

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER



UG

ULSTER GRADUATE



A Cultural *feast*

With 2013 focused on the UK City of Culture, Ulster steps into the limelight | [Page 03](#)

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Welcome to your new year, new look *Ulster Graduate*

Our alumni network numbers over 150,000 people globally now and is an incredibly rich and vibrant resource for support networks, business development and enduring friendships.

Keeping in touch with our alumni and friends is more important to us than ever before. From this point we will be producing one printed issue of the magazine each year which will also be available as an online version. And those of you for whom we have email addresses will receive our alumni e-zine on a regular basis – it can also be accessed at www.ulster.ac.uk/developmentandalumni

Cultural feast

While sport dominated much of 2012, 2013 is the year for the arts. This issue coincides perfectly with the start of Derry~Londonderry's designation as the UK's City of Culture and I am delighted to say that we are playing a significant role in events that are taking place in the city throughout 2013. Our Magee campus has been a hub for the arts in the North West for many years, and this opportunity to showcase the talent and creativity of our students and staff in music, drama, dance, and digital arts is one that we are eager to grasp.

The theme of cultural excellence continues throughout this issue - the acting fraternity is represented by features on our Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt as well as Sir Ian McKellen who will receive an honorary degree from Ulster in February; the University's Distinguished Graduate for 2012 is renowned artist Colin Davidson;

and we introduce our new range of Artists' Editions and Multiples from prominent art and design alumni.

University of Ulster Fund

In December 2012 we launched the University of Ulster Fund, established to benefit current and future generations of our students.

With the support of our graduates and friends, it will offer a range of much-needed bursaries and scholarships ranging from awards of £50 towards the costs of Certificates of Personal and Professional Development to £500 travel awards, and annual scholarships of £1,000.

I encourage you to read more about it on pages 17 and 18 and I hope you will consider making a donation to support the needs of our current students and also the students of tomorrow.

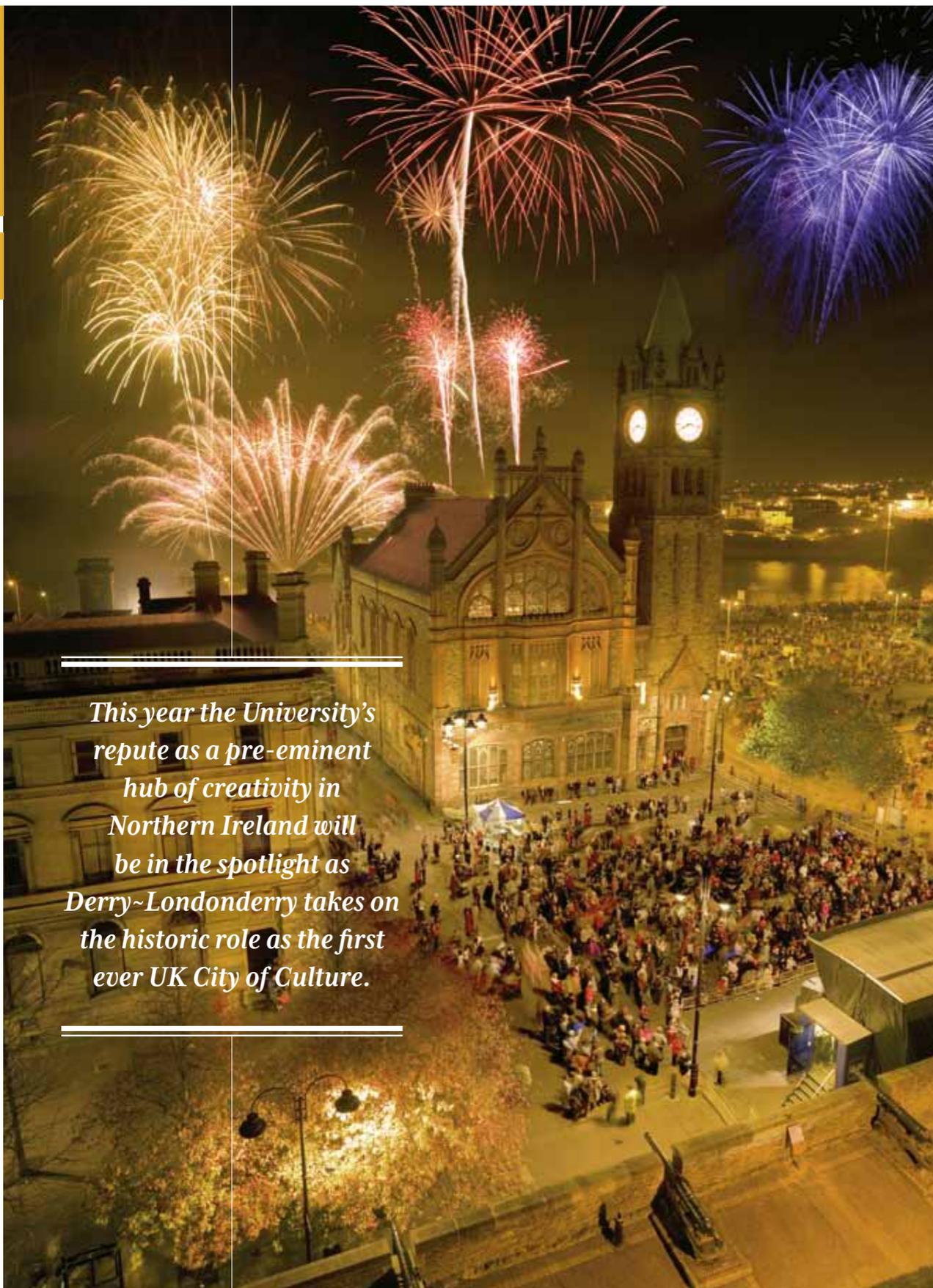
Keeping in touch

We love to see and hear from you, so please remember to update your contact details and tell us what you are doing. Do keep an eye on our website www.ulster.ac.uk/developmentandalumni to see details of the rich and diverse events programme open to Ulster's alumni. Or connect to us through our social media channels – search for University of Ulster on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We look forward to hearing from you during 2013.

Kate Bond
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

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A CULTURAL FEAST

This year the University's repute as a pre-eminent hub of creativity in Northern Ireland will be in the spotlight as Derry~Londonderry takes on the historic role as the first ever UK City of Culture.

It promises to be a momentous year as communities from every corner of the city come together in a wonderfully varied programme of artistic activity. 2013 will not only bring a host of world-class entertainment to the city, it will also provide an international platform for the unrivalled array of indigenous talent, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to highlight the best creative talent on this island.

Just as Derry~Londonderry steps into the limelight, so too does the University of Ulster. As Professor Frank Lyons, Director of the University's Arts and Humanities Research Institute commented:

"Throughout the year each campus presents a calendar of varied arts events. They reflect the University's teaching and research and demonstrate the immense creative talent stemming from our ranks. They are designed to be enjoyable and inspiring activities that are valuable to students and the public alike – ranging from jazz at lunchtime to projects that collaborate with international artists and designers. 2013 will add a 'bumper' package of events especially created for the City of Culture celebrations."

From the outset, the City of Culture has intended to showcase the wealth of talent in organisations and community groups throughout the city. Ulster staff have responded to the call with enthusiasm. In particular, the School of Creative Arts at the Magee campus is making a major contribution to the programme with a range of ambitious events covering a broad spectrum: music, dance, drama, creative writing, visual art, and digital media. It is also championing the spirit of the City of Culture by working with local artists and involving students, schools and members of the community in our events. Two large-scale University projects that include these elements are: *The River Still Sings* and the *Columba Canticles*.

The first, *The River Still Sings*, heralds the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the famous link between the walled cities of Derry and London and the importance of the Thames and the Foyle in the history of each city. It has been jointly commissioned by the Walled City Music Festival and the City of London Festival and will be performed in July 2013 in London and receive its Irish première, as part of the Walled City Music Festival in the City of Culture, in August.

The River Still Sings is an interdisciplinary work which features music, poetry, dramatic narration, video and sound design. Professor Frank Lyons will compose the score and it will be performed by The Fidelio Trio: Darragh Morgan (violin), Robin Michael (cello) and pianist Dr Mary Dullea, (awarded her PhD in Performance by the University of Ulster). Seamus Deane, one of Derry's most prominent writers, has written a new poem especially for the work. It will be narrated by Dr James Nesbitt, a native of the North West and Chancellor of the University of Ulster. The sound and video will be designed by Professor Paul Moore, Head of our School of Creative Arts.

The piece explores how the nature of rivers and walls can be divisive yet healing. It will reflect the old and the very new, and the heart of the work will lay out the journeys of the two great cities. The Fidelio Trio will perform alongside digitally generated 3D holograms of James Nesbitt's narration, and traditional acoustic instruments will be heard alongside soundscapes and live sound processing using state-of-the-art technology.



The second work, *Columba Canticles*, is a new oratorio commissioned for City of Culture 2013 to mark the association between St Columba's Cathedral, Derry's oldest and most historic building, and the saint of its title. With music composed by Laurence Roman from the School of Creative Arts, *Columba Canticles* is based on an award-winning poem by Sam Burnside, distinguished poet and

founder of the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry.

The *Columba Canticles* will bring together the choirs of the University of Ulster and the University of Aberdeen, each comprising students, staff and members of the community. They will be directed by Ulster's music lecturer and Choral Director, Dr Shaun Ryan, and accompanied by London's Southbank Sinfonia. The performance will also include *Ubi Caritas et Amor*, composed by Paul Mealor, Director of the Aberdeen Choir, commissioned by Prince William for his marriage to Catherine Middleton and premiered at their wedding.

The performance in the Cathedral on Sunday 9 June 2013 launches an annual choral competition and celebrates the 400th anniversary of the Promise Chalice arriving from London. It will also mark the completion of the restoration of the Cathedral and its enduring presence in the City.

More Info | Further information about all of the University of Ulster's events in City of Culture 2013 can be viewed at <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/events>



Life in the fast lane

There's no doubt that 2012 has been a great year for Donegal with the Sam Maguire cup returning to the county for the first time in 20 years.

One Donegal native had much more to celebrate as well – with gold medal-winning performances from Usain Bolt and Mo Farah at London 2012 just some of the top accolades that the athletes in his care achieved last year.

Double graduate (BA Hons Sport & Leisure Studies with DIS 1996, PGCE Education 1997) **Ricky Simms** is a director of PACE Sports Management based in London and includes Bolt, Farah, Christine Ohuruogu and the Kenyan long-distance runner Vivian Cheruiyot as part of his extended family, such is his close relationship with them.

Ulster Graduate caught up with Ricky in December 2012 on the back of a five-week promotional and sponsorship tour of the world – taking in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, New York, San Francisco and Rio de Janeiro – with some of his star clients.



Sporting life

Sport has always been part of Ricky's life, from early years in Milford, where he ran and played football and hockey at school (he ran middle-distance for Finn Valley AC and represented Ireland up to U23 level), through to arriving at Jordanstown in 1992. There he participated in numerous sports and was also nurturing the seeds of sports management by bringing the Irish Universities Athletics Championships to the Antrim Forum in 1996.

After graduating in 1997, Ricky taught at his old school – PE at Royal and Prior Comprehensive – followed by a year at the National Coaching & Training Centre in Limerick, where he worked with developing and elite athletes. It was a natural progression to move to London to work with the world-renowned sports agent Kim McDonald. When McDonald died in 2001, Ricky and his now wife Marion set up PACE Sports Management with their associate Duncan Gaskell.

These days Ricky is inevitably more involved in management than coaching – only to be expected when you can boast the most famous sportsman on the planet on your books, not to mention the other world-beaters who are part of PACE's roster of 75 athletes.

Talent spotting

Usain Bolt has been with PACE since he was 16 and Mo Farah since he was 17. Spotting potential early is vital, and PACE's global network of coaches helps them identify raw talent. Only two or three new athletes make it onto the roster each year and Ricky acknowledges that they can be selective in whom they work with.

"I am very proud of the role we have had in taking Usain from a good young athlete to a worldwide star who is a genuinely global household name. In my opinion, he is the first runner to have achieved this accolade and we are unlikely to see anyone emulate this for decades, if not for another century," he says.

Future focus

It is inevitable that PACE is approached by representatives from other sports to consider diversification. For now, Ricky is keeping the door open, but there are Moscow 2013 (World Athletic Championships), Glasgow 2014 (Commonwealth Games) and Rio de Janeiro 2016 (Olympics) to concentrate on, as well as the full global calendar of other events.

Unprecedented success

While London 2012 was undoubtedly an unprecedented success for PACE athletes, Ricky puts paid to the assumption that his experience was one of continuous celebrations. "As a veteran of summer Olympics since Sydney in 2000, I can tell you that they are very much 'business as usual' for us. We don't experience it in the same way as fans. We are there 24/7, grabbing four or five hours sleep at a time so that we can concentrate on looking after our athletes behind the scenes.

"We don't even know what has happened in other events until afterwards and we catch up when the whole show is over – and that's what an Olympics is for us, showtime."

Most influential

Ricky has been listed in Sports Business International's Top 20 most influential sports agents in the world; listed four times in the top 20 most influential people in athletics in the UK; listed in the 1000 Most Influential Londoners; awarded a European Athletics Association Coaching honour for Services to Athletics; and awarded Athletics Kenya Agent of the Year. He is a Board member of the Association of Athletics Managers (AAM) and an International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) authorised and licensed Athlete Representative.

Living the dream

Ricky still keeps fit by running and playing football. His job has also presented him with opportunities to attend events like Champions' League and NBA finals, and he has developed strong links with players and management at Manchester United, FC Bayern Munich (the team he supports) and Real Madrid.

He says: "Through the connections we have with the world's leading sportspeople, I have access to people and events that many people would only dream of and when I attend I know that I am, at that time, living every schoolboy's dream."

"I keep in touch with some of my former Ulster classmates and was able to invite a few of them to attend events at London 2012, so it was great to catch up last summer."

"My advice to current students and recent graduates is 'add experience to your CV'. Getting your degree is important, but so is working in the area you want to focus on and showing potential employers that you have a real interest in and dedication to your chosen field."

As someone who has been focused on athletics since an early age, Ricky is certainly the perfect example of someone who practices what he preaches.

A SELECTION OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cultural Events

14–23 February City of Culture event: Brian Friel *Performances*, Great Hall, Magee campus

15–17 February City of Culture event: Cinesonika: The echo International Film & Video Festival of Sound Design, Magee campus/Nerve Centre

27 February–1 March City of Culture event: 'Fulgurite Chamber', Void Gallery, Derry~Londonderry

12 February–16 March Cultural Crossings programme of events, Coleraine campus

20 March Life Stories: Paul Muldoon, Coleraine campus

5 June Annual student Fashion Show, Belfast campus

7 June End of Year student shows, Belfast campus

9 June City of Culture event: *Columba Canticles*, St Columb's Cathedral

12 June City of Culture event: Ulster Media Show, Foyle Theatre, North West Regional College

1–9 July summer graduation ceremonies

21 July City of Culture event: The City of London Festival – *The River Still Sings*, Culturlann in Derry~Londonderry

19–28 July City of Culture event: Walled City Music Festival, Derry~Londonderry

More Info | University events:
www.ulster.ac.uk/newsandevents
Development and Alumni:
www.ulster.ac.uk/developmentandalumni
Development (Arts and Culture)
www.culture.ulster.ac.uk/events.phtml
City of London Festival:
http://mediacentre.kallaway.co.uk/city-of-london-festival-press-release10.htm
City of Culture 2013 events:
www.cityofculture2013.com/events

Professorial Lectures

13 February Roger Austin, Professor of Education, 'Unlocking the Future: The Role of the Internet in Building Bridges Between Schools', Lecture Theatre 8, Coleraine campus

6 March Gary Adamson, Professor of Psychology, 'Latent Variable Modelling: Applications to Mental Health', Lecture Theatre MD108, Magee campus

14 March Greg Maguire, Professor of Animation, 'Persistence of Vision: Animating Belfast', Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast campus

17 April Sarah Edge, Professor of Photography and Cultural Studies, 'The Extraordinary Archive of Arthur J. Munby: Photographing Class and Gender in the 19th Century', Lecture Theatre 8, Coleraine campus

2 May Peter Walker, Professor of Architecture, 'Architecture: Craft or Sullen Art?' Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast campus

More Info | For details on these lectures, see www.ulster.ac.uk/events/professorials. If you are interested in attending any of the lectures please notify the Corporate Events Office by email to events@ulster.ac.uk or telephone 028 7012 3266

Reunions

21–22 June Coleraine 1988 reunion – Faculty of Business and Management

A 25 year reunion for graduates of Faculty of Business and Management, Coleraine who graduated in 1988 and/or who started their studies in 1985/86 has been organised for June 2013. Well over 30 of the former classmates have already registered their interest in the event and most have begun catching up with their former classmates already!

Business and Finance graduates include those who studied Accounting and Economics, Banking and Finance, Economics, Applied Economics, International Business Studies etc. The reunion will take place in the University of Ulster, Coleraine.

If you wish to find out more and catch up with friends you might not have seen since university please contact:

More Info | Michael Graham:
michael.graham@ucd.ie
Aidan Doherty:
aidan.doherty@kbc.ie
or **Patrick Gallen**
patrick.gallen@uk.pwc.com

UCPE Diamond Reunion

17 November UCPE Diamond Reunion – UCPE is celebrating their Diamond Anniversary on Sunday 17 November 2013 at the Titanic Centre, Belfast. There will be a drinks reception at 12 noon followed by luncheon. Tickets are £45.

Years 1953–85 will be contacted by year representatives. Former students and staff from 1986 onwards should contact Liz Rodgers at erodgers694@hotmail.co.uk. Please note that the closing date for registration will be 1 April 2013.



AN EDUCATIONALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP

June 2011 marked the start of an exciting educational partnership between the University of Ulster and Santander Universities UK. Santander Universities UK works as part of a global network of higher education institutions to support study, research, work experience and travel for both students and staff.



More than 1,020 partner universities are part of this network in countries including Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Germany, the USA, Spain, Poland and Singapore.

The partnership is fulfilling its promise of being a very beneficial one for Ulster. In the first year of the agreement, 11 international students received funding as part of the Santander Scholarship programme. A further five received funding this academic year with future scholarships currently being processed for January 2013 intake students. Students representing each faculty within the University have received this support.

Spreading their wings

Student and staff mobility has been promoted through a Mobility Scholarship and Award programme that enables travel for study or research purposes for highly innovative projects and study-related experiences. In 2012, recipients of this funding travelled to Spain, the USA, and Central and Eastern Europe to focus on subjects as diverse as typography, rheumatic diseases and engineering.

Funding for entrepreneurship has also provided a wonderful opportunity for many of our students. In 2012 this funding supported (amongst others) the Student Entrepreneurship Awards, Sir John Sorrell's talk at the

Ulster Festival of Art and Design and travel by Visual Communications students to attend the D&AD New Blood Exhibition in London.

Internships

The current academic year will see even more opportunities rolled out across the University. Once again, Santander Scholarships will be available as will support for student and staff mobility and entrepreneurship. Additionally, Santander Universities UK has provided access to internship collaboration funding in conjunction with the University to run a programme that will enable a wide range of students to obtain valuable internships in the most vibrant of businesses and organisations.

Kate Bond, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, said: "This partnership represents a set of wonderful opportunities for Ulster students and staff. The range of funding available can be used in support of a wide range of projects for people from all faculties and enables innovative study opportunities to happen. We very much look forward to continuing to work with Santander and welcome their new branch to the University which opened in our Belfast campus in December 2012."



CREATING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

Earlier this year, the University announced an ambitious development programme for our two campuses in the Greater Belfast area. These plans will equip Ulster to play a leading role in Northern Ireland's future growth, helping create a strong, stable, outward-looking economy.

Central to the plans is a new £250m Belfast City campus, which will house 15,000 full-time and part-time students and staff by 2018 in four interlinked buildings at York Street, Frederick Street and Donegall Street, measuring approximately 75,000m² – comparable in size to Victoria Square. By bringing these bright, ambitious, creative people into the city centre, we will form a lively student community, boost the local economy, complete the transformation of the Cathedral Quarter and create opportunities for development in retail, entertainment, food, culture and tourism.

“Investment in education is an obligation that we have to the next generation. That is why the University of Ulster is making the biggest investment in our history, creating a vibrant, new campus in the heart of Belfast which will provide a platform for world class teaching and research.”

Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor

Internationally acclaimed

The brief to our design team, internationally acclaimed architects, FeildenCleggBradley Studios, was very clear. Our buildings and facilities must be as welcoming to our neighbours as to our students. Universities are central to the development of creative cities. By investing in the heart of the city, we are demonstrating our commitment to this critical goal. Our internal spaces will be visible from the outside and our new public spaces and pathways will invite the local community to come inside, helping to raise their aspirations and showing that a university education is open to them.

The Vice-Chancellor said: “Universities which were built in cities have, in the past, tended to be inward-facing institutions behind iron railings and walls which, as a result, did not interact with the communities around them.

“We are breaking from that tradition with a bold design that sends out a very strong message locally and internationally that we want everyone to feel that this is their university, regardless of their background, and we want them to have access to the building and facilities inside. While the architecture of this new civic building is important, it is the activity inside it which will ultimately determine its success.”

This new campus is not a like-for-like shift of our Jordanstown operation to Belfast. It is so much more than a physical relocation. It will be a centre of excellence and the birthplace for our future entrepreneurs and leaders of enterprise and innovation who will underpin the wealth and health of our society.

“Higher education has a vitally important role to play in growing our economy. This project underlines the University's commitment to this goal and to making a major contribution to the economic, social and cultural vitality of the city.”

Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning

Lasting legacy at Jordanstown

The University's move into the new Belfast City campus will see a major redevelopment of the Jordanstown site, starting in 2018.

Whilst the majority of students and staff will transfer to the new Belfast City campus, the University's relationship with the wider Jordanstown area will continue through enhancing our existing sports facilities, along with our Dalriada student residences and the FireSERT specialist engineering facility.

A Masterplan concept has been developed which proposes to create an ‘urban village’ style residential development, including mixed use community facilities which will become an integral part of Jordanstown, enhancing the area and creating an exciting and vibrant place to live.

Progressive

Professor Alastair Adair, Provost of Belfast and Jordanstown campuses, highlighted the rationale behind the University's vision for Jordanstown and the work that has been undertaken by the project team to reach this stage.

“Having been an integral part of the Jordanstown landscape since 1972, the University has developed close and long-term relationships with many of our neighbouring residents and businesses. We have taken time to research thoroughly and consider the Masterplan for the future development of the site.

“We appointed a team of specialist consultants to work with us on the development and we believe that the proposed design concepts for the ‘urban village’ and our retained facilities at Jordanstown reflect the University's long-term presence on the site and our commitment to respecting the residential character of the surrounding area.”

For further information | Please visit www.ulster.ac.uk/greaterbelfastdevelopment

NEWS IN BRIEF

EVERY YEAR, THE UNIVERSITY GENERATES THOUSANDS OF COLUMN INCHES IN PRINTED PUBLICATIONS, HOURS OF BROADCAST TIME AND SUBSTANTIAL ONLINE COVERAGE THROUGH WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA, THANKS TO THE STORIES GENERATED BY OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND THE YEAR-LONG CALENDAR OF EVENTS. HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF JUST SOME OF THE STORIES THAT HIT THE HEADLINES IN RECENT MONTHS.



Sustainability

Ulster has an ongoing and steadfast commitment to sustainability. We were delighted that this was recognised by the award of 'First Class Honours' in the People and Planet Green League Table for the second year running. Ulster also won a top energy efficiency award at the annual Sustainable Ireland Awards which recognises the effective energy and carbon management which has been in place over the last 20 years.

The University was also awarded official Fairtrade status, following a successful awareness campaign run across all four campuses. Fairtrade is a tool for development that ensures disadvantaged farmers and workers in developing countries get a better deal through the use of the international Fairtrade Mark. For a product to display the Mark it must meet international Fairtrade standards. The University was commended on: the quality of University and Students' Union Fairtrade policies; extensive use of Fairtrade tea and coffee at in-house events; and excellent use of publications and the University and Students' Union websites.



Emerging talent

A new generation of emerging young talent unveiled their stunning catwalk creations at the End of Year Fashion Show in summer 2012. The designs on show reflected the high quality workmanship and skills of our top textile and fashion design students. Industry leaders attended the extravaganza, which provided experts in the trade with a first glimpse of Northern Ireland's best up-and-coming young talent.

Sustainable technologies

Two purpose-built, fully-functioning terraced houses were constructed at the Jordanstown campus, in order to monitor how much energy is lost in a typical home. Each of the houses, exact replicas of properties built in the Ravenhill area of east Belfast during the 1900s, is occupied by a member of staff and their families. The research on energy loss and possible retrofitted energy efficient technologies, funded by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), is being carried out by the Centre for Sustainable Technologies.



The language of business

Ulster teamed up with top local businesses including Wrightbus, Michelin, Bombardier and Moy Park to equip their employees with the language skills they will need to do business with China. Our innovative Chinese language and cultural awareness course is delivered by the Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster in partnership with the School of Modern Languages. Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh, Dean of Arts, said: "China's economy is expanding rapidly. It has become the second strongest economy in the world and there is every chance that it will become the strongest economy in the world.

"China is seeking to engage with the wider world, and we have to engage with them. As part of that, learning about the language, the culture and the way China does business is the key to developing links with China."



In the clouds

The provision of, and demand for, Cloud Computing services is opening up exciting new business opportunities around the world, says Professor of Telecommunications Gerard Parr. Following a visit to the United Arab Emirates, Professor Parr said the market was rapidly expanding as computer users sought lower costs and the minimum overheads, saying: "Essentially, Cloud Computing is a 'pay-as-you-go' model for outsourced computing resources where the headaches and costs of purchasing and maintaining expensive equipment are reduced or removed completely from the user."



It's connected

Connected Health is a way of connecting patients to their healthcare providers via the technology now found in common household items such as cell phones, computers, smart phones and simple networked medical devices. The University is a sector leader in this field, with a number of Connected Health initiatives based in the Nanotechnology and Integrated BioEngineering Centre on the Jordanstown campus.

Professor Norman Black, Professor of Medical Informatics said: "There can be little doubt that the case has already been made for a radical change in the delivery of health and social care across the globe, including Northern Ireland. A growing number of international governments are looking to Connected Health as the basis of the new world delivery systems."



Keeping the brain healthy

A study has revealed that a drug designed for diabetes sufferers could have the potential to treat neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's. Type II diabetes is a known risk factor for Alzheimer's and it is thought that impaired insulin signalling in the brain could damage nerve cells. Scientists believe that drugs designed to tackle Type II diabetes could also have benefits for keeping our brain cells healthy.

Professor Christian Hölscher and his team used an experimental drug called (Val8)GLP-1. This drug simulates the activity of a protein called GLP-1 which can help the body control its response to blood sugar. The team found that blocking the effect of GLP-1 in the brain made mice perform more poorly on learning and memory tasks, while boosting it with the drug seemed to have no effect on behaviour. The new findings, published in the journal *Brain Research*, are part of ongoing research funded by Alzheimer's Research UK, the leading dementia research charity.



Keeping an eye on business

Two new centres were launched in the Ulster Business School in 2012. The Northern Ireland Centre for Economic Policy (NICEP), which will be based at the Ulster Business School with start-up funding provided by a range of sources

including the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the First Trust Bank, will regularly assess the state of the economy and inform and critique Northern Ireland Executive policies.

The integral role played by SMEs in the growth of the local economy was recognised by the launch of a dedicated Centre for SME Development. The new Centre helps SMEs achieve business goals through programmes to boost business performance and by facilitating leadership and management development. The Centre for SME Development provides a range of support activities, development programmes and events delivered by the Ulster Business School's staff complemented by visiting lecturers and sectoral experts.



Justice and peacebuilding

Transitional justice is a burgeoning area of study and policy, and gender is one of the most prominent sub-themes of transitional justice. The 5th Annual Summer School on Transitional Justice, organised by the Transitional Justice Institute, brought together practitioners, academics and postgraduate students from around the world to share in interactive seminars and workshops centred on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Mental health workers and conflict resolution experts from around the globe explored new ways of addressing the legacy of violent political conflict. The event, in the form of an international workshop, was jointly organised by INCORE, the University's conflict research institute, and the International Development Research Centre of Canada. Its focus was on 'Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding: Towards an Integrated Psychosocial Approach'.

GETTING TO KNOW *you*

Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt TOOK TIME OUT FROM HIS ACTING COMMITMENTS TO VISIT ALL FOUR CAMPUSES IN NOVEMBER 2012, MEETING STUDENTS AND STAFF INVOLVED IN A DIVERSE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, AS WELL AS BEING INTRODUCED TO SOME OF THE PIONEERING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TAKING PLACE HERE AT ULSTER.



“I’ve really enjoyed having the opportunity over the past two days to talk to staff and students and witness at first hand the incredible teaching and learning opportunities Ulster is offering and the remarkable research and innovation taking place across all our campuses.”



At Magee campus, Dr Nesbitt hosted a question and answer session with Drama and Media students in the Foyle Arts Building.

He said: “I’m thrilled to have had the opportunity to visit the Magee campus, to meet staff as well as Drama and Media students.

“The Foyle Arts Building is a terrific facility, enabling School of Creative Arts to nurture some of our brightest and most creative talent in music, dance, drama, the creative technologies, design and filmmaking.”



In Belfast, he dropped into the digital animation studio where Professor Greg Maguire and Conann Fitzpatrick are passing on their expertise to Art and Design students.

Dr Nesbitt said: “The last two years I have spent in New Zealand on *The Hobbit* movies have given me a real insight into how CGI has radically transformed cinema.

“With this kind of facility plus staff expertise, it is not all that surprising that the first crop of graduates are in demand and it really bodes well for the future of Northern Ireland’s burgeoning film industry.”



Also in Belfast, he addressed an external audience, updating them on our plans for the new Belfast City campus. “The plans the University has submitted for the campus are visionary and will contribute significantly to the development of a more confident, more vibrant, forward and outward-looking Belfast,” he said.

“Ulster’s commitment to making higher education possible for young people is something I am very passionate about, and the location of this campus, the openness of the design – breaking down barriers between background and higher education – reinforces our ethos. What could be better for the development of this city and this region than a university, with all its global connections, coming into the heart of Belfast, offering full and part-time educational opportunities to people of all backgrounds and access to world class research?”



Coleraine saw him pay tribute to 150 full and part-time graduates who received their nursing badges. He noted: “Ulster has a strong tradition of producing top quality nursing graduates and it is great to join them and staff on this special day.

“The high quality of the education they receive was recognised recently by the Nursing and Midwifery Council, whose 2011–12 monitoring results showed Ulster was one of two approved education institutions to get an ‘outstanding’ grading for practice learning and one of five institutions to get ‘outstanding’ in any of the five areas monitored.”



At Jordanstown, the Chancellor visited the Centre for Sustainable Technologies and was also briefed on our pioneering work in the field of Connected Health.

Dr Nesbitt said: “It’s great to be back in Jordanstown, where I was a student, and to see at first hand the incredible scientific research our academics are involved in.”



Also at Coleraine, he visited the Centre for Molecular Biosciences. he said: “In the last Research Assessment Exercise, the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute finished top in the UK for research power. Ulster’s biomedical scientists are conducting groundbreaking, internationally recognised research into nutrition, diabetes, Alzheimer’s and other degenerative diseases.”

Ulster students profit FROM DANSKE PARTNERSHIP

In 2012, the University joined forces with Danske Bank in a new partnership founded on our mutual commitment to supporting educational opportunities for young people in Northern Ireland.

With each party firmly acknowledging the utmost importance of education as a vital path to our future prosperity, this innovative partnership links academia and commerce to create a special combination of expertise, able to provide practical, relevant help to new and aspiring students.

Tony Wilcox, Managing Director, Retail & Private Banking, at Danske said: "Our future will be determined by today's young people. A large part of this new partnership revolves around outreach to schools – guiding parents and students on future career paths and the academic routes and associated funding required. This is an extremely important stage in young people's lives and we are committed to assisting and supporting where possible."

Danske Bank, formerly known as the Northern Bank, has been involved to varying degrees with the University of Ulster for some time. We worked together on Northern Ireland's first loan scheme specifically designed for full-time postgraduates in the Ulster Business School back in 2005; the 'Sport 4 U' programme designed to encourage students and staff to enjoy the benefits of sports activity (2006); and earlier this year, a creative initiative called 'Home is Where the Art is' which involved a series of commissions of original student artwork for the bank's first-time house buyers.

This new collaboration will see us working together across a number of areas. These include our Schools and College Engagement Plans, entailing a range of activities from Open Days, to presentations to schools across Northern Ireland and parents' evenings. The partnership will enable us to work with schools and colleges throughout the country, as well as others in Great Britain, making it possible for us to meet the needs of future students.

In addition, Danske Bank will provide bespoke financial advice for new students across the campuses as part of their introduction to university life during their early days as a fresher.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, said:

"The support from Danske Bank will allow Ulster to develop a range of activities with future, current and past students. We are very excited that the connection with Danske Bank will initiate and enhance a range of major activities at the University."

Complementing this hands-on programme for students, the bank is also putting its weight behind one of Ulster's most successful public initiatives, Life Stories. Life Stories is a series of 'in conversation' events with distinguished Ulster graduates and has included names such as Paul Brady, Baroness Shirley Williams and Moya Doherty to date. These one-off events are always packed with students, staff and members of the public, and their informal manner more often than not makes for a fascinating evening of revealing, amusing and poignant tales and recollections.

The University looks forward to working with Danske in what has the assured makings of an extremely valuable partnership.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Danske Bank

Taking the stage

Renowned stage and screen actor Sir Ian McKellen, CH, CBE will deliver the Chancellor's Lecture in February at Magee campus. This will be the first time the prestigious event has been held at the Derry~Londonderry campus.



Major awards

Sir Ian has been honoured with more than 40 international awards for his performances on screen and stage.

He was born in 1939 and raised in the industrial north of England of Northern Irish stock and started acting

professionally in 1961. After reading English at Cambridge University and completing a three-year apprenticeship with regional theatre companies, he was recognised as a prominent actor of his generation.

His youthful performances as Shakespeare's Richard II and Marlowe's Edward II stormed the 1969 Edinburgh Festival, played two seasons in London, toured Europe and were televised. In pursuit of the ideal theatre ensemble, he was a founder-member of the touring Actors' Company. As leading man for the Royal Shakespeare Company, he has played Macbeth with Judi Dench and Iago with Willard White. He has starred in a score of modern plays, many for the National Theatre under its first director Laurence Olivier and his successors.

Sir Ian has worked extensively on television e.g. Stephen Frears' *Walter, The Scarlet Pimpernel, And the Band Played On, Rasputin, Cold Comfort Farm*. In 2005 he fulfilled his ambition to act in the ever-running British soap, *Coronation Street*.

McKellen has made more than 40 movies. In 1996, he co-produced, co-scripted and starred in his film adaptation of *Richard III*. After Stephen King's *Apt Pupil*, he achieved his first Oscar® nomination as film director James Whale in *Gods and Monsters*. Younger cinemagoers discovered him as Magneto in the *X-Men* films and as the wizard Gandalf in his Oscar®-nominated performance in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. In 2006, he played Sir Leigh Teabing in *The Da Vinci Code*. He is currently working on *Vicious*, an ITV sit-com with Derek Jacobi.

He toured the world as King Lear, in the final production for The Royal Shakespeare Company's Complete Works Festival (2007): followed by a sell-out tour and two London seasons in *Waiting for Godot*.

He has been an eloquent advocate for gay rights since he came out in 1988 and co-founded Stonewall, the UK charity which lobbies for legal and social equality for gay people. The following year, he was knighted for his contribution to the performing arts. In 2007, the Queen appointed him Companion of Honour for services to Drama and Equality.

Sir Ian will be the sixth distinguished speaker to deliver the annual lecture, following in the footsteps of Taoiseach Enda Kenny who spoke on wide-ranging themes when he delivered the lecture on the Belfast campus in 2012.

It is fitting that Sir Ian's lecture will be delivered on the Magee campus as it is home to the School of Creative Arts which offers degree programmes in drama, dance, music, design and creative technologies. This event will also be a high point of the University's programme for Derry~Londonderry's 2013 City of Culture celebrations.

Honorary degree

Sir Ian will also receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters for his services to acting at the event. The award will be conferred by the Chancellor, Dr James Nesbitt, who co-stars with Sir Ian in Peter Jackson's film adaptations of J R R Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Communication) and Provost (Coleraine and Magee), Professor Deirdre Heenan said the campus was honoured to host the Chancellor's Lecture: "The University is delighted to recognise an actor of Sir Ian's standing with an honorary doctorate and that he has agreed to deliver the 2013 Chancellor's Lecture.

"It is also wonderful for Derry~Londonderry as the 2013 City of Culture that this event is coming for the first time to Magee and it will no doubt be a highlight for the city and for the University."

Supporting Ulster

The University of Ulster Fund – a Gift from One Generation to the Next

Students at Ulster can look forward to an even brighter future thanks to the support of University alumni, staff and friends.

The new University of Ulster Fund, recently launched by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, will offer a range of scholarships, bursaries and awards to recognise and reward achievement, promote student innovation and creativity – and provide help for students who need additional financial support.

The Fund, previously known as the Alumni Fund, has been in existence since 2003 and has provided much needed support for libraries, student hardships and travel bursaries. Times have changed for students and we felt the time was right to re-invigorate this initiative, with an emphasis on recognising the achievements of our students and offering that helping hand when it is needed.

The new Fund will offer support in five areas, reflecting the values of Ulster and the needs of today's students:

Opening up Opportunities to Learning – providing Gateway scholarships to full-time and part-time students from low income households and a range of academic travel bursaries.

Rewarding Excellence – providing Academic Excellence Awards which recognise the academic successes of our students and Sport scholarships supporting our most talented sportsmen and women.

Student Hardship – making extra funds available to the Student Hardship Fund, helping students who are facing hard times through no fault of their own.

Supporting the Library – helping to fund more books and journals as well as digitizing existing texts, making sure our libraries remain state of the art.

The Vice-Chancellor's Student Fund – an unrestricted category of the Fund, designed to create impact whenever and wherever the opportunity arises, giving grants which recognise individual talent, entrepreneurship and creativity.

The new fund invited applications in November 2012 and received an overwhelming number of applications totalling 90 requests for financial support. Speaking at the awards ceremony in December at the Jordanstown campus, Professor Alastair Adair, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development) said: "In my role as Chair of the Fund Disbursement Committee I can tell you it was a challenging task to select the 17 successful applicants, such was the quality of the submissions. Had we the funds we could have easily supported double the number of students."

Gateway to success

The Vice-Chancellor presented 17 student awards and a grant to the Student Hardship fund and the Library. The student awards included two new Gateway Scholarships, a brand new scholarship supported exclusively by the Fund, available to both full-time undergraduate and part-time adult learners offering £1,000 per year to help with the costs of their study. On being presented with the first Gateway Scholarship (part-time), Ian Healy spoke of the life changing impact of such an award, saying:

"The award of the Gateway Scholarship is immense to me, as it will allow me to devote more time to my studies and to improve myself, knowing that I now have extra help to meet the extra expenses that a degree course can entail. It provides peace of mind and a comfort blanket against the cold economic climate. I don't know if I could have survived without it. I can't thank the former students enough for making it possible for me to get this grant. Thank you."

The University's focus on helping students to take up opportunities which enhance their studies also featured in the Awards, with three students receiving Broadening Horizons Travel Bursaries. Oonagh Murphy, a 3rd year PhD student in the Faculty of Arts received £500 towards the cost of travelling to the US to attend Museums and The Web 2013 – the biggest annual meeting

of digital technologists working in and with museums internationally. The bursary will make it possible for Oonagh to attend this conference, providing access to training not available in the UK, enabling her to meet key international figures working in her field and the opportunity to clarify questions brought up by her research.

Your opportunity to 'give something back'

We're all familiar with the phrase to 'give something back' as it is one which is often heard in the media and society at large today – the University of Ulster Fund provides a perfect opportunity for our graduates to consider donating to a good cause that helps current students achieve all they can during their time with us.

The fund will be supported by a major new fundraising initiative, the cornerstone of which will be a student-led telephone campaign. The first telethon, which kicks off on 4 February 2013 and runs for six weeks, will see students from across the University calling thousands of you, our alumni, to introduce you to the fund and to seek your support. Donations of all sizes are welcome and we hope that if you receive a call from one of our students that you will consider helping us to create more opportunities for students like Ian and Oonagh.

To make your gift now | Support the University of Ulster Fund by contacting:

Annual Fund Officer
Development and Alumni Relations Office
Room 82C25
University of Ulster
Belfast campus
York Street
Belfast
Co Antrim BT15 1ED

Telephone +44 (0)28 9536 7514
universityofulsterfund@ulster.ac.uk
www.ulster.ac.uk/developmentandalumni

2012 University of Ulster Fund Award Winners

Opening up opportunities to Learning

£1,000 Gateway Scholarships – Julie Steele (full-time) and Ian Healy (part-time)

£500 Broadening Horizons Travel Bursary
William Brewster, Breedge Callagan and Oonagh Murphy

Rewarding Excellence

£1,000 Sport Scholarship – Sinead Connelly

£500 Academic Excellence Awards

Rachael Annett – Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment

Matthew McDowell – Faculty of Arts

Kenneth Vaughan – Faculty of Computing and Engineering

Sheree Kirkwood – Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Emily Brussard – Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Andrew Park – Faculty of Social Sciences

Phillippa Watson – Ulster Business School

The Vice-Chancellor's Student Fund

£1,000 – Ronan Harkin, MEng Mechanical Engineering

£770 – Simon Connelly, BEng (Hons) Electronics and Software

£1,000 – Thomas Brady, MEng Mechanical Engineering

£980 – Junxiu Liu, PhD Computer Science

Library

An award of £3,000

Student Support – Student Hardship Fund

An award of £2,000

supporting
Ulster





Building Peace Locally, Making Peace Globally

Peace and conflict issues are never far from the minds of those who live in Northern Ireland, it is often all too clear that peacebuilding remains a pressing and live part of our day-to-day lives. The University of Ulster has a proud and unequalled track record in the area of peacebuilding reaching back over decades. We now want to build on our achievements in this area in ways which will benefit current and future generations. A key priority, linked to our fundraising efforts over the next few years, is the establishment of a Chair (Professorship) which honours the significant contributions of John Hume and Tip O'Neill to peacebuilding in Northern Ireland.

"All politics is local."

Thomas P. O'Neill
Former Speaker of the US House
of Representatives

The John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace will build on the University's impressive track record and lead work on global initiatives designed to make a practical difference to ensuring peace, locally and further afield, for future generations. The academic appointed to the Chair will also steer a wider initiative based at Ulster's International Conflict

Research Institute (INCORE) – the University's centre of excellence for peace and conflict work at the Magee campus. This wider initiative, which includes a Lesson Learning Programme and a range of Masters and PhD scholarships, will equip a new generation of peacebuilders for the future, not only in Northern Ireland but overseas, particularly those from countries in conflict.

Fundraising target

To establish the Hume O'Neill Chair as an endowed position, in perpetuity, the University

is seeking to raise £3 million, with a further £2.5 million to be raised to establish the INCORE Peace Initiative for an initial five years.

We are delighted that to date £2.1 million has already been raised through the generosity of a number of private donations, coupled with a £1 million grant from the International Fund for Ireland.

Kate Bond, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, says: "We have had a busy year fundraising for the Chair on both sides of the Atlantic. The University is very

pleased to be working closely with both the Hume and O'Neill families to realise this ambitious project."

Highlights of 2012 included:

- **March 2012** Hume O'Neill Chair in Peace featured at the American Ireland Fund National Gala in Washington DC. Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett joined senior political and business leaders from the US, UK, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic to showcase our work as a leading centre for peace and conflict studies.

- **May 2012** Ulster alumni joined the University at the American Ireland Fund gala in New York. We were delighted to welcome New York-based alumni David Hamilton (Law with Economics LLB, 2006), now working as an Attorney for Zeichner Ellman & Krause LLP and Ciaran Kennedy (BEng Hons Software Engineering with DIS, 2003), now Vice President of Solutions Consulting at NYSE Technologies to the Ulster table. The University contingent also met other alumni during the visit, including Margaret Molloy (BA Hons European Business Studies (Spanish), 1993) now Chief Marketing Officer for Velocidi, who served on the organising committee for the gala itself and Gavan Corr (PGDip Business Administration, 1999), now with Cowen Group, Inc.

- **September 2012** Celebration event to mark the centenary of Tip O'Neill's birth, John Hume's 75th birthday and the University's plans to establish the Hume O'Neill Chair in Peace at Magee campus. This event was compered by Dr Miriam O'Callaghan, and the incomparable Phil Coulter took time out of his busy touring schedule to perform for guests. Speakers included US Consul General Gregory Burton, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and former US Ambassador Sean Donlan. Thomas P. O'Neill III, Tip's son, and Dr Pat Hume both paid tribute to John and Tip's unique friendship which led to the increased commitment of the US to the non-violent approach advocated by John Hume.

- **November 2012** Tom and Shelly O'Neill hosted a memorable event in their home in Boston to introduce the University and the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair

to Irish-American friends and supporters. The event was also attended by a number of Ulster alumni who have been central to the US fundraising efforts including Paul Jennings (BSc Hons Human Communication, 1999) who now works for Silicon Valley Bank.

Next steps

A programme of events linked to our work in peace and conflict will take place in the UK, Ireland and the USA throughout 2013. From 24 – 26 May the University is collaborating with the Rotary Club of Londonderry to hold a Global Peace Forum in Derry~Londonderry as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations – see www.peaceconference2013.com.

The University's Development and Alumni Relations team will continue to actively fundraise for and promote the Chair and the overall INCORE Peace Initiative. We are aiming to reach the fundraising target of £3 million for the Chair by the end of 2013.

Gifts of any size will help to establish the Chair and in recognition of donations there are a range of naming opportunities and benefits.

"Peace making is not an event, but a process."

John Hume,
Nobel Peace laureate

For further information
Visit: [www.ulster.ac.uk/
incorepeaceinitiative](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/incorepeaceinitiative)
or for further information on
helping us to reach our target,
email: [incorepeaceinitiative@
ulster.ac.uk](mailto:incorepeaceinitiative@ulster.ac.uk)

Ulster's contribution to peacebuilding at home and overseas

- INCORE is unique in that it is based in a society emerging from conflict
- Our Masters degree in Peace and Conflict studies at Magee campus is the oldest course of its type on the island of Ireland
- Our annual International Summer School and Masters degree have transferred peacebuilding skills to over 1400 people from over 30 countries
- INCORE's MSc course has attracted more Mitchell Scholars (7 in total) than any other degree in the University of Ulster
- Our graduates go on to apply their skills with real impact, for example, working with internally displaced persons in Colombia or joining UN and EU missions in Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo and Serbia
- Our senior academics have been seconded to leadership roles in the Human Rights Commission, Community Relations Council and as Police Ombudsman
- INCORE staff have been directly engaged with peacebuilding on the ground in on the ground in NI and in many conflict regions
- In winter 2012 our academics completed a report which identifies the reconciliation priorities for Northern Ireland for the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister
- INCORE is an associated centre of the United Nations University
- Our Conflict Archive on the Internet (CAIN), the internationally acclaimed and largest web resource on the Northern Ireland conflict has attracted over 12 million visitors to date

STARTER

Ulster Graduate puts 10 questions to Gillian McLornan, Group Director of Brand Partnerships, Jumeirah Group. Gillian graduated in 1991 with a BA Hons in Hotel and Catering Management and is now based in Dubai. She has almost two decades of sales and marketing experience with luxury hotel brands in the Middle East, the US and the UK. In her role with Jumeirah Group, Gillian develops innovative sales and marketing programmes delivered through the company's global sales and distribution teams.

1. What's on your agenda today?

My day starts with school runs at 7.15am, then it's off to the office to work with partners on 2013 spring and summer marketing campaigns which are well underway alongside finalising our partnership agreements and sales plans for the next 12 months. Typically I will have conference calls in the afternoon with our European and US partners. This evening we have the opening event of the Dubai International Film Festival at Madinat Jumeirah.

2. Best piece of advice you've received?

'Measure twice cut once'. In our business, care and attention to detail is at the core of everything we do.

3. Favourite University of Ulster memory?

Our practical days when we were given free rein in the training kitchens and restaurants in Jordanstown. We cooked up and created a storm which typically ended somewhere late into the evening in the Students' Union.

4. Who or what has been your greatest influence?

Personally, I most admire my husband who has been a very positive influence on my life and career, aiding my ability to work with Swiss precision, while maintaining a fun, positive Irish sense of humour. Stephan is the General Manager of Jumeirah Zabeel Saray on Palm Jumeirah.



5. Favourite website?

www.jumeirah.com of course!

6. Invite five people (any era) to dinner.....

Amelia Mary Earhart, aviation's pioneering lady; Rory McIlroy, Jumeirah's own global brand ambassador; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; Sir Richard Branson; and, of course, we would require one of the world's greatest chefs to cook for us.

7. What was the last book you read?

Do you really want to know? *50 Shades of Pink* and I am currently reading Jeffrey Archer's latest, *The Sins of the Father*.

8. Favourite childhood memory?

My first trip to London. I was about 8 years old and was inspired not only by the glamour of travelling, but also touring London's iconic sites on an open top bus.

9. Sum yourself up in one line

A hospitality professional, full-time working mother of two small children, married to a busy general manager one word really, driven!

10. Tips for Ulster students/recent graduates?

Irish people have been very successful across the globe for generations; my advice is to travel and take any overseas opportunity that comes your way. We live in a time when skills and qualifications are a given, but emotional and cultural intelligence is king.



Colin Davidson

FIRST TRUST BANK / UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD

This prestigious Award is made each year at the Winter Graduation ceremonies to an alumnus/alumna of the University 'in recognition of outstanding achievement in their chosen field'. In December 2012, the recipient was the artist Colin Davidson, an outstanding example of an Ulster graduate who has excelled in his field.

In 1988 Colin received the Certificate in Foundation Studies in Art and Design with distinction at the University of Ulster before getting a first class honours degree in Design in 1991. He followed in the footsteps of his father, the artist Rowland Davidson, who studied Fine Art at the Belfast College of Fine Art, where his tutors included John Luke and Tom Carr.

Colin has a highly successful career, exhibiting extensively in the UK, the United States, Europe and Ireland. His work is in public and corporate collections across Ireland, including the Arts Council of Northern Ireland; the BBC; the Bar Library, Belfast; the National Self Portrait Collection of Ireland, Limerick; the Office of Public Works Collection, Ireland; the Law Society of Ireland; Queen's University, Belfast; and most recently, the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.

He exhibited extensively in 2012 with work being shown at the RHA Annual Exhibition, Dublin; the National Portrait Gallery, London; the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London (where he was an invited artist); the American Irish Historical Society, New York; the Royal Ulster Academy, Belfast; and the Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin.

He has exhibited regularly at the Royal Hibernian Academy Annual Exhibition and twice won awards. He has been an Academician of the Royal Ulster Academy since 2006, where in 2012 he was elected President. He has won the Royal Ulster Academy Gold Medal three times (most recently in 2010 and 2011), the Silver Medal twice and the coveted Conor Prize in 2002. Last year his striking portrait of poet Michael Longley was awarded the prestigious Visitors' Choice Award at the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

International recognition

Colin started practicing in the area of graphic design and illustration, founding his own company in 1993 and becoming a member of the Chartered Society of Designers in 1995. As well as providing design solutions for clients worldwide, Colin Davidson Design offered a series of placements to Visual Communication students for many years. In 2000 he left his design practice to devote his time fully to painting.

In recent years Colin's practice has developed from the urban landscape, focusing mainly on Belfast; through sophisticated multi-layered paintings of shop window reflections; to portraits, often of famous figures. His latest body of work, a selection of large scale portraits of writers, musicians and actors, includes Brian Friel, Michael Longley, Duke Special, Ciaran Hinds, Paul Brady, Adrian Dunbar, Barry Douglas, Basil Blackshaw, Mark Knopfler and Marie Jones. Work by Colin was commissioned for the new Lyric Theatre, where he personally presented his pieces to HM The Queen and the President of Ireland during the Royal visit to Northern Ireland in 2012.

Colin's portraits are now recognised internationally. *Just Sharp Reminding*, his portrait of Duke Special, won the US Council and Irish Arts Review Award at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin in 2010. His portrait of Brian Kennedy was awarded the Perpetual Gold Medal at the Royal Ulster Academy, Belfast, in October 2011. Also in 2011 his painting *Thread the Light (Portrait of Glen Hansard)* was selected for the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery, London. This piece was also used on the cover of Oscar-winning Hansard's latest album, *Rhythm and Repose*.

The University is delighted to recognise Colin's contribution to artistic life and to welcome him to our cohort of Distinguished Graduates.

This award is made each year to an alumnus/alumna of the University 'in recognition of outstanding achievement in their chosen field'.

University Multiples/Artists' Editions



The University has introduced a new exciting and creative range of memorabilia by commissioning artists and designers who are Ulster alumni to create a series of Artists' Editions and Multiples.

The artists commissioned include: Turner Prize nominee Phil Collins, Mary McIntyre and Seamus Harahan who have each produced a photographic print in an edition of 25 for only £150. This is a unique opportunity to purchase work by internationally renowned artists at a fraction of the cost the work would sell for commercially.

Also included in the Artists' Editions is a set of tableware by David Sherry which includes a teapot, cup and saucer, dinner plate and side plate for £170. The same design by David Sherry is also available on canvas bags priced at £6 and tee-shirts at £15. We also have mouse mats designed by Aisling O'Beirn for sale at £3.

Another must have is Peter Strain's Limited Edition Print at £50. All works are produced in small editions, not unique, but limited enough to be rare.

This series of editions by established and emerging artists associated with Ulster provides a unique opportunity to own a contemporary work of art or design at an affordable price.

The Artists' Editions and Multiples are available for purchase from the Development (Arts and Culture) Office at the Belfast campus, tel: 028 9536 7287 email: developmentandalumni@ulster.ac.uk See <http://tinyurl.com/ulsterartistseditions>

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Most of you will be aware that all students of the University of Ulster automatically become members of our Alumni Association upon graduation. Membership is free of charge and offers a range of exciting ways in which you can remain engaged with the University.

The Association exists to promote communication between the University and its alumni and amongst alumni themselves. Members receive *The Ulster Graduate* magazine (either in print or online) and a regular alumni e-update. The e-updates provide you with news of events, training, employment and study opportunities, and what's happening across the University.

Alumni are invited to attend events and reunions in Northern Ireland, Ireland and across the globe. In 2012 our alumni received invitations to attend reunions and events in Boston, Washington DC and London to name just a few locations.

The Association is run by an executive committee which is made up of alumni from across Northern Ireland. The Association is chaired by the President of the Alumni Association, Anne Rowe, who says: "We are always interested in hearing from our graduates with their ideas. The members of the committee change from time to time and we would welcome expressions of interest from those of you who are based in Northern Ireland. Our meetings can be attended in person or by videoconference from one of the four campuses. We very much want to remain a vibrant forum for communication and engagement of our graduates and it is only with your support and enthusiasm that we can continue to achieve this."

If you would be interested in becoming a member of the committee, please contact the Alumni Relations Office:

Contact | Alumni Relations Assistant
T: 028 9536 7486 E: alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Convocation: the Graduate Voice of the University



The University's Convocation is a body consisting of graduates, honorary graduates, all academic members of staff, and certain Officers of the University of Ulster. We are proud to include all of our alumni in this membership and would encourage you to become involved. Convocation's role is to:

- Respond to consultative documents from the University
- Note and comment on matters it considers important within, for and about the University
- Elect four members of the University Court
- Act as a forum for discussion and debate
- Organise events, sponsor awards and prizes, and raise funds in support of gifts to the University.

The 2012 winner of Convocation's Student of the Year Award is Stephen Campbell who is being recognised for his academic success whilst accomplishing outstanding achievements as a Paralympic swimmer.

The 2012 winner of Convocation's Postgraduate Student of the Year Award is Professor Bill Tormey whose research at the University of Ulster has focused on a critical analysis of the role of forensic medicine, biochemistry and toxicology in the coronial system in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The Chairperson of the 12 person Executive Committee, Mary Campbell, says: "We welcome the involvement of our graduates and are always pleased to hear from our membership about any matters relating to the University which they feel should be discussed by Convocation."

If you would like to become involved with Convocation please see contact details below.

Contact | E: convocation@ulster.ac.uk or visit the website for more information: <http://plangov.ulster.ac.uk/governance/convocation.html>

Graduates *in the news*

Sweet success for Brendan



Brendan Jamison (Certificate in Foundation Studies Art and Design 1999, BA Hons Fine and Applied Arts and MFA 2004) has claimed a special niche in the corridors of power.

Over the past eight years, his sculptures have been widely exhibited throughout the world with shows in Scotland, Wales, England, France, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Italy, America, Canada, New Zealand, India and China. He has also been awarded residencies in New Delhi and New York. In 2009 he was a visiting lecturer at the University of Florida. That same year, a small Jamison work was entered into the permanent collection of MoMA, New York's Museum of Modern Art, as part of the international unbound project titled 'A Book About Death'. In 2010, Jamison was commissioned by Native Land & Grosvenor to build sugar cube scale models of Tate Modern and NEO Bankside for the London Festival of Architecture. The highlight of 2012 was a carved sugar sculpture of Number 10 exhibited inside 10 Downing Street, London. In September 2012, Jamison was elected as a member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors. He is also an associate member of the Royal Ulster Academy of Arts.

Academic distinction and humanitarian enterprise

Matt Alexander was the first Mitchell Scholar to join the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies in 2003-2004. During his time at Magee he spent five months working with Irish Aid investigating the relationship between emergency famine relief and food security efforts in Ethiopia in order to improve coordination between the two.

He had spent the previous 15 months in Colombia as a Fulbright Fellow to research internal displacement and economic development.

Matt founded Ahmsa, a not-for-profit organisation concerned with internally displaced people in Colombia and Guatemala. In addition he is co-founder of Red Tierras, a land conflict resolution network in Colombia and Guatemala with plans to extend its work to Haiti, Bolivia and Brazil. He is managing a portfolio of nearly \$4 million (funded by USAID, the EU and Irish Aid) on land conflict resolution programmes. To sustain this work he is employed as Regional Co-ordinator for Latin America for Mercy Corps, a NGO existing to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people to build secure, productive and just communities.

NEW MUSIC CHAMPION

BBC Radio 1's prestigious 10pm-midnight slot is now in the safe hands of BSc Hons Media Studies graduate Phil Taggart who presents the show with co-host Alice Levine. The show features an 'energetic mix of specialist and upfront new music' and continues the focus on bringing new music to mainstream attention famously instigated by the late John Peel.

Music has always been Phil's passion and whilst studying for his degree, he scooped the BBC/Skillset Young Broadcaster of the year award. He began his career as a helping hand on the award-nominated BBC *Introducing in Northern Ireland* programme. His tenacity led to him becoming a regular contributor, offering advice to aspiring musicians, interviewing the great and the good of the music world and generally smooth-talking security guards into letting him go backstage to hang out with the stars. Phil stepped up to the presenter's microphone for the first time on BBC Radio Ulster's *Across the Line* programme and quickly graduated to providing cover for weekend radio presenters on Radio 1. Phil's promotion to co-host of the station's flagship new music show cements his position as one of the bright stars of national radio broadcasting.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01mw1nr

Ulster graduate in US cited as one of Top 10 Chief Marketing Officers in world

Social Media Magazine listed US-based Ulster graduate Margaret Molloy (BSc Hons European Studies (Spanish), 1993) in the top ten of its 100 Chief Marketing Officers on Twitter. Molloy's intellect and success have been recognised by other organizations. *Business and Finance* magazine named her as one of the 'Most Influential US-Irish American Leaders' and Irish America magazine named her as one of the 'Top 100 Irish Americans in Business.'

Honorary Graduates

High achievers honoured

The achievements of leading figures in the worlds of education, science, business, sport and the arts were recognised by the award of honorary degrees in 2012.

Dr Susan Whoriskey

Biotechnology entrepreneur Dr Susan Whoriskey received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science for services to the biotechnology industry and entrepreneurship.

Paul Smith CBE

Belfast-born Paul Smith CBE, founder and chairman of the global light entertainment company Celador Entertainment Limited, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science for services to media and enterprise.

Ed Curran OBE

Ed Curran, veteran journalist and former Belfast Telegraph editor-in-chief, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his services to journalism.

Rachel Allen

TV chef, author, journalist and mother, Rachel Allen received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science for her contribution to culinary arts.

Danny Murphy

Danny Murphy, provincial secretary and CEO of the Ulster Council of the GAA, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his contribution to sport and community relations.

Tom Kelly OBE

Tom Kelly, one of the best-known public relations practitioners in the UK and Ireland, received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University for his services to the community.

Andy McMorran OBE

Andy McMorran, former principal of Ashfield Boys' High School in Belfast, received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his contribution to cross-community development through education and sport.

PJ O'Grady

PJ O'Grady, retired principal of St Patrick's, Bearnageeha, received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his contribution to cross-community development through education and sport.

Mohammed Ben Sulayem

Mohammed Ben Sulayem, Vice-President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his work in presenting a modern and progressive image of the Arab world to a global audience, by promoting good causes, public service and education, and by serving as a role model to young people across the Middle East.

Arlene Cassidy

Arlene Cassidy, CEO of the charity Autism Northern Ireland, received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University for her services to autism.

Bill Flynn CBE

Leading Irish-American businessman William 'Bill' Flynn, former chairman of Mutual of America, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws for his services to peace and reconciliation.

Gary Lightbody



Snow Patrol founding member and lead vocalist Gary Lightbody received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters for services to the music industry.

Rosemary Kelly OBE

Rosemary Kelly OBE received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of her sustained and exceptional leadership in the field of arts and culture.

New Year and Birthday Honours

IN THE NEW YEAR HONOURS FOR 2013

Professor Emeritus Eileen Evason, currently Vice Chair of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Chair of the Standards Committee which has various responsibilities relating to the social security and child support systems in Northern Ireland, was appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for her services to the disadvantaged.

Professor Emeritus Alan Woodside, who was Director of the Transport and Road Assessment Centre until his retirement in 2012, was appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to higher education and highway engineering in Northern Ireland.

There were also honours for three Visiting Professors:

Martin Bradley, former Chief Nursing Officer, appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to nursing. He is a Visiting Professor in the University's School of Nursing.

Dr Bryan Keating was appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to economic development in Northern Ireland. He is a Visiting Professor of Entrepreneurship in the Ulster Business School.

Michael Smith, former Chief Executive and Managing Director of Titanic Quarter Ltd, appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to economic development and urban regeneration in Belfast. He serves as a Visiting Professor of Urban Regeneration in the University's School of the Built Environment.

IN THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS FOR 2012

Paul Shepherd, programme director for BSc Hons Radiotherapy and Oncology was appointed as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of his outstanding leadership as Cadet Commandant of the 1st Northern Ireland Battalion Army Cadet Force. Paul is also a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

University Council member **Ruth Laird** became a CBE, while honorary graduates **Dr Len O'Hagan** and **Dr Wendy Austin** became CBE and MBE respectively.

Keep in touch

Want to keep up with the latest alumni news or find your classmates?

 <http://tinyurl.com/32bc8av>

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

 Follow us on Twitter @UlsterUni

Or keep an eye on www.ulster.ac.uk/developmentandalumni/

Contact us

Development and Alumni Relations Office, University of Ulster, York Street, Belfast BT15 1ED

T: 028 9536 7486
developmentandalumni@ulster.ac.uk

Class Notes

We are sad to note the passing of...



Peter Martin

BA Hons Business Studies, 2004

His classmate Aaron Shields writes:

"Immediately after graduation, and armed with an intensive course in French, Peter set off for Paris and a career with Nissan. Nissan quickly recognised Peter's talent and he moved swiftly through the ranks, culminating in promotion to a senior management role in South Africa late in 2011 and the opening of a promising new chapter in his life. A life that promised so much was cut short following a car accident in South Africa and Peter passed away in February aged just 29."

James Grant

MSc in Education, 1981

We are sad to report the death, in the summer, of James (Jim) Grant. Born in 1928 in Buncrana, County Donegal, Jim was a very popular and highly-respected educator, spending most of his career as a teacher of Science and Religious Studies at St Patrick's High School in Omagh. Captain and President of Newtown Stewart Golf Club, Jim never allowed ill health to hold him back. One of the first recipients of a kidney transplant in Northern Ireland, Jim was a steadfast and inspirational example to anyone facing failing health. A big man, in every sense, and sadly missed.



Christopher Andrews

MA Journalism, 2011

not only achieved distinction in his studies but also landed a job as a trainee cross-platform journalist with UTV.

"This is a fantastic opportunity," says Chris. "I know many people who have struggled to find work after graduation, or at least in the direction they always intended, so I have been very fortunate. Anyone considering a career in journalism should do the Ulster course for the qualifications and grounding it offers."



Tracey Bell

BSc Hons Communication, Advertising & Marketing, 2002

has written a book to help comfort children suffering bereavement. The book, entitled *Love Never Ends*, was launched at the FE McWilliam Gallery by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People, Patricia Lewsley.



Patricia Caldwell-Lee

HND Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management, 1981

has had her first book *Just Say Yes to Life – embracing individuation to embrace life* published by 'O'Books. The book explores Carl Jung's concept of individuation, i.e. to become who or what we are destined to become and essentially it validates the need for growth and change.

For further information | www.individuationworks.co.uk or follow @PCaldwellLee on Twitter.



Jennifer C Cornell

MA Peace Studies, 1991 says:

"Doing my degree part-time allowed me to explore each module without haste. As a consequence, my time at Magee is among my best ever as a student. The most valuable lesson I took from the programme was to read from the long and excellent lists provided only those titles that interested me, and to abandon anything that did not hold my attention.

"This made possible the discovery of books on either side of the ones for which I'd been searching. Through this process I refined my interest in the contact hypothesis, Education for Mutual Understanding, the character of grief and the management of memory, the role of forgiveness in conflict transformation, and the

representation of Northern Ireland in film and fiction. These themes informed my own work as a fiction writer (see *Departures*, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995) and shaped the content of many of the courses I taught as a professor of English at Oregon State University. I also am able to serve as a useful critic on a wide range of subjects in the arts, humanities and social sciences, a skill on which my business, Reads Well Editing & Student Support Services, is based."



Ben Cote

MA Peace and Conflict Studies, 2007 writes:

"The Masters program has been invaluable for my career. It qualified me to work in public service nationally and internationally and helped me attain positions at the Office of the Mayor of *Washington, DC* and an international trade NGO in Geneva, Switzerland. I have worked with two NGOs in Sri Lanka. At the National Peace Council, I used my MA syllabus to help design a syllabus for a Sri Lankan university's peace and conflict studies program, drafted opinion pieces on conflict analysis and helped create a program on pluralism that is still active. Later, as an independent researcher for the Council for Public Policy in Colombo, I published a paper on devolution of power that drew heavily on my education in Northern Ireland."



Professor Avril Drummond

Diploma in Occupational Therapy, 1983

was awarded a prestigious Fellowship of the College

of Occupational Therapists in recognition of the outstanding contributions she has made to the profession and to the Association and College of many years. This is the highest honour that can be awarded by the College. This is not only a personal commendation for the long standing contribution Avril has made, but also further recognition of the contribution to occupational therapy made by the University.



Professor Nadine Foster

BSc Hons (first class) Physiotherapy, 1993 and a DPhil from the Faculty of Science in 1998

is Professor of Musculoskeletal Health in Primary Care and Director of the Clinical Trials Unit at Keele University. She has been awarded a National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) research Professorship – one of eight awarded to the UK's most promising leaders in medical health research. The award funds Professor Foster's research and research staff for five years, testing treatments and services for primary care patients with common aches and pains including back pain, knee pain and shoulder pain.



Kyle Gawley

BSc Hons Interactive Multimedia Design, 2011

Currently a Multidisciplinary Design student, Kyle was selected as one of 70 international students attending eBootcamp at Stanford University in April 2012. He won a place after pitching a start-up idea worked up with Christopher Murphy (Senior Lecturer, Interactive Design) and David Turner (BSc Hons Interactive Multimedia Design, 2011). The project is called Get Invited – an online events promotion and ticketing application which was used to manage the events and ticket sales at the Ulster Festival of Art & Design. Kyle has also been working on a digital scrapbooking tool, Vizuali, for which he was awarded the Manleys design award at last year's Interactive Multimedia Design final year show.

Do you have an interesting story?

For consideration for Class Notes, please send your details and a good quality photograph to: developmentandalumni@ulster.ac.uk

Class Notes



Jordan Henderson

BSc Hons Interactive Multimedia Design with DAS, 2009

graduated with first class honours and was awarded the 2009 design prize for his major project – Small White Bear. Jordan took on work as a freelance before finding employment at ‘Being Digital’ – a web design studio based in the Titanic Quarter. Jordan has now returned to study for the MFA in Multidisciplinary Design. He says: “The course is the perfect opportunity for me to gain direction and to embark on a new adventure in setting up my own storytelling brand – *Tale & Teller*.”



Juliette Henderson

MSc Health and Social Care, 2011

is a Nurse Manager coordinating the Seychelles Child Development Study in which Ulster is a partner. Juliette is also a qualified nurse and midwife. Juliette is working to create greater research awareness and promoting evidence-based practice among Seychellois nurses, important efforts in ensuring cost-effective and high-quality healthcare in a developing country.



Dr Phil Ramsey

BA Hons Media Studies 2006, MA International Media Studies 2007 and PhD Media Studies 2011

recently took up a university post in China. He says: “I came to China in January 2012 to start work as a Lecturer in Digital and Creative Media at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC). Having taught at Ulster part-time during and after my PhD, I was keen to keep working in higher education. Coming to China offered me a great chance to further my academic career, and to experience a radically different way of life.

“There is a strong University of Ulster connection in my division at UNNC. I am the third person to teach here having previously worked in Media Studies at Coleraine, following Dr Andrew White and Dr Ned Rossiter.

“It seems to me that Asia should be considered as a serious option for Ulster graduates, although working for a Western employer is probably the best option. Negotiating the regulations in China can be labyrinthine, so having English-speaking employees guiding you through the process is invaluable.”

Alumni Request!

We have received a request for any news of alumna Aideen Scullion (BA Hons Humanities (Spanish and French) 1974).

If you are in touch with Aideen, we have details of a friend from those Coleraine days who would very much like to get back in touch. Please contact: alumni@ulster.ac.uk for more information.



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Want to raise money for the University of Ulster Fund – at absolutely NO COST to you? Thousands of shops will donate money when you shop online at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/universityofulster.

Shopping at Give as you Live generates a donation with every purchase, typically 1%-5% of what you spend. As an added bonus, 50 new shoppers with a minimum spend of £25 each by 30th June 2013 will result in the Fund receiving a bonus of £250.

The Fund supports our students through a range of scholarships, including those promoting wider participation for low income students and adult learners; supporting students experiencing hardship; providing books for the library; and supporting academic and sporting excellence, student innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity.

To register:

1. Go to www.giveasyoulive.com/join/universityofulster
2. Click “Discover and Download”.
3. Enter your name, and email address to register.
4. You can now choose the ‘download’ option and download Give as you Live onto your computer. Remember it is at NO Cost to you, is easy to use, has virtually no impact on your shopping experience and you will directly benefit Ulster’s students.
5. Alternatively, you can shop on the Give as you Live website and a percentage of what you spend will still be donated to the University of Ulster Fund.

Ulster Graduate Issue 36, Winter 2012/13

Published by:

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Edited by:

Corporate Communications, University of Ulster

Design:

RLA Ireland

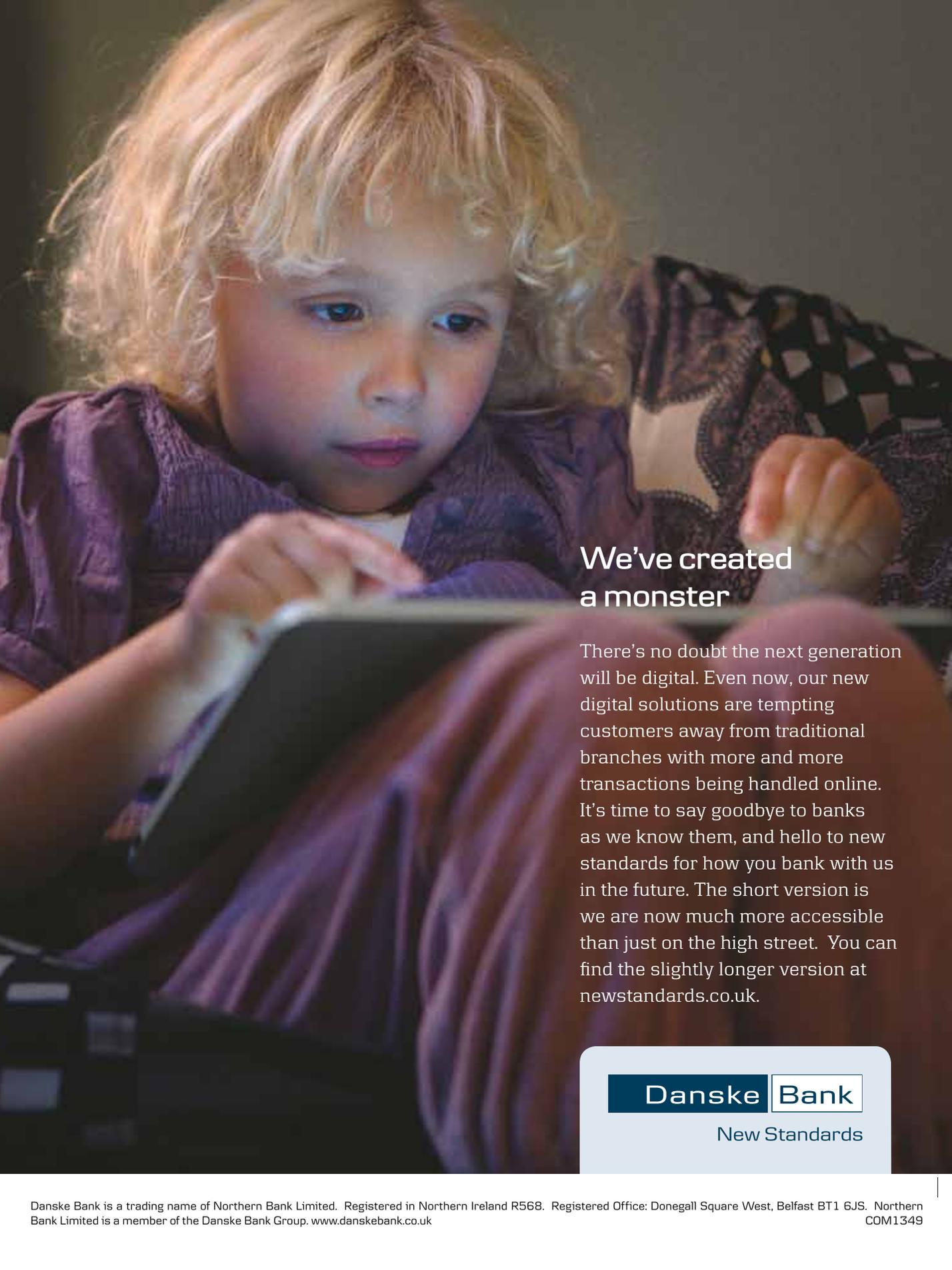
Print:

GPS Colour Graphics Ltd

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The Ulster Graduate is available online at www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni and can also be made available, on request, in alternative formats (e.g. audio, large print and Braille).

If you require the magazine in an alternative format please contact the Alumni Relations Office, contact details as above.



We've created a monster

There's no doubt the next generation will be digital. Even now, our new digital solutions are tempting customers away from traditional branches with more and more transactions being handled online. It's time to say goodbye to banks as we know them, and hello to new standards for how you bank with us in the future. The short version is we are now much more accessible than just on the high street. You can find the slightly longer version at newstandards.co.uk.

Danske Bank

New Standards