

Beyond these walls

Thursday 22 April 2010 in the
Ross Park Hotel, Kells



Thank you for joining us today for this our first Public Engagement colloquium.

We hope that you will find the day to be helpful to you in your efforts to engage with others 'beyond the walls' of the University of Ulster's four campuses.

Beyond These Walls- Public Engagement Colloquium

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

22nd April 2010 at the Ross Park Hotel, Kells

Itinerary

- 10.00-10.30 Tea/coffee and scones
- 10.30-10.45 Welcome, Introduction
Professor Valerie McKelvey- Martin, *Chair of Faculty working group on Public Engagement*
- 10.45-11.00 Public Engagement Survey in the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences
Mr Alasdair O’Hara, *Faculty of Life and Health Sciences*
- 11.00-12.0** **Guest Lecture**
Development of an Engagement strategy for a research- intensive university in a needy region
Professor Paul Younger *Pro- Vice -Chancellor (Engagement) Newcastle University*
- 12.00-12.15 Advances in Pressure Ulcer Classification and Care: The Experience of A Knowledge and Resource Exchange Event
Dr Alison Porter -Armstrong, *Health Sciences*
- 12.15-12.30 Bringing an applied science to the community
Dr Mickey Keenan, *Psychology*
- 12.30-12.45 Microscopy –A small contribution to Public Engagement
Dr Stephen Lowry, *Biomedical Sciences*
- 12.45-1300 Questions and reflections
- 1300-1400** **LUNCH**
- 14.00-14.15 Theoretical review of Public Engagement in nursing
Professor George Kernohan, *Nursing*
- 14.15-14.30 Forward Thinking Northern Ireland : Engaging young people with social and ethical issues in science
Ms Lynda Dunlop, *Science in Society, Biomedical Sciences*
- 14.30-14.45 Engaging Through Sport
Mr Richard Gormley and Dr Deirdre Brennan, *Sports*
- 14.45 -15.30** ***Discussion (tea/coffee will be served to tables at 15.15)***

ABSTRACTS

Public Engagement Survey in the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

**Alasdair O'Hara, Karen McCann, Peter Mitchell and Valerie McKelvey-Martin,
Faculty of Life and Health Sciences**

Public engagement has been largely unregulated and unrecorded in the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences at the University of Ulster. While records exist relating to some of the financial benefits of public engagement its other impacts are not documented. Without such records it is not possible to ascertain the positive benefits the Faculty is having in the public arena and the individuals leading in this field. This study serves to document where we are within the Faculty in terms of public engagement. Information was collected by issuing an online survey of staff members within the Faculty. The survey touched on topics such as the subjects background, the importance of Public Engagement, activities the subject has been involved in, evaluation and funding. Eighty individuals participated in the survey out of eight hundred and eight, meaning 10.1% of Faculty staff engaged with the study. Upon analysing these results it became clear that there was a great variety of approaches to public engagement within the Faculty, however staff members see the area as important. When asked the importance of Public Engagement within teaching, learning and research, 57.5% of staff saw it as very important, this positive viewpoint translated throughout the results. It is clear that certain schools are more engaged with the process than others and that there are a diverse range of reasons for involvement in public engagement from financial to as one individual put it doing it for the "glory". The study shows that there is real appetite among academics to engage with the public and that much work is already being done here. The results of this study can be used to identify areas where support maybe required as well as leaders within the field of public engagement.

Guest Speaker: Professor Paul L Younger FREng, DL

Biography

Paul L Younger is Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement at Newcastle University. His background is in geology and environmental engineering, and he is particularly renowned for collaborative work with grassroots communities (in the UK and developing countries) to empower them to tackle issues of post-industrial pollution and the provision of clean water. The research and outreach programme on these themes which Paul established in 1992 continues strongly to this day, and won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for Newcastle University in 2005. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (the top professional honour for engineers in the UK) and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Tyne and Wear in October 2009. A gifted communicator, Paul currently serves as Public Orator for the University, recently delivering honorary degree citations for the Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP (in Jan 2007), Sir David King (May 2006), Baroness Onora O'Neill (April 2008), Lee Hall (May 2009) and Alan Shearer (Dec 2009), amongst many others. A fluent Spanish speaker, Paul has recently been appointed to the water research panel of the government of Greater Madrid. He has extensive experience in community-based development projects in Latin America. His work in that continent was recognised in the award of an Honorary Doctorate by the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín in Arequipa, Peru, in January 2010. Paul is Director of three companies, engaged in the groundwater control and geothermal energy sectors, and is author of some 250 items in the international literature. He is the Principal Investigator of Beacon North East, one of six pilot 'Beacons of Public Engagement' funded by HEFCE, RCUK and the Wellcome Trust. He also serves on the public engagement panel of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Societal Issues Panel of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Paul is a member of the Board of Live Theatre (Newcastle upon Tyne) and Chair of the Board of the Great North Museum.

Development of an engagement strategy for a research-intensive university in a needy region.

Prof Paul L Younger FREng DL, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement), Newcastle University

Over the last two years, an engagement strategy has been developed for Newcastle University, which is a Russell Group institution in North East England. By 'engagement' we mean all the ways the University interacts with wider (civil) society. The engagement strategy in large measure seeks to deliver on the University's commitment to make a major contribution to the development of its home region. We see this contribution spanning the economic, social and cultural domains. Central to the philosophy of engagement at Newcastle is that it is a critical approach to how we undertake our core activities in teaching, research and (where appropriate) service, rather than being some additional 'third strand'. There should be no conflict between a commitment to supporting regional development and the pursuit of international academic excellence: we aim to be an exemplar of global best practice in engagement. Effective communications are the key to achieving meaningful engagement. A model of five levels of communication will be presented, relating different modes of engagement to different approaches to communication.

Advances in Pressure Ulcer Classification and Care: The Experience of A Knowledge and Resource Exchange Event

Dr Alison Porter-Armstrong

Senior Lecturer in Rehabilitation Sciences

School of Health Sciences/Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Research Institute

A significant restructuring of the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Research Institute was undertaken in late summer/autumn 2009 following a review of the RAE 2008 performance. This led to the identification of five research hubs: The Diabetic Foot – Infection, Imaging, Intervention; Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation; Neurorehabilitation; Respiratory Health; Seating and Interface Pressure Care. Each hub aiming to deliver high quality translational research and, in line with the REF2013, demonstrate the impact of the respective research activity on society.

As the leader of the Seating and Interface Pressure Care hub, a successful HEIF award had yielded monies to support the visit of Professor Courtney Lyder as a visiting scholar to the HRSRI/Nursing RI in January 2010. An international expert on wound care, Prof Lyder is the Dean of the School of Nursing, ranking in the top 2% of Nursing Schools in the US. Acting as a senior consultant to the US Department of Health, he had played a central role in shaping federal policies related to elderly care and improving safety in hospitals and had acted as a project collaborator on one of our clinical research studies (2005-2008). With his wealth of experience, we knew that he had much knowledge to share, not only to staff and students at the University but also to a wider audience including healthcare managers and staff, manufacturers of healthcare equipment and healthcare service users.

In conjunction with the Knowledge Club, we held a very successful lunchtime event which attracted over 115 delegates and acted as a pre-cursor to developing a stakeholder network for our ongoing research hub activities.

This short presentation will outline the format of the January knowledge club event, highlight the successes of the day and note the learning and action points that we have taken from it in moving our public engagement agenda forward.

Bringing an applied science to the community.

Dr Mickey Keenan, School of Psychology, Coleraine

"It is beyond debate that the appropriate treatment is ABA [Applied Behaviour Analysis] or early intensive behavioural intervention." (The Supreme Court of British Columbia, Docket C984120, 26th July, 2000, p. 64)

"Thirty years of research demonstrated the efficacy of applied behavioral methods in reducing inappropriate behavior and in increasing communication, learning, and appropriate social behavior. " (Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, 21st March, 2000, p. 5)

Imagine a landscape with no training of any kind at postgraduate level in the applied science mentioned above. This presentation is the story of the struggle to rectify this state of affairs. In Ireland, up until a few years ago, Behaviour Analysis was just another item in a list to be found in a university course booklet. As far as the general community was concerned, the rarefied air of an academic institution was on another planet with its own interests and agendas. Now, thanks to 'parent power,' this situation is changing. Ironically, the beginning of this change began on St. Patrick's day, March 17th 1997, when a local newspaper in N. Ireland published an interview with a parent and me about the work I had done with her child who was diagnosed with autism. I had worked with this family on a voluntary basis for over a year and now the little boy was attending mainstream education. Prior to this the local professionals, who had no training in behaviour analysis, had considered him to be yet another sad case of a child destined for an institution for the rest of his life. Such was the public interest in the newspaper article that I was inundated with requests for help. What to do? I was the lone behaviour analyst in the School of Psychology at Coleraine, and I reckoned that teaching parents would be much like teaching undergraduate students. This time it was different. This time the students were highly motivated and they approached their practical work, with their own children, with enthusiastic conviction. Each month for over a year I taught introductory classes in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), again unpaid. Alongside this, I travelled with former students across N. Ireland and S. Ireland, introducing parents to ABA with the result that numerous ABA schools sprang up in the South. Towards the end of the first year my class at Coleraine included up to 40 parents. I could not keep this up forever so we decided that the group should gain official status as a registered charity (Parents' Education as Autism Therapists, www.peatni.org) and seek financial support for further training. Since then we have accomplished some significant goals. We have published two books, one which was translated into Japanese and is currently being translated by the President of the Association for Behaviour Analysis in India; we have held several international conferences, one of which was attended by over 400 people, with many turned away because of lack of space in the Europa in Belfast; we have stimulated the production of local TV documentaries on the lack of provision for training in ABA; we have produced a multimedia training package funded by the National Lottery, and now funded under Leonardo's Life-long Learning Programme to be translated into Spanish, Norwegian, and German; it is also being translated by the President of the Association for Behaviour Analysis in India. I laid the foundations for a new Masters course in ABA at Coleraine, which attracted over 90 applicants in its first year; for the course I arranged placements in The New England Center for Children in Boston, a leader in the field.

Microscopy – A Small Contribution to Public Engagement.

Dr Stephen Lowry, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Ulster.

In the field of public engagement small seeds can rapidly develop into interesting projects. Over a number of years I have amassed a collection of old Victorian microscope slides designed for viewing using polarised light microscopy. I have used these for Open Days organised as part of the University's Talks & Tours Programme, for demonstration to Step-Up students and in a range of projects organised through the Arts Council's Creative Youth Partnerships programme.

In 2006 Professor McKelvey-Martin organised a meeting with Interface to explore possible links between Arts and Science. I showed some of the material I had collected to the Interface staff and the idea for a possible project evolved. I produced an initial batch of images and Interface staff selected a number of these from which to produce interpretive pieces. We came up with the title "New Light through Old Windows" and successfully applied for a Cultural Development Support Grant. We produced an exhibition of 40 images and 4 interpretive pieces which opened in Flowerfield Arts Centre in 2007 and was also shown in Clotworthy Art Centre, the Riverside Theatre and W5@Odyssey in Belfast. In 2008 the work moved to Glasgow Science Centre and in 2009 to the Centre for Life in Newcastle. It is currently on display in the Royal Institution in London.

Images from the exhibition have won 10 awards in international competitions, including the winning entry in the Royal Microscopical Society's International Microscopy Contest, and have been featured by BBC-Online, Radio Ulster ArtScene, BBC Focus magazine, the Daily Telegraph, Scientific American and on ABC News. I have given talks on the work at Flowerfield, Clotworthy, 5 local camera clubs and at the Microscopical Society of Ireland's Annual Symposium in Dublin in 2009.

Through my interest in Victorian microscopy I made contact with the National Trust who own an important collection of microscope slides dating from the 1850s housed at Castle Ward. These were produced by Mary Ward who was the first woman to publish a book on microscopy in 1858. I have been working with the Trust to archive this material and have produced a number of micrographs for them, four of which have been reproduced as postcards. I have also given a lecture on Mary Ward's work at a National Trust fundraising event.

Last year's Chemistry Week was on the theme of food and a major event was organised at the University by Dr Gerry O'Brien. I offered to produce a display of images of chemicals, produced using polarised light microscopy, relating to human nutrition for a Powerpoint display and accompanying demonstration as part of this event. In addition Dr Peter Mitchell provided me with funding from the Faculty's Higher Education Innovation Fund to have a selection of these images printed for an exhibition in the Riverside Theatre to run concurrently with the Chemistry Week programme. I have recently submitted this work for consideration for exhibition in the Gallery of Photography in Dublin.

Theoretical review of public engagement in Nursing

**George Kernohan, Professor of Health Research
Nursing, University of Ulster**

Nursing & health professional have wide roles in care of people in need, in sickness and in health and in supporting their informal carers. These roles, by necessity involve people in various ways: in this paper Hodges Health Career Model (Jones, 2009) is used to provide a framework to underpin public engagement in nursing. The model provides a relatively simple way to think about and summarise the variety of engagement types. It comprises two lines and eight words which appear to provide a graph with two axes. The vertical axis involves the recipients of care: individuals and groups, the other involves the care provider and what they do: from mechanistic to humanistic.

The first quadrant deals with scientific response to individual signs and symptoms: where engagement aims to ensure that people comply with the healthcare intervention: engagement is about informing the patient and their informal carer about their physical needs and responses.

The second quadrant deals with mechanistic and group activity: for example political interventions to agree rules, policy and systems. Engagement here refers to members of groups working under a specific governance system or approach– activists and unions lobby for change, in this care domain. Arrangements for protection of vulnerable people are set through engagement here. Ethical issues guide the group mechanistic activities.

Thirdly, there are more humanistic aspects of care: speech, thought, narrative and free text: stories contribute to group actions. Here we have the social and cultural components to remind us that engagement must work in a social context.

The final domain emphasises the role of the individual in needing tailor-made care, requiring dignity and respect. Here lies a more holistic type of care and is more ‘mind’ than ‘body’ where interpersonal aspects of engagement are more person-centred.

Across all four care domains, public engagement is a key sustaining action to make the model meaningful but also to provide some reassurance that engagement although complex and varied, can be managed in a logical way to enhance care.

Jones, P. Hodges Health Career - Care Domains – Model. 2009. <http://www.p-jones.demon.co.uk/> accessed 25/03/2010

Chambers, R. Involving Patients and the Public. How to do it better. 2000. Radcliffe, Oxon

Forward Thinking Northern Ireland: Engaging Young People with Social and Ethical Issues in Science

Lynda Dunlop^{*}, Dr Linda Clarke^{*2} and Professor Valerie McKelvey-Martin^{*}
^{*} School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus
^{*2} School of Education, University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus

Genetic technologies, space exploration and the use of performance enhancing drugs are areas of contemporary science that raise issues for individuals and society. The Forward Thinking, Northern Ireland project creates and develops communities of enquiry to promote discussion of these and other social and ethical issues in science with students aged 11 – 14. This approach has been introduced in 13 post-primary schools involving 320 students. Students who responded to an evaluation questionnaire (87% of those participating) reported that they found the project interesting (93%) and enjoyable (93%) and useful to help them learn science (90%), work as a group (87%) and to help them justify their opinions (75%). The majority of students reported that they continued their discussions after class (73%). Teacher participants reported that the project helped them deliver the curriculum and that it supported development of their students' scientific knowledge, thinking skills and social skills. This approach shows potential for extended use in secondary science as a way of engaging students, identifying their misconceptions and also for promoting thinking skills and improving scientific knowledge and understanding.

Engaging through Sport

Richard Gormley, University Sports Outreach Manager
Dr Deirdre Brennan, Director Sports Outreach

University Sports Outreach (USO) is a strategic initiative of the Ulster Sports Academy. Based in the School of Sports Studies USO is an interagency programme which is designed to widen access to minority sports (basketball, athletics, volleyball and dance) to children in areas of greatest disadvantage. It also provides rich opportunities for our students to develop their teaching, coaching and event management skills and contributes to knowledge transfer to the primary and secondary education sector.

It has required sustained and successful internal and external strategic partnerships. These networks have involved secondary level schools, National Governing Bodies of Sport, businesses, Youth Sport Trust, Health Trusts, Community Trusts and Education and Library Boards and the School of Creative Arts. These partnerships have facilitated the delivery of sports outreach activities to circa 150 primary and secondary schools and 9,000+ pupils per annum.

The impact of the Widening Access through Sport Scholarship Scheme (Opportunity Scholarships) over the past 2 years has led to additional support to 154 primary schools. Since its inception this programme has attracted commercial sponsorship and £485,000k in partnership funding. The latter included funding from the Integrated Education PACT fund and Big Lottery, Sports Relief and Cooperation Ireland. More recently a further £230,000 was received from the Coca-Cola Foundation for the delivery of a 12 week physical activity and health programme to 3,000 8 & 9 year olds in 100 schools across Northern Ireland. Pre and post intervention research on self esteem, physical activity levels and knowledge and skills is being undertaken with participating pupils, teachers and students.

This programme promotes the University's commitment to regional and community development through sport and physical activity. It is the largest University Sports programme and the only programme of its type in HEI in Ireland.

School of Sports Studies students and scholar-athletes are the face of Ulster Sports Outreach and this year alone circa 80 student volunteers are engaging with the public across the province delivering sports outreach programmes and activities.

The contribution of University Sports Outreach was recognised this year by the appointment of both a full time permanent University Sports Outreach Programme Manager and University Sports Outreach Programme Coordinator funded by the University Widening Participation and Outreach Committee. The establishment of this new USO unit will assist in extending the range of activities offered on the programme, securing funding for sports outreach and establishing research links to the work undertaken.

