

Beauty innovator glows as a distinguished graduate



ALYSON HOGG

The First Trust Bank and Ulster University Distinguished Graduate of the Year 2015/16 is entrepreneur Alyson Hogg.

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

As the founder of multi award-winning skincare brand Vita Liberata, Alyson was nominated for her outstanding achievements in the business world.

Alyson graduated from Ulster University in 1996 with a BA Hons in Philosophy and embraced a varied career.

She established her skincare business in 2003, and describes her business as having 'grown from a lightbulb moment into a global business that sells a bottle of tan every minute'.

In her acceptance speech, Alyson said that throughout her time at Ulster University she learned to view, think about and approach the world 'in a way that has helped her no end in business'.

First Trust Bank (in conjunction with Convocation) also sponsors the Student of the Year Award. In 2015, the recipient of this award was Séanin Smith from Newry.

Nominations for next year's Distinguished Graduate will open in early 2017. Readers wishing to propose a graduate for nomination should contact: alumni@ulster.ac.uk



ULSTER UNIVERSITY
CHANCELLOR, DR JAMES NESBITT

University figures recognised in New Year Honours list

Long-standing staff member, Valerie Barr, was awarded the BEM for services to higher education and to the community. Valerie has worked at the University for 39 years.

Graduates recognised in the New Year Honours 2016 include:

KNIGHTHOOD

Dr Anthony Peter McCoy OBE

an honorary Ulster graduate, for services to horse racing.

CBE

Mr Maxwell Murray

for services to the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

OBE

Dr Robert Leslie Caul

for services to education and sport.

Mr Terry Cross

founder, Delta Packaging and 2007 Distinguished Graduate, for services to the economy and voluntary service to the community.

Dr James Nesbitt

Ulster University Chancellor, for services to drama and the community in Northern Ireland.

Dr Nicholas Roden Todd

for services to education.

MBE

Mr Maurice John Devine

for services to the nursing profession and the field of learning disabilities.

Mr Jeremy Paul Farrell

for services to education.

Mr Nigel James Grimshaw

for services to policing and the community.

Dr Michael Johnston

for services to the dairy industry.

BEM

Mr Terence Doherty

for services to community safety and public protection.

Mr James Goodman

for services to music through the Britannia Band and Londonderry Musical Society.

Rev Robert Alan Knox

for services to the Royal British Legion and the community in Derry-Londonderry.

Trailblazer Michaela among the world's most inspiring women



Alumna Michaela Hollywood is living with spinal muscular atrophy, yet she's blazing a trail of inspirational achievements.

In November the County Down native was named on a listing of the world's most inspirational women who are working to change their world, the BBC 100 Women 2015 list.

She was recognised for her incredible fundraising efforts for Muscular Dystrophy UK and for encouraging hundreds of others to fundraise themselves.

Michaela is a passionate campaigner for disability equality and founded the Trailblazers network in Northern Ireland in 2008, after she encountered difficulties accessing a music concert in Belfast.

She has raised thousands of pounds for the charity through various events, including a marathon last year.

She speaks in Parliament and in the Stormont Assembly on issues affecting people with muscle-wasting conditions and has received a Point of Light Award from Prime Minister David Cameron.

Michaela graduated with a Masters degree from Ulster last Christmas.

'I hope to continue campaigning and fundraising and also plan to return to Ulster for a PhD at some point, as I've thoroughly enjoyed academic life,' Michaela said.

ABOVE: TRAILBLAZER MICHAELA HOLLYWOOD

HONORARY GRADUATES 2016

An honorary degree is one of higher education's most significant accolades. Each year Ulster University honours distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for achievement and distinction in a field or activity.

Among the honorary graduates recognised this year are David Benioff and Daniel Weiss co-creators of the world-famous TV series *Game of Thrones*, and Ulster alumna, Betty Hutchon, who has enhanced the lives of incalculable numbers of newborn and preterm infants.

The University is proud of our 2016 honorary graduates, who display leadership, progressive thinking and integrity in a wide range of fields, but also provide our students with inspirational role models, prompting further determination to succeed and achieve.

Mr David Benioff

Co-creator of *Game of Thrones* will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) for distinguished service to the arts.

Mr Daniel Weiss

Co-creator of *Game of Thrones* will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) for distinguished service to the arts.

Mr Ivan Cooper

Civil Rights campaigner, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to the Northern Ireland community.

Mr Terry Cross

Ulster graduate, Distinguished Graduate and founder of Delta Print and Packaging, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to business.

Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Anthony Farquhar

Receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for distinguished service to the University and to the community.

Lady Brenda Hale

Supreme Court Judge, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to the legal system.

Ms Betty (Elizabeth) Hutchon

Ulster graduate and Occupational Therapist, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to the health service.

Ms Claire Keatinge

Former Commissioner for Older People in Northern Ireland, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to the Northern Ireland community.

Ms Sandra Peake

Ulster graduate and Chief Executive officer, WAVE Trauma Centre, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to the Northern Ireland community.

Emeritus Professor Robert Pinker CBE

Former Acting Chair of the Press Complaints Commission, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for distinguished service to public life.

Mr Robin Ruddock

Environmental conservationist, maritime historian and kayaker, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished service to the community.

Dr Stephen Spinelli

President of Philadelphia University, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for distinguished service to education.

Sister Mary Turley

Non-Executive Director, The Flax Trust, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (DUniv) for distinguished service to the community.



innovative solutions for business last year



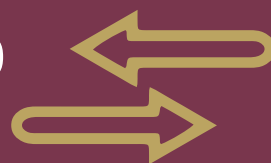
We have created 20 spin-out companies that employ over 290 staff and have a turn over of **£28m**

We provided **50,000** days of management training last year



businesses per year access our research and expertise

We have provided more than **200** Knowledge Transfer Partnerships



We're great business partners



University's mind-control technology

A budding Ulster University project is focused on commercialising research that could help paralysed patients to communicate using just their thoughts.

NeuroCONCISE Medical, based at the Intelligent Systems Research Centre

at the Magee campus, is developing wearable neurotechnology that interprets brainwaves and translates them into control signals.

People can use the technology, comprised of both hardware and software, to communicate and interact with computers, without moving.

Professor Damien Coyle has spent 15 years developing mind-controlled communications in a bid to help people who have become paralysed and 'locked in' to their own bodies, unable to communicate.

Using a headset that reads brain activity, the NeuroCONCISE technology can prove that patients are aware, show that they understand language and teach them to imagine moving different parts of the body to communicate words such as 'yes' and 'no'.

The technology has huge implications for those left without any movement following a stroke, brain or spinal injury.

NeuroCONCISE is now in the process of developing a proprietary headset and has completed the algorithms required to translate brain activity into signals that can control a computer.

Professor Coyle is hoping the technology could come to market within a year.

Intelesens heads towards XPrize final frontier

Internationally renowned Ulster spinout Intelesens is entering the final phase of its quest for the Qualcomm Tricorder XPrize, the \$10 million global competition to take the famed Star Trek® device out of science fiction and into reality.

Intelesens' team Zensor has joined forces with co-finalist Scanadu, a Silicon Valley medtech company, to create Team Scanadu-Intelesens as the competition enters the home stretch with just seven teams remaining.

The merger brings together complementary expertise from both teams, in their bid to bag the Qualcomm Foundation-sponsored prize for developing a consumer-focused, mobile device for diagnosing multiple health conditions.

Professor James McLaughlin, who is the team leader on the Belfast side of the Atlantic, is still optimistic that the US and Northern Ireland team of over 20 engineers can fulfil all the competition criteria and successfully demonstrate a set of high quality healthcare systems in the up and coming clinical trial.

Graduate's firm set to expand in global markets

Ulster engineering entrepreneur Daniel Crawford has secured a £300,000 investment to expand his new 3D medical printing company into European and US markets.

The biomedical engineering graduate established Axial 3D in 2014 and has already revolutionised the UK market by manufacturing orthopaedic models for the medical industry.

Using 3D printing technology, Axial 3D uses patients' CT and MRI scans to manufacture individual scaled 3D models of their injuries.

Surgeons use the models to practice and plan procedures, saving valuable time in the operating theatre, while also giving patients a more comprehensive insight into their injuries.

The £300,000 funding boost was provided by Ulster University's technology and knowledge transfer company, Innovation Ulster, in association with TechStart NI and a number of private angel investors from the Halo network run by the Northern Ireland Science Park.



ENTREPRENEUR DANIEL CRAWFORD WITH ULSTER UNIVERSITY'S HEAD OF INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISE, CAROLINE MCGORAN



Support our students – it works

Due to the success of our recent campaign activity, more and more of our alumni are realising the impact their donations have on current students and are making the decision to support the Ulster University Student Fund.

All gifts to Ulster University – large and small – are hugely appreciated, particularly by the students whose lives they enhance.

It is important to know that the funds you donate are being channelled appropriately, so here are a few examples of the way your giving makes an impact.

Remember, the Ulster University Student Fund donates 100% of every gift directly to students.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US AND GIVE A GIFT TO HELP A DESERVING STUDENT.



Michele aims to make a difference to vulnerable people

Michele Cassidy, Gateway Scholarship, Year 1 BSc Hons Social Work – part-time

Michele, 29, was delayed in commencing her university journey due to her commitments at home. She cared for her mother, who sadly passed away last year from cancer, as well as her younger brother, who is registered autistic with a severe learning disability and is non-verbal.

Her younger sister is currently studying for her GCSEs and is inevitably struggling with the loss of her mother. On top of these commitments Michele has her own seven year-old son to care for. Michele is extremely positive and ambitious and is determined to reach her goal of becoming a social worker.

‘This Scholarship offers more than the much-needed financial support,’ she said, ‘it has been a real boost to my confidence and morale and has inspired me to continue pursuing my goals. Thank you.’

Future bright for Knights athlete

Luke Marshall, Sports Scholarship Year 1, Sport and Exercise Science

Luke currently represents Northern Ireland, playing for the Knights Wheelchair basketball team and is aiming to make it as a member of Team GB in the Paralympic Games.

As a wheelchair user the costs involved in his sport are significant. There are, for example, additional costs when hiring basketball courts for training and his chair tyres need to be replaced monthly to ensure enough grip to be effective at manoeuvring.

Many games are played in England, requiring flights and bus hire, as well as costs to attend training camps for the Great Britain under 23s squad. Luke is very passionate about his sport and his ambition to succeed is evident.

'Despite my disability, I have always fully participated and enjoyed all sport alongside my able-bodied friends. This scholarship helps pay for my club fees, cost of flights, new tyres and helps me save for my dream chair; a lightweight top of the range Elite sports chair. This chair would enable me to play at the highest competitive level, to compete on equal terms, maximising the team's chances of success.'



Supporting chronic disease research

Mu'ath Tanash, Broadening Horizons Travel Bursary
PhD student at the Institute of Nursing and Health Research

Mu'ath Tanash has travelled from Jordan to complete his PhD in a bid to develop secondary prevention strategies. He believes Ulster University is a 'beautiful and peaceful oasis' for all who wish to create positive change or make a contribution to the world.

Mu'ath's research project is focused on Jordanian patients who present with life-threatening conditions associated with heart attacks and Type 2 diabetes. He was delighted to be awarded a Broadening Horizons Travel Bursary from the Ulster University Student Fund:

'I spend a lot of my time in the University working on my project and developing my skills through the training courses and workshops provided,' he said, 'but this bursary is allowing me to travel to Jordan to carry out necessary research which will feed into my PhD. It means the imprint of Ulster University will always be present in the Jordanian healthcare system and with patients living with chronic diseases around the world.'



Síofra Jumps the Hedges

Síofra Caherty, Vice-Chancellor's Award
MFA Multidisciplinary Design

Síofra Caherty has designed a range of bags under her 'Jump the Hedges' brand, which are aimed at the yoga and Pilates market.

She was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award, which provides grants to support student-focused projects and activities, with a particular emphasis on student innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity.

Síofra travelled to the Bali Spirit Festival in March to showcase the bags.



'It was a great experience,' she said, 'and I have made connections with yoga studios in the USA, Australia and Europe who are interested in stocking my bags! It is all thanks to the support of the Student Fund.'

**PLEASE
SUPPORT
US**



While more and more alumni are deciding to support the Student Fund, the demand is increasing. In 2015, **we were only able to support 20% of those students who applied to the Student Fund.**

Remember, the Student Fund donates 100% of every gift to support students directly.

Please consider joining the growing number of alumni choosing to help in this way by making a gift today at **ulster.ac.uk/daro/donateonline** or email **ulsteruniversityfund@ulster.ac.uk**

Telephone Fundraising Campaign update

The Development and Alumni Relations team would like to thank everyone who takes the time to chat to our students during our telephone campaigns – and we are delighted to say that the 2015 campaign was a record breaker.



1,141

Alumni spoken to by students in three weeks



£45

Average gift per call



£50,000

Overall total for campaign



£6,418

Top income in one calling session

Personal note sparks caller's career ambition

Genevieve McBride, a final year English student, was thrilled when she received a personal note from one of the alumni she had spoken to during the telephone campaign.

Conrad Smith, who graduated from Coleraine in 1975, was so impressed with Genevieve during their conversation, that he not only decided to donate monthly to the Student Fund, but also sent Genevieve a note to encourage

her in her desire to become a teacher. Advice given from alumni during the telephone campaign is incredibly valuable to our students.

'As well as developing my confidence and communication skills,' said Genevieve, 'the campaign was a great opportunity for me to engage with alumni, listen to their stories and share their experiences.'

'When I spoke to Mr Smith we talked at length about how the University had motivated him to become a teacher. I was encouraged by his words and look forward to pursuing my career ambitions as an Ulster University graduate.'

Dear Genevieve,

Thank you for listening to my stories about Ulster and as a teacher. I wish you well in the profession. You'll tear your hair out sometimes but it is so rewarding and you will remember your exceptional students. Coleraine lifted my life chances, it's only fair that we help students now.

*Kind regards,
Conrad*

Internship opportunity from telephone campaign

Gavin Moriarty thoroughly enjoyed his time working on our telephone campaign, particularly because of one very successful conversation.

Gavin, a masters student in Communication & PR (with Advertising), had such a great chat with alumnus Conor McKernan, that Conor offered him an interview for an internship post at his company, Firefly based in Lisburn, County Antrim.

Gavin was successful at the interview and has thoroughly enjoyed the hands on experience gained at Firefly. 'I'm so grateful to Conor for offering me this great opportunity,' said Gavin. 'Working at Firefly as an intern was an experience I would never have secured had I not been working on the telephone campaign. I learned so much in my time there which will stand by me when I begin applying for jobs.'

Anisa Mkuwu

BSc Hons Computing Science, 2005
MSc Telecommunications and Internet Systems, 2007

'When I was at University I was very grateful for the financial support I received from other people. It helped me in pursuing my dreams. As I now support the Student Fund, I hope it will encourage and enable more students to realise their potential and overcome their financial difficulties. I trust that more alumni will get involved and help support this great cause.'



ANISA MKUWU

Reconnect at a reunion

Small or large, intimate, public, formal or relaxed, all kinds of reunions are happening at any given time.

Reunions are a wonderful way for Ulster alumni to reconnect with our worldwide network.

Last year the Alumni Relations team supported 25 and 35-year reunions, including the 1990 graduating class of **Theatre Studies**, who met up in Coleraine and continued in a hostelry well known to former and current students, The Anchor in Portstewart.

The 1980 **Occupational Therapy** class took over a hotel in County Fermanagh, while the Ulster **Law School** Alumni held a drinks reception at the Law Society House in Belfast.

Other reunions included the **40th Ruby Ulster University Business School Reunion** (see p14) and a celebration marking **150 years of Ulster University's Magee campus**, which included tours of the impressive research facilities, a black tie dinner, drama, music and an exhibition.

Nadeem Bashir from Afghanistan joined other graduates from **BA Hons Peace and Conflict Studies** who paid a visit to the Magee campus in October, while a group of six Belgian and French graduates, who were all in **Ulster University's International Society** together 10 years ago, also decided to return 'home'. This group included former Erasmus student, Tanguy Philippe, now a senior lecturer in Sports Studies at Brest University.

Said Tanguy: 'Due to the efforts of the former presidents of the International Society, Olivier Dellis and Aurélien Beaud, we always managed to have some 'official' meetings between ourselves in Amsterdam, Paris and Brussels. Also, when we were at Ulster University Coleraine, Facebook had just started to become popular, so we 'grew-up' in terms of social media in Coleraine and never lost touch. We even discovered the University's Facebook. Many of us expressed the idea of coming back, and we just decided to make it happen.'

Each reunion is different because each class is different. That's what makes planning a reunion both challenging and exciting, according to Dorothea Sanger (née Crymble), who helped organise the **BA Hons Business Studies 1990** reunion last September. She now works as a finance and business manager in London.



REUNITED: BA HONS BUSINESS STUDIES 1990 CLASSMATES, DOROTHEA SANGER (NÉE CRYMBLE), HELEN WILSON (NÉE ROBINSON), JILLIAN FERRIS (NÉE JOHNSTON) AND KAREN HASTINGS (NÉE ROBB)



TANGUY PHILIPPE

'I remember my Ulster University days with great fondness and I feel lucky to have been part of such a strong, cohesive and fun year group,' said Dorothea, 'This was reinforced when we met for the 25-year reunion. People just picked up where they had left off.'

'The breadth of business grounding at Ulster University equipped me well for all three stages of my career in chartered accountancy, City of London investment banking and now business management. So I was only too glad to get back in touch.'

HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP

The Alumni Relations team is always delighted to hear about your reunions and we are grateful to the people who organise them. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you think we can help. We can:

- Help track down former classmates and send them information on your behalf
- Assist with pre and post reunion publicity

Please contact: alumni@ulster.ac.uk
or call: +44 (0)28 9536 7486

Obituaries



Sir Richard Nichols

Died 13 March 2016

The third Chancellor of the University, from May 2002 to March 2010, Sir Richard died peacefully in March aged 77.

Following completion of his National Service in 1958, Sir Richard qualified as a solicitor in 1963 and then practised in Hong Kong, returning to Watford to be a partner with Norman E Kelly & Son. In 1976 he was made senior partner and in 1996 merged the firm, then known as Kelly Nichols & Blayney with Sedgwick Turners to become Sedgwick Kelly.

His civic career began in 1971 when he became a member of Kings Langley Parish Council. In 1983 he was elected common Councilman of the Cooperation of London for the Ward of Candlewick, where he subsequently became Alderman for the Ward and President of the Candlewick Ward Club.

In 1994 he became Sheriff of the City of London, in 1997 assumed the role of City Lieutenancy and in 1997-98 became Lord Mayor of London. He was also the Governor of the Honourable the Irish Society in 2000 and was a director of various family companies.

In his time as Chancellor, Sir Richard, with the support of his wife, Lady Shelagh, presided over many ceremonies, functions and events for the University, both at home and overseas. As Chancellor, he was a source of wise counsel, generous with his time, energy and enthusiasm for many matters relating to the work of the University.

Towards the end of his time as Chancellor when his health had begun to fail, Sir Richard still insisted on presiding over graduation ceremonies. He was also instrumental in establishing the Chancellor's annual lecture which has gone from strength to strength since the inaugural event in 2007.

Sir Richard is survived by his wife Lady Shelagh, children Johnny, Vicky and Tom and his nine grandchildren.



Dr Jeremy Harbison

Died 14 August 2015

Ulster University's Pro-Chancellor, Dr Jeremy Harbison, was a distinguished civil servant who brought his skills and passion to whatever department he was serving.

He will be remembered as a wise and caring man who made an enormous contribution to public and civic life in Northern Ireland.

Jeremy was a member of Ulster University's Council for the past 11 years, for the last three serving as Pro-Chancellor. He was fully committed to supporting excellence in teaching, promoting research and widening access, seeing the latter as another way of tackling social inequality.

His passion for fairness and social justice was evident throughout all his work, including his key roles in the Civil Service's Equality Scheme and the Social Policy Steering Group.

His public appointments included: Commissioner of the Legal Services Commission; Non-Executive Director of the Public Health Agency and Trustee of the Community Foundation for NI.

On his retirement from the Department for Social Development, Jeremy took up the role of Chair of the Social Care Council and made a significant contribution to the professional development of social workers.

A wide cross-section of the Northern Ireland community attended a memorial service for Jeremy in the presence of his wife, Joan, daughter, Janet and son-in-law Graeme held at Ulster University on 4 December 2015.

Both obituaries were written by Eamon Mullan, University Secretary

CLASS notes



Grainne McNamara

BA Hons European Business Studies, 1994

Grainne is now a Principal at PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City and has developed a prominent international career in the financial service sector. She has previously occupied managing director roles at Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, and she has also been a partner at Capco.

Believing that women are still underrepresented in the sector, Grainne is passionate about leadership and the development of women in the industry. Giving back is also important to her, and so she serves on the board of the New York Women's Foundation, one of the top three largest funds in the world dedicated to women and girls.

In her current work with PwC's capital markets team, she is focused on helping top tier banks to harness emerging technologies (blockchain, robotics) to drive productivity and innovation.

She was featured in the *Irish Times* in March as part of International Women's Day as one of five Irish women around the world 'powered for progression in law and business'.



Alan Gibson

MBA, 1992

Alan has been named one of the UK's top charity fundraisers after a gruelling 117km trek through the Bale Mountains in Ethiopia in aid of Farm Africa, an organisation committed to helping African farmers build more prosperous lives. He raised over £31,000 for the charity through the online fundraising platform Just Giving, putting him in the top 1% of fundraisers.

Alan's fundraising drive was supported by business associates, friends, family and colleagues at Moy Park who partner with the charity to raise support by taking part in creative challenges and activities.

Alan was formerly an Executive Director of the company with over 30 years of great service to Moy Park, Northern Ireland's biggest employer.



Sandra McKeown

BSc Hons Computing and Information Systems, 1995

Sandra recently stepped down as President of the Irish Association of Toronto, having served nine years in the role. She started the association in 2006, and has now established an Ulster University alumni group in the city. She is currently a Senior Business Analyst in the Capital Measurement Department of RBC Financial Group, Canada's largest financial institution.



Irfan Rahim

BSc Hons Transport Technology, 1990

The humanitarian crisis resulting from the huge numbers of migrants crossing the Mediterranean is of pressing concern to Irfan, who works for the International Maritime Organization, based in London.

This specialised United Nations agency is the global standard-setting authority for maritime safety and pollution prevention. Irfan, who holds an LLM in International Justice from the University of London, last year organised the first ever inter-agency High-Level Meeting to Address Unsafe Mixed Migration by Sea, which opened dialogue between United Nations agencies, international organisations, NGOs, governments and the shipping industry.

The conference called for action to prevent unsafe, illegal sea passages, new thinking on alternative safe ways for people to migrate, and the strengthening of rescue operations by coast guards, navies and international shipping.



STAY CONNECTED

As an Ulster University graduate you are part of the 180,000-strong alumni network. Get involved and reap the benefits... what's stopping you?

Pleased to mentor you

Current students and Ulster alumni across the world tell us what they are looking for most around the time of their graduation is a helping hand – contacts, career development and encouragement – and you can help.

Behind every successful person there's often a kind of mentor who helped them along. You can be the one to help a young student or budding graduate fill their knowledge gaps and provide opportunities to help them grow and excel.

Remember, mentoring works both ways. Mentors are often surprised at how much they learn from their mentees.

Our e-Mentoring platform provides the connection between alumni and current students. It's where you can advise and give guidance to students embarking on their chosen careers. It's a great way to reconnect with your University or the alumni community, so you can share the benefits of your experiences with fellow graduates.

It can be anything from exchanging a few emails of industry advice, to honing a job application, to meeting face to face or even offering work experience.



Want to get connected?
Register here: ulster.ac.uk/daro/mentor
or contact: alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Career support after you graduate

As an Ulster University graduate you are an alum for life, and you also get full access to the Career Development Centre services for up to three years after graduation.

To help prepare you for the world of work, the Centre can provide you with careers information, advice and guidance on finding the right job. As mature student Mairi Laird can testify, getting involved can mean you're on the path to success.

After graduating with a 2:1 Law degree Mairi secured a temporary job as a clerical assistant, but was determined to push further in her career. The mother of four looked to the Career Development Centre for help and assistance.

'They helped me to write my CV, and showed me how to tailor it for various positions,' said Mairi, 'and they were able to give me examples of psychometric tests which would be used in industry. This was invaluable when I applied for certain roles, as having seen the tests prior to the selection process made them less scary.'

'Also, verbal and numerical reasoning tests were used in the selection process for another job and the assistance that the Career Development Centre gave me with these was first-class, particularly the hints and tips to help with numerical reasoning, which were the ones I struggled with. I don't think I would have got an interview if I hadn't had the help from the staff at the Career Development Centre.'

Mairi is now in a managerial post in the education sector, and recommends the Career Development Centre. 'Get connected into this service,' she advises, 'they'll tailor their support to give you exactly what you need.'

Placement offer? **Yes please**

As a successful Ulster graduate you can do a great thing – offer a placement or work experience opportunity to a fellow graduate or student.

Taking a graduate or student into your organisation could not just give them a leg up 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.

A placement can be anything from a simple workplace visit, to a few weeks' work experience to a year-long placement or some other employability opportunity.

International placements are particularly prized, so if you are interested in offering one, we're all ears.

To offer a work placement opportunity at your organisation, no matter where, please contact us at alumni@ulster.ac.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Learning Pool placements give double the benefit

There's no question that graduates who have a placement under their belts look great to employers, but when it's matched to a scholarship the benefits are double.

That's what Computing students Kamil Mojek and Mark Graham have received, as a result of a new scholarship scheme from Learning Pool, a major e-learning company in Derry~Londonderry.

The two students got a taste of employment last summer with a paid 12-week placement, and they will each receive a bursary in the second and fourth year of their course, with a full-time paid placement secured at Learning Pool for their third year.

'We want to attract the best and brightest, and this is the latest in

our initiatives to harness the talent of young people interested in working in a high-growth technology firm,' said Learning Pool chief executive and Ulster BSc Communication Studies graduate, Paul McElvaney.

'We were able to work the details out quite easily in partnership with the University and there is no doubt these placement scholarships will give Kamil and Mark a unique opportunity to experience life at Learning Pool.'



PICTURED: MARK LYNCH AND LOUISE MCELVANEY FROM LEARNING POOL WITH STUDENTS, KAMIL MOJEK, MARK GRAHAM

ALUMNI BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Receive 10% off further study
- 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



 **Ulster University Alumni**

 **@Ulster_Alumni**

 **Ulster University Alumni**

We want you to stay connected with your University and reap the benefits of keeping in touch with fellow graduates and our networks across the world. It pays to keep in touch – you can make new contacts, open doors and do new business.

VISIT US AT:
ulster.ac.uk/daro/alumnirelations



What will your legacy be?

Legacies allow us to plan for the people and causes we care about and for Dr Anne Heaslett, Principal of Stranmillis College Belfast, leaving a legacy in her will to Ulster University was a must-do.

Anne has completed not just one, but four courses at the University and values the education she has gained tremendously.

Anne became the first female Principal of Stranmillis in 2007, following an honours degree in History and Education, a Masters degree in Curriculum Development, a Doctorate in Education and an MSc in Executive Leadership (International Programme), which involved some study in Switzerland.

We are honoured that people like Anne choose to remember Ulster University in this way. Leaving a legacy can ensure that Ulster remains a well-resourced, world-class University that assists students who need support.

To leave a legacy to Ulster University in your will, simply contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on +44 (0)28 7012 3208 or speak to your solicitor directly who will advise you.



Ulster University Student Fund

The Development and Alumni Relations Office celebrated the successes of some of our most driven and dedicated students at the annual Ulster University Scholarships and Awards ceremony in December.

A total of 66 awards were presented to students from a wide range of courses and backgrounds. Of these, 35 were awarded to recipients from the Ulster University Student Fund.

Thanks to the increased generosity of our alumni and staff in recent years, this is the most awards ever distributed by the Student Fund.

We were delighted that a number of alumni who support the Student Fund joined us at the ceremony and enjoyed hearing

the impact their generosity is having on today's students.

The Student Fund supports a range of student activities, by encouraging and rewarding excellence, for example both academic and sporting, providing much-needed financial assistance as well as supporting students with entrepreneurial ideas.

100% of each gift made to the Student Fund goes directly towards supporting our students.

It also provides assistance to Student Support and the Library.

To find out more about the Student Fund, go to: ulster.ac.uk/daro/areas-of-support-2015

To make a donation now, please select the following link: ulster.ac.uk/daro/donateonline

100%

OF EACH GIFT GOES DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENTS



DR ANNE HEASLETT

Why I donate to Ulster



Rosemary Stretton, Ballymena
Retired teacher,
Ballymena Academy
Dip Physical Education, 1970

'It is heartening to know that the combined funds from graduates are so obviously going to very good use. In my day, we were so fortunate to be free of fees. I am delighted to support students through the Student Fund.'



Shaun Reddin, London
Managing Director, RedGolf
Dip HE Business Studies, 1987

'I believe an education can open a world of possibilities and choices and anyone with the talent, ambition and perseverance to attend university should not be denied the opportunity. The recognition that some students need and deserve help to realise their potential is a fantastic concept and it is a pleasure to support the Student Fund which is making a real difference to people's lives both now and in the future.'



Caroline McGoran, Derry~Londonderry
Head of Investment and Enterprise, Ulster University
MSc Accounting and Finance, 1996. BA Hons Business Enterprise Development, 1994

Caroline feels very strongly about supporting the Student Fund as a result of her own experiences.

'I was awarded a scholarship when at Ulster University which allowed me to work for Merrill Lynch in New York. As a summer intern I worked alongside 60 students from Duke, Harvard and Yale amongst others. It was a huge influence on my life and choice of career, and I can say with certainty that it led to many other opportunities in my career. I would encourage all staff and alumni to contribute to the Ulster University Student Fund – don't underestimate the impact that even a small contribution can make!'

Students totally satisfied with Subway

Disbursed through the Ulster University Student Fund, the Subway Ireland Gateway Scholarships are a valuable way to help Ulster University students. They are awarded to students on the basis of widening access need, academic excellence and quality of impact and future potential of the scholar.

In 2015/16 Subway was delighted to support five full-time Ulster University students. Support such as this, from local business, makes a real difference to our students' academic experience.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US



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:

- Post a cheque or donate online
- Direct debit or Payroll Giving
- Leave a legacy
- Make a corporate gift

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

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Our alumni and supporters are at the heart of everything we do. Giving back to your University should be a great experience, and so to ensure this we can assure you that:

- We do not share your personal details with anyone else
- At any time, you (or any of our alumni) can tell us if you wish to opt out of future communications
- We do not hire external telephone agencies to make our alumni phone calls, we use professional consultants to fully train our own students
- 100% of every donation goes directly to support our students
- Donations are not used to cover our fundraising or administrative costs.

We are grateful for your ongoing support. It's having a tremendous impact throughout Ulster University. Thank you.



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.

Visit our online shop:
ulster.ac.uk/daro/estore

