



The magazine
for alumni and friends
of Ulster University

Edition 40
Winter/Spring 2018

Easkey Britton

**first lady of
Irish surfing**

INSIDE

Gary McCausland - a passion for
property | 10 Ulster alumnae
leading in the world of sport
| Alumni adventures

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URGENT - SEE BACK PAGE



Tick the box to stay with us





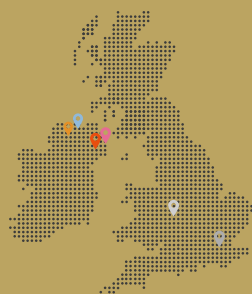
QUICK FACTS



190,000+
ALUMNI WORLDWIDE



OVER 24,000
students across
4 campuses
in Northern Ireland,
and 2 branch campuses in
London & Birmingham



OVER
2,300
STAFF MEMBERS

Contact

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9536 7486

Email: alumni@ulster.ac.uk

**Ranked in the
world's top 150
universities**

under 50 years old
by Times Higher
Education



We have created 19 spin-
out companies with a
combined turnover of

£21m
employing
287 staff



93%

OF OUR GRADUATES
ARE IN WORK OR
FURTHER STUDY

6 MONTHS
AFTER LEAVING UNIVERSITY

DLHE Survey



**We host over
1,000 INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS
FROM OVER
99 DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES**



**OF ALL UK UNIVERSITIES
FOR OVERALL RESEARCH**

OUR BELFAST
SCHOOL OF ART
BOASTS

**TWO
TURNER PRIZE
WINNERS**

TOP

3%

**of universities
in the world**



**WE INVEST
£40m**
in research
each year

WELCOME In this issue...



Welcome to the 2018 edition of *Ulster Graduate*, and in particular to our most recent graduates.

I hope you enjoy hearing of the impressive impact that Ulster University alumni continue to make around the world.

Wherever you graduated, wherever you were based, I hope you feel connected to Ulster University. We are always keen to keep in touch with you and to keep you up to date with what is happening. However, you are going to have to act to preserve that connection.

New data protection laws are coming into effect in May 2018. If you don't tell us how you would like to stay in touch, we will be limited as to how we contact you after this date.

That is why we are running our 'Tick the box to stay with us' campaign. Please read the back page of this magazine, tick the form that came with this edition and return it using the freepost envelope provided. Or,

you can go online at ulster.ac.uk/alumniandsupporters/ticktostay to update your preferences and details.

There is great excitement in the air with the progress of the Belfast campus, new developments at Magee and Coleraine, as well as an ambitious new strategic plan leading us forward. Focused on the next five years, the plan contains stretching ambitions that will drive us towards our 50th anniversary in 2034 and move the University forward significantly as a major force in delivering positive change and impact, both locally and globally.

Inside this edition you will be able to see that the University, its staff, alumni, students and friends make a significant contribution to building a confident and forward looking society. As you read the various stories I hope you will be proud that you are an Ulster graduate and that you are inspired to stay in touch.

Eddie Friel
Director of Development
and Alumni Relations

UNIVERSITY NEWS

2017 in a nutshell	4
University appoints new Provosts	6
What's happening at:	
Belfast and Jordanstown	8
Magee	10
Coleraine.....	11
Award-winning alumni.....	12

FEATURES

Property expert, Gary McCausland.....	14
Students take time to mind their mood.....	16
Easkey Britton, First lady of Irish surfing	18

IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Distinguished and honorary graduates	20
Corporate partnerships.....	22
Ulster University Student Fund	24
10 Ulster alumnae leading in the world of sport.....	26

SUPPORTING YOUR UNIVERSITY

Support your University.....	28
Stay involved.....	30
Alumni adventures	31
Giving back	34

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We want our magazine to be fully accessible and have therefore made it available in both printed and online formats. If you need part or all of this magazine in an alternative format please do not hesitate to contact us.

Views expressed are those of the contributors, not necessarily the University. Ulster University cannot accept responsibility for any claim whatsoever which may arise out of materials carried in good faith.

Front cover image: Easkey Britton: BSc Hons Environmental Science, 2009 and PhD Life and Health Science, 2013

10 Ulster University headlines from last year

The University continues to deliver outstanding research and teaching, as well as encourage the innovation, leadership and vision needed to help our communities thrive. Here's a quick breakdown of some of the extraordinary activities that took place in 2017.

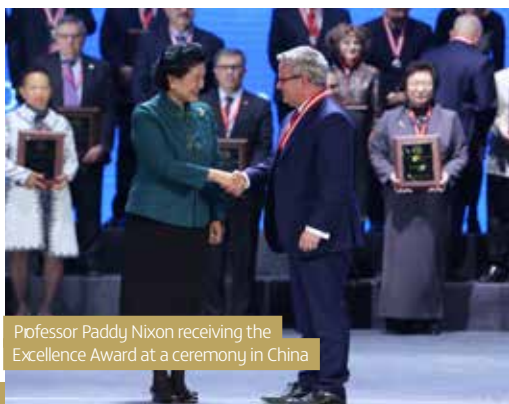
1. WORLD RANKINGS

The University was proud to be ranked in the top 150 young universities in the world and joint fifth in the UK. The University was also ranked among the world's elite academic institutions for nursing in the QS World University Rankings by Subject, and placed in the top 20 in the UK for four subjects (nursing, architecture/built environment, agriculture/forestry and sports-related subjects).



2. CONFUCIUS EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR VICE-CHANCELLOR

We were delighted to see Vice-Chancellor Professor Paddy Nixon receive the prestigious Confucius Individual Performance Excellence Award at a ceremony in Xi-an. The award recognised his commitment to the continued success of the Confucius Institute at Ulster University and to increasing positive awareness of China in Northern Ireland.



Professor Paddy Nixon receiving the Excellence Award at a ceremony in China



BT innovation: Howard Watson, CEO of BT Technology, Service and Operations, with Alastair Hamilton, CEO of Invest NI, and Ulster University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paddy Nixon

3. NEW BT INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

We partnered with telecoms giant BT to open a new £28m Innovation Centre. It will undertake more than £7m worth of joint research, driving the creation of 25 new University research posts, alongside up to 50 new graduate roles in the BT Belfast Global Development Centre. The research will focus on the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and data analytics for customer experience, cyber security and 5G communications. Invest NI offered support of £9m towards the project.

4. SIGNIFICANT EUROPEAN FUNDING WIN

The University secured €23m of European funding via the highly competitive INTERREG VA programme. It is being used for collaborative research in personalised medicine, renewable energy and connected health technology. The University will lead the research, working with other UK and Irish institutions and companies with existing global expertise in each sector.

5. BBC PARTNERSHIP STRUCK

The University became one of just eight UK universities to form a major five-year research partnership with BBC Research and Development that will analyse ways to unlock the potential of data analysis in the media. It will be at the forefront of machine learning in the media industry, helping create a more personal BBC that can inform, educate and entertain in new ways. The partnership brings together experts from across the BBC and world-leading UK data scientists from Ulster University, the universities of Bristol, Manchester, Edinburgh, Surrey, Imperial College London, Queen Mary University of London, and University College London.

6. BIO-DEVICES LAB OPENS

Ulster opened a £7.3m advanced biomedical engineering laboratory with the aim of offering expertise and state-of-the-art equipment to assist companies in developing prototypes for the biomedical, engineering, electronic device and aerospace sectors. It is the result of a strategic partnership between Invest NI, Ulster University, Randox Laboratories and Heartsine Technologies, which have come together to help businesses in this sector develop.

7. CLINTON CENTRE RENEWAL

Ulster began an initiative with Dublin City University and the University of Massachusetts to enhance the Clinton Centre in Enniskillen. The universities will create a new, sustainable operational model for the Centre, in keeping with President Clinton's commitment to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland. The work of acclaimed large-format portrait artist and Ulster alumnus, Colin Davidson, will be displayed at the Centre, as will his painting of the former president. President Clinton announced the initiative himself on a visit to Northern Ireland.



President of DCU, Professor Brian MacCraith; President Clinton; former First Minister, Arlene Foster MLA; Professor Paddy Nixon; and Colin Davidson, Ulster University alumnus

8. BIG DATA INITIATIVE

We launched Northern Ireland's first data analytics institute, responding to the explosive growth of data and building on the £30m already recently invested into data analytics-related research. Located at the Magee campus, with offices on the Belfast campus, the Cognitive Analytics Research Lab brings together businesses, government and advanced research expertise. It cements the University's international reputation in the field, viewed by many sectors as the 'new oil' – **90% of the world's data has been created in the last two years.**



Professor Paddy Nixon; Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan, Ulster University; John Healy, Allstate; and Greg McDaid, Fujitsu, at the launch of the big data initiative



9. MEETING THE CHALLENGE

The University secured its first victory in the popular *University Challenge* TV programme, beating St Anne's College, Oxford by 175 to 90 points. As *Ulster Graduate* went to press, the team had advanced to the quarter finals with a further win over Warwick University. After losing in the first round against a strong Edinburgh side by just five points, they progressed to the second round as one of the highest scoring losing teams. Pictured with host Jeremy Paxman are Cathal McDaid (Literature) from County Donegal, Catherine Ritchie (Fine Arts) from County Armagh, team captain and Pharmacy student Iain Jack from Peterhead in Scotland and Matthew Milliken (Education) from County Down.

10. OUR UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY NOW COMPRISES:

24,258 current students

15,824 full-time undergraduates

1,433 full-time postgraduates

3,353 part-time undergraduates

3,648 part-time postgraduates



34,100
Twitter followers



19,859
Facebook followers



67,760
LinkedIn followers

The strategic plan re-shaping Ulster University

Ulster University has embarked on **Five & Fifty**, an ambitious strategic plan for the next five years that will drive the University towards its 50th anniversary in 2034.

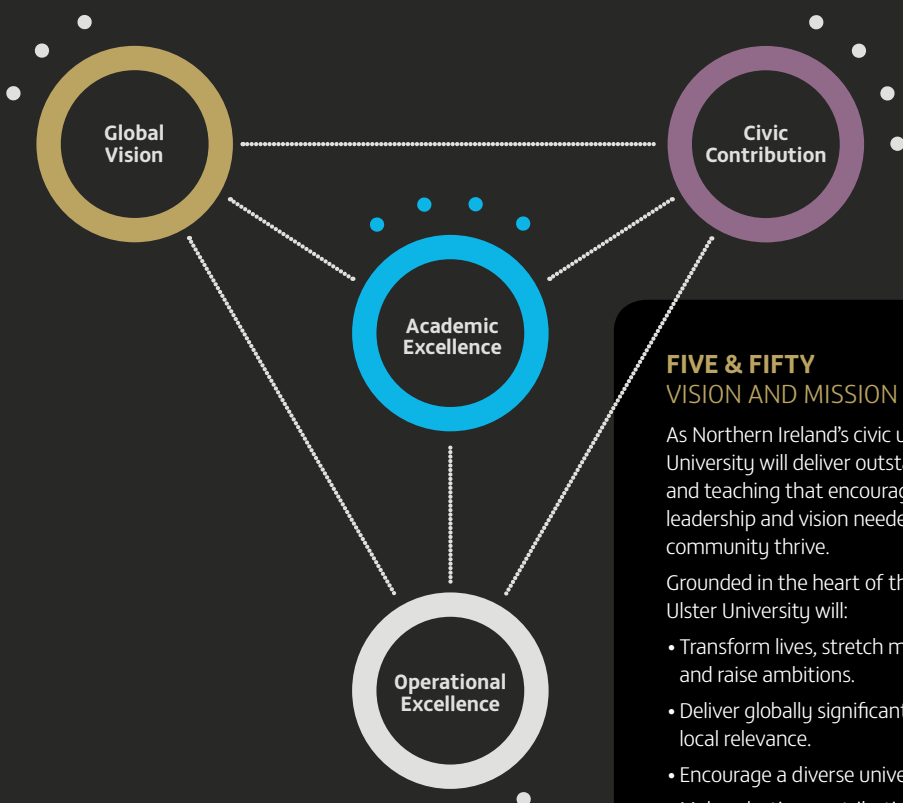
Structured around four priorities, Academic Excellence, Global Vision, Civic Contribution and Operational Excellence, the strategy sets out a clear vision for the University and provides a fresh direction and purpose.

Focused on delivering a university that is innovative and sustainable with a strong reputation for academic excellence, its implementation has already seen the University move from six to four faculties, a realignment of disciplines and the creation of new supporting structures that allow each faculty to dovetail more efficiently with external market sectors and deliver teaching and research of the highest standing.

New Provosts leading on campus identities

Five & Fifty includes within its philosophy the notion of campuses with strong identities and the concentration of academic strengths. Three new Provosts have therefore been appointed to support the Vice Chancellor and to guide the way forward at Belfast, Jordanstown, Magee and Coleraine.

Their key role is to be ambassadors for their campuses, creating distinctive campus identities and leading in delivering civic leadership and engagement with the communities in which the University is based.



FIVE & FIFTY VISION AND MISSION

As Northern Ireland's civic university, Ulster University will deliver outstanding research and teaching that encourages the innovation, leadership and vision needed to help our community thrive.

Grounded in the heart of the community, Ulster University will:

- Transform lives, stretch minds, develop skills and raise ambitions.
- Deliver globally significant research with local relevance.
- Encourage a diverse university community.
- Make a lasting contribution to society as a whole.

PROFESSOR RAFFAELLA FOLLI

Provost (Belfast and Jordanstown)

Leading the links to local communities as Provost of Belfast and Jordanstown is Professor Raffaella Folli.



“Our campuses in Jordanstown and Belfast have always been huge contributors to the economy and the culture of Northern Ireland,” said Raffaella.

With the move to the new Belfast campus we will see a refocusing of the academic strengths on our various campuses, with sport in all its forms remaining a core part of the Jordanstown set-up and the reconfigured

Belfast site defined as the campus of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

“I am particularly excited at the new possibilities that a vibrant and expanded Belfast campus will bring for developing our civic connections further. It is already a visible symbol of regeneration, breathing new life into the northern end of the city and catalysing further investment and new opportunities for businesses and local communities.

“Going forward under the Five & Fifty strategy there will be many projects in the areas of sport, educational attainment and much more that will bolster our connections to the local communities of both locations, further strengthening our position as Northern Ireland’s civic university.

DR MALACHY Ó NÉILL

Provost (Magee)

Malachy has the responsibility of working with staff, students and the community to achieve Magee’s full potential as the University of and for the city of Derry–Londonderry and wider region.



“My overriding priority is to ensure the continued development of the campus as an integral part of the University,” the Ulster alumnus said. “So I will be delivering actions that support our academic excellence and help our community thrive and grow.

This beautiful and historic campus encapsulates all the characteristics of a traditional academic institution but is the setting for cutting-edge research and teaching across a wonderful myriad of disciplines and specialist areas.

“I see my role as an ambassador for the campus in this context and, working with colleagues, to take advantage of the unique identity of Magee in delivering the civic responsibility priority of the strategic plan.

“I have a range of aims and objectives but to begin with I am focusing on some short term initiatives to maximise the staff and student experience on campus and I’m also working with our partners to secure the medical school for the north-west to bring the vision of this city as a ‘UniverCity’ to reality.

DR KARISE HUTCHINSON

Provost (Coleraine)

The heart of academic excellence at Coleraine is focused around a diverse suite of world-leading science and health programmes,” said Karise.



Alongside these, the campus has recognised teaching and research excellence in a wide range of social sciences and arts disciplines including Education, Media, English, History and Tourism. Given our status as Northern Ireland’s civic university, these subject areas play a

critical role in transforming lives, developing vibrant communities and in shaping modern society.

Within this the key priority for me is to work with stakeholder organisations, staff and students to engage the local community and co create a unique identity for the campus that makes a meaningful impact towards the wellbeing and economic prosperity of the Causeway Coast region.

“I see my role as leading civic engagement on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor in the local area. In this way, I want to underline the wider contribution of the University, not just in terms of academic excellence, but as an anchor in the local community that translates into long-lasting economic and social prosperity.

Transformations at Belfast and Jordanstown

There are many reasons why alumni should return to the Belfast and Jordanstown campuses, but chief among them in 2018 is to see and appreciate the amazing transformations that are taking place.

BELFAST

Visionary new campus shaping up

As the enhanced Belfast campus continues to make progress, the shape of things to come for the city and the University is now very visible. The visionary new campus will be a centre of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, providing a progressive practice-based learning and teaching environment supported by the best innovative technology in flexible spaces. The eventual co-location of diverse disciplines will enhance collaborative opportunities for students, staff and partners.

With Belfast and the Causeway Coast basking in Lonely Planet's accolade as the best region in the world to visit in 2018, the buzz around the campus is palpable.

Among the exciting forthcoming developments will be the expansion of executive education in Belfast through the Ulster University Business School (UUBS), which aspires to be the leading provider of entrepreneurial education, research and impact in the UK by 2021.

The focus of the Belfast campus identity on creativity and innovation is regionally important and empowers UUBS to act as a catalyst between

the generation of new ideas and the transformation of opportunity arising from those ideas into innovations through a pronounced entrepreneurial effort. Entrepreneurial executive education at Belfast will therefore act as an important enabler for more effective business decision-making in environments increasingly characterised by volatility and uncertainty.

The new campus buildings will provide UUBS with an opportunity to further this strategy, offering cutting-edge learning and teaching facilities through which the University can co-create value between staff, students and businesses.

Belfast is also the hub for the newly launched Creative Industries Institute. This £20m initiative will bring together all strands of the University's existing world-leading research and teaching expertise across the breadth and diversity of the creative industries including: advertising and graphic design, animation, architecture, film and broadcasting, product design, creative technologies, fashion, music, drama and performing arts, photography and fine art.

**TOP
TEN**
MOST
ENTREPRENEURIAL
UNIVERSITIES
IN THE UK

The creative industries is the fastest growing sector of the UK economy.

It employs over 5% of the entire Northern Ireland workforce, contributing nearly £1bn to GVA.



BELFAST

Design shop reveals arts treasures on Belfast campus

Unique by name, unique by nature – a new art and design shop has been launched on the Belfast campus, giving students and alumni the opportunity to display and sell their work.

The exclusive outlet, where customers are also able to commission items from students and graduates of the Belfast School of Art, provides a platform for emerging artistic talent from the University, helping them to gain exposure, make professional connections and practise their entrepreneurial skills.

Featuring pieces from many art and design disciplines including painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, fashion, graphic design, illustration, printmaking, textiles and fine art, the shop has changed the face of the Academy Street entrance to the campus.

Fully student-led as an educational and recreational platform for students, alumni and the general public, it further connects Ulster University with Belfast and Northern Ireland's creative community.

The Arts and Culture Society and staff from the Belfast School of Art together with the Students' Union were involved in the initial conception of the project, interior design students led the design of the space, MBA students advised on the development of the business case, while the University invested in placement students and provided a prime spot on campus for the outlet.



"This is a tremendous project and a beautiful example of a fruitful collaboration between students, staff and the University more broadly," said Professor Raffaella Folli, Provost of the Belfast campus.

"It's a very exciting new venture for the University and the campus, because it harnesses student creativity to staff expertise, creating an avenue for students to sell their work and for the public to enjoy a vision of the full range of talent being fostered at Ulster University.

"Unique provides us with a simple but powerful opportunity to welcome alumni, locals and tourists to the Belfast campus to globally showcase the identity of this campus as creative, innovative and entrepreneurial."

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Belfast School of Art boasts 7 Turner Prize nominees, 2 of whom have won the prestigious title.



JORDANSTOWN

Celebrating Jordanstown

Ulster University has just celebrated the last ever graduation ceremony at the Jordanstown campus – marking the beginning of the end of one chapter in our history and the start of an exciting new era.

As planning continues for the move to Belfast, the University is keen to celebrate the legacy of the Jordanstown campus. A repository of stories and photographs is being built and anyone who has memories they would like to share is encouraged to email them to Belfastmove@ulster.ac.uk.

The University's presence at Jordanstown will be scaled back as

a result of the new Belfast campus development, but the site will retain a crucial role in the Greater Belfast area.

The campus will retain its world-class sports facilities, which include the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland, used as a training and rehabilitation base by a range of elite home-based and visiting athletes.

The University will enhance the sports facilities with investment and Jordanstown will also keep its specialist FireSERT engineering research facility and the Dalriada student accommodation village. Transport links to and from Belfast will be improved. The site will also be developed with a mix of residential and community facilities.

JUNIOR JORDANSTOWN PARKRUNS

A Sunday morning parkrun event for children aged between four and 14 years got underway last autumn at the Jordanstown campus.

Affiliated to the popular network of parkruns which take place all over the world, the 2k run forms part of the University's plans to increase sporting activity at all levels at Jordanstown.

Kids of every ability are encouraged to take part – from those taking their first steps in running, to Olympians and juniors with more experience.

Simply register and join in:

www.parkrun.org.uk/register



MAGEE

Developments at Magee

For alumni returning to the Magee campus to see old friends, here is a snapshot of what's been happening on campus.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Ongoing investment at Magee has provided state-of-the-art teaching, research and support facilities.

The developments have included a newly opened teaching block, delivering additional facilities for the 4,300 undergraduate and postgraduate students attending the campus annually. The £11m building, situated adjacent to the library, provides a mixture of new and flexible teaching facilities, including three lecture theatres, 20 teaching rooms, open-plan student hubs and a café.

Also in 2017 a new Nursing and Midwifery Council competence test centre opened at Magee to meet growing demands for overseas nurses and midwives who wish to work in the UK. It's one of only three such centres in the UK, reinforcing the University's reputation for nursing excellence.

MEDICAL SCHOOL PLANS ADVANCE

Plans for the proposed new medical school at Magee are progressing at pace, and with a fair wind the first cohort of doctors could be graduating by 2023.

The University is aiming to have an initial group of 80 medical students in training by September 2019. Introducing a new approach to teaching medicine in Northern Ireland, the facility will be a graduate entry medical school, where those who have an undergraduate degree in any field can apply.

As well as being a significant addition to Magee's portfolio of courses, the establishment of the school will help solve the systemic medical workforce problem being experienced in the north-west and across Northern

Ireland, which includes a lack of GPs, rising locum costs and staffing problems.

Having met with experts and educators from across the world to find the best balance for a new medical school, Professor Hugh McKenna, who is leading the project, believes graduate entry intake is the best way forward for Northern Ireland. He said he is "optimistic" the school will come to fruition.

The University is currently working through the eight accreditation stages required before it can be granted a licence by the General Medical Council to run the course.

A number of funding challenges will have to be met, and the University is currently seeking philanthropic support for the project.

PARTNERSHIP WITH MANCHESTER UNITED FOUNDATION

The University has developed a partnership with the Manchester United Foundation, with the aim of using football to engage and inspire young people to build a better life for themselves and unite the communities in which they live.

Based initially at the Magee campus as part of the University's aim of widening access and making a civic contribution to the local area, this unique partnership brings together the expertise of the University with the high-profile Manchester United Foundation to deliver football coaching, educational programmes and personal development, providing young people with opportunities to change their lives for the better.

Working together with local community networks, the partnership will deliver projects ranging from educating young people about the inner workings of a football club to improving confidence, life skills and employability.





COLERAINE

Chancellor, Dr James Nesbitt, with players from the University's basketball teams: Emma McGuinness, David Tak Ho and Maireann McHugh

The latest at Coleraine

Ulster alumni returning to Coleraine will still feel the homely vibe, but will also find a campus that continues to evolve.

REGENERATION

With lecture theatres having been added, the library developed, new high-quality buildings erected and the old south building, former home of the Students' Union, now gone, the regeneration of the Coleraine campus continues apace.

Last year saw the completion of a brand new flagship sports complex at the north end of the campus. Officially opened by the Chancellor, Dr James Nesbitt, it boasts eight multi-sport indoor courts, a fitness

studio, sauna and steam room, fitness suite and conditioning suite.

The recently opened Media Centre is another impressive added facility – it includes the largest newsroom in Northern Ireland.

Also within the campus grounds, a new enterprise zone has sprung up. A first for Northern Ireland, it offers hi-tech businesses tax incentives and simplified planning procedures, creating new opportunities for economic and foreign direct investment.



STEM VILLAGE

Ulster University was one of the key exhibitors at a STEM Village, part of the Airwaves Portrush show last year on the Causeway Coast. The event is a major focus for the Coleraine campus. A range of interactive displays and tasks stimulated career opportunities in STEM subjects, showcased the University's expertise in health sciences and encouraged interest in the global aerospace industry.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Half a century has passed since the first students started at the New University of Ulster in Coleraine in September 1968.

The University is planning a wide range of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the campus in 2018. Alumni, staff, students, friends and family are invited to reconnect and get involved to mark the milestone.

If you have memories you wish to share, or any old photographs that could be used as part of our wider celebrations, please send them to coleraine50@ulster.ac.uk.



RIVERSIDE THEATRE AT 40

The Riverside Theatre has marked 40 years since it was officially opened during the Queen's Silver Jubilee visit to Northern Ireland in 1977.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the theatre opened up its extensive archives to everyone online, underwent a rebrand and ran an impressive programme of events showcasing local talent.

The theatrical traditions first established at the University in the 1970s continue strongly into 2018 with a packed programme ranging from the comedy of Jake O'Kane, a school edition of *Les Misérables*, to dance, music, drama and art.

ulster.ac.uk/riverside



Back in the day

For those alumni who can remember the early days at Coleraine, an old leaflet discovered by an Irish Studies graduate now living in Australia may bring back some memories. During a clear-out of his bookshelves, Nigel Sinnott discovered a piece of paper he had used as a bookmark. It turned out to be a leaflet offering travel information to students for 1970–71.

Said Nigel: "Those were the days when you could fly from Belfast to London Heathrow for £10. Or you could take the ferry from Belfast to Liverpool, which I did once, for £2.50 (second class). A train ride from Belfast to

Coleraine cost 16 shillings (80p), and from Coleraine to Derry, 11 shillings (55p).

"I remember the Portrush–University (Ballysally) trains with great affection: it was the only railway service that, to my knowledge, would go back for a student if he or she arrived on the platform as the train was pulling out.

"And, of course, I remember Decimal Day at the University in 1971 when the UK and Ireland went over from shillings and pence to new pence. Exciting times!"





And the award goes to... an Ulster graduate

The University's standing increases when our graduates step up to the podium to be rewarded for their excellence and endeavours. Here, we celebrate alumni who have been recognised as champions in their field and who continue to demonstrate leadership, drive, commitment and a desire to make a difference locally, nationally and internationally.

PRESTIGIOUS ACCOLADE

World-renowned Ulster graduate **Oliver Jeffers** has been presented with a Professional Achievement Award at a prestigious British Council ceremony in the United States.

The Alumni Awards celebrate outstanding achievements made by business professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders who studied in the UK within the last 10 years.

As a renowned artist, illustrator and writer, Oliver was recognised for his distinguished and exemplary leadership and achievements in his industry, and for demonstrating the highest level of integrity and character in his professional career.

The presentation took place at the global headquarters of the Institute of International Education in New York.



ALUMNI DIRECTORS AT FOREFRONT OF LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

No fewer than eight of the 11 winners in the 2017 Institute of Directors (IoD) NI First Trust Bank Director of the Year Awards were Ulster graduates.

Female leaders dominated, winning over half of the titles available for the first time in the event's history.

Awardees included BA Hons Philosophy alumna, **Tina McKenzie** of Staffline Ireland, who won the Mid-Market Company Director of the Year, **Norah Anne Barron**, an MSc Communications, Public Relations and Advertising graduate who scooped the SME Director of the Year, and **Robert McConnell** of CCP Gransden who lifted the Young Director of the Year. Robert graduated with a BEng Hons Engineering Management in 2008.

LANDING A LANDSCAPE AWARD

Architecture graduate **Barry Craig** shone at the prominent Landscape Institute Awards 2017 in London, scooping the 'New Landscape Professional of the Year' title.

The chartered senior landscape designer works in Belfast for Amey, an international engineering and infrastructure company employing 19,000 in the UK, Australia and America. He was recognised for his work as lead landscape architect on projects such as the Liverpool Connectivity Scheme and Ropewalks, the city's acclaimed 'bohemian heart'.





NURSE OF THE YEAR

Learning disability nurse, **Siobhan Rogan**, won the RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Award.

Siobhan, who works in the Southern Trust, was nominated for her leading role in establishing Northern Ireland's first community-based fully integrated child and adolescent mental health service for young people with intellectual disability.



CREAM OF BUSINESS TALENT

The 2017 Belfast Telegraph Business Awards showcased the cream of Northern Ireland talent, which included Business Studies alumna, **Naomh McConville** (top picture above), who celebrated with family members Conleth McConville and Brian McConville as MJM Group lifted the Outstanding Business of the Year accolade.

MJM Group has collaborated with Ulster in a highly successful Knowledge Transfer Partnership developing advanced materials for maritime applications.

Also on the Belfast Telegraph Business Awards podium was Construction Engineering and Management graduate **Gareth Loye** (bottom picture above), CEO of M&M Contractors, who won the Best Established Small/Medium Business Award.



INSPIRATIONAL CONSTRUCTION

Construction Engineering and Management graduate, **Margaret Conway** of McAleer & Rushe, became the first woman to be named CIOB Construction Manager of the Year.

She beat 84 finalists to the trophy in the 2017 competition for her first role as a construction manager on a £22m nine-storey office block contract in Belfast city centre. The 9 Adelaide Street project was completed two months early in 80 weeks with a perfect safety record.

Margaret's win follows that of McAleer & Rushe colleague, BSc Hons Quantity Surveying graduate **Paul Marlow**, who won the same title in 2016.

Property expert bringing the passion home

High-profile property developer, Gary McCausland, is making a major contribution to the regeneration of central Belfast.

"First and foremost, I am unbelievably passionate about people and about life. But property has always been something that I have found really fascinating. Because in this sometimes intangible, and now often, virtual world, it is something that remains very real.



"It's where we live, work, play, enjoy, eat, sleep. Deep down in everybody's subconscious property is incredibly important. That's something that I believe will never change."

Gary McCausland, the man behind Northern Ireland's largest ever office block development, is taking time out to talk to *Ulster Graduate*.

The highly successful property expert, former TV presenter, author, commentator and founder of the London-based Richland Group, has had an exceptional career immersed in the cut and thrust of real estate all over the world.

With his latest project due to start in 2018, his talents are now set to bring world-class office accommodation to the centre of Belfast. When complete, his £65m One Bankmore Square development, a 12-storey, 250,000 sq ft scheme on the former Movie House cinema site on the

Dublin Road, will have enough space to accommodate 3,000 office workers.

The Grade A accommodation, hailed as a 'quantum leap' for Belfast, will inject tens of millions of pounds into the local economy, create thousands of jobs and rejuvenate an important part of the city centre.

Gary is quite literally building a better Belfast. His company recently completed a new apartment building just metres away from One Bankmore Square on the Dublin Road. The Gallery, "a calculated risk which paid off," was the first new-build apartment block in the city centre in nearly a decade. It recently scooped an RICS award for best residential project.

Property has always coursed through Gary's veins. As a young man, he aspired to be an architect, yet changed career plans on the spot after sitting in on one fateful meeting. During an A-Level work experience placement he witnessed a property developer briefing a project team and laying out what he wanted to achieve. Immediately, Gary recognised what he wanted to do.

"I was always fascinated by buildings and had a passion for property, so I wanted to get into an area where I could make things happen and come up with visions. That meeting was definitely the catalyst," said Gary.

The experience made him steer away from architecture and towards estate management at Ulster University,



where he earned a BSc but emerged into the housing crash of the 1990s and few suitable jobs.

He decided to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy, and with a commendation under his belt his career was soon up and running – and it could so easily have been in accountancy. However, a year later he grabbed a Property Manager opportunity with Cable & Wireless, where he rose quickly through the ranks to a senior role in London. Gary was then head-hunted by MCI Worldcall, becoming their Estates Director, before moving to the Carlyle Group as their European Property Sales Director.

At 33, though, and after buying and selling literally hundreds of properties across the world, he felt he had served his time in the corporate world. It was time to strike out on his own.

In 2001 Gary founded the Richland Group, based in Berkeley Square in London's Mayfair. He focused on luxury residential and commercial property, and several hundred million pounds' worth of exclusive deals and development across the city ensued. Until the 2008 property crash, which, he admits, took the wind out of his sails.

"That was a challenging time for anyone in property," he said. "But I'm pleased I was able to keep everything in the

black and above board, managed to bounce back, and I'm still going strong today.

"People think property is really easy, but it's actually very complex. You need to really take your time and get projects right. There's an incredible amount of due diligence. You don't need to be doing lots of deals, but you do need to be doing the right ones.

"One Bankmore Square is one of those. It's a massive project and a massive challenge in an uncertain world. But I want to make it happen. I am very focused on doing these projects in Northern Ireland. I'm keen to use all my skills, learned over decades, and bring them back home."

Bringing those skills back home also means a strong connection to the place where it all began, and Gary maintains close ties with Ulster University as a supporter, donor and as a Visiting Professor of Real Estate, where he relishes the chance to share his passion with students.

"In my talks, I tell them I've gone into property because I love it," he said. "So, my best advice is always find what you are passionate about and go after it. Whatever it is, do it. You'll do unbelievably well."

Find what you are passionate about and go after it.

MIND YOUR MOOD

tackles students' mental health

Ulster University set itself apart and demonstrated its commitment to supporting its students when more than 220 staff, students, alumni and friends came together last year to raise an amazing £35,000 to support a major new mental health initiative.

The Mind Your Mood initiative, designed and delivered by students who have lived through experiences of mental illness, has been put in place to support fellow students struggling with anxiety, depression or even suicidal thoughts.

Managed by Student Support but coordinated and delivered by students, the programme runs across all four campuses and seeks to educate and improve the mental wellbeing of Ulster students through the funding and organisation of mental health workshops and other resilience-building activities.

Research indicates that students nowadays are experiencing more mental health issues than ever before.

The money raised in 2017 will allow Student Support to significantly build on the success of the first year of its Mind Your Mood activity. In conjunction with students and in response to identified needs, it

will now be able to impact on more students with a wide-ranging series of free workshops on subjects such as mindfulness, mental fitness and resilience, conversations about depression, LGBT awareness and suicide alertness.

NEW INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES



With one in four people experiencing a mental health problem annually and with Northern Ireland recording some of the highest rates of mental ill health and suicide in the UK, Ulster University is building upon its existing, world-leading mental health research with its new £5m Institute of Mental Health Sciences. Bringing together the University's world-leading research expertise across a range of disciplines, the Institute will deliver research that will transform the lives of those living with mental health issues.

Recent Ulster University research, part of a global study into student mental health, revealed:

53%

of students had reported having a mental health problem

31%

have had suicidal thoughts

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Most of the £35,000 raised for Mind Your Mood came from students, staff, alumni and friends running, relaying and walking in the Belfast City Marathon, a first ever inter-campus cycle and a football tournament.

There were some outstanding contributions, with two Ulster staff, Paul Quinn and Mark Kennedy, cycling the 100 miles from Belfast to Magee on the Friday of the May bank holiday weekend and running the full marathon on the Monday.

Staff from Santander Universities (and Santander Bank branches), in particular Chelsea Conway, Sarah McCarthy, Paddy Moohan and Noel McNally, stepped up to raise funds with a series of events, including coffee mornings, participation in the football tournament, charity cycles and the Belfast City Marathon. Noel even ran three marathons; the Belfast Marathon, the London Virgin Marathon and the Newry Marathon.

Santander's Relationship Branch Manager, Paddy Moohan, said: "I was so impressed with Mind Your Mood because it fitted in with Santander Universities' values and vision for helping communities and students. We were delighted to support it."



Noel McNally

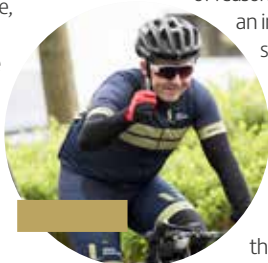
Santander Universities is a major supporter of Ulster University, having provided over £1m of funding to date. This funding has been used to support student entrepreneurship, mobility, widening access and internships.

ALUMNI JUMP ON THE PEDALS TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

The subject of mental health is an important one for Ulster University Business School alumnus John McGinn, who is a partner in cross-border accountancy firm John MacMahon & Co.

Having lost a colleague, the Rostrevor man is fully aware of the role that good mental health plays in the workplace, in business, as a student, and indeed all aspects of life.

John got behind the Mind Your Mood inter-campus cycle effort not just with sponsorship, but also by hopping on the pedals himself



for the 100-mile Ulster team ride, where he was joined by his brother, University staff member and fellow alumnus Martin McGinn, who played an integral role in making the cycle happen.

John said: "It was really important for me, and the company to support the campaign for a number of reasons. It highlighted

an important issue for students, employers and staff alike, raised vital funds and promoted the positive benefits of exercise. Anything we can do to bring this message in front of people is very worthwhile and John MacMahon & Co and I will continue to support initiatives like this."

PANIC ATTACKS

Someone who knows first-hand just how frightening anxiety can be and how quickly it can take hold is Ulster University Marketing student Colin McKee, who coordinated the Mind Your Mood initiative during his placement year.

After the loss of a number of people, including a teenage friend, Colin started having panic attacks when he was 19. "I'd never had any signs of mental health issues before nor did I even think mental illness was a real thing," he told *Ulster Graduate*.

"Then, I started to notice massive changes in my thoughts and feelings, and these led to panic attacks. Before I knew it, I was

taking panic attacks daily – often involving 4am trips to Antrim Area Hospital to have my heart examined. I thought I was dying every single day; I'd sit and research brain tumours, heart attacks and was genuinely convinced I was going to die.

"The symptoms just got worse and I then started suffering from depression. This made going to University and dealing with the pressures of completing coursework, exams and presentations very difficult, exacerbating my anxiety and depression.

"I was finally diagnosed with health anxiety, but recovery didn't happen for me overnight, and it won't for anyone else either. This is why programmes like Mind Your Mood are so vital. Having a positive campaign and workshops on campus is helping to break down the stigma around mental health and encouraging students to access support."

Colin, who had previously given up sports because of his panic attacks, impressively ran the Belfast Marathon for Mind Your Mood.



Provost, Coleraine campus, Dr Karise Hutchinson (second left), with fellow marathon runners



JOIN US IN 2018!

To build on last year's success and ensure we can increase our investment in our students' mental wellbeing, we need more staff, students and alumni participating.

Please consider participating in the Belfast City Marathon, any other marathon, or coming up with your own idea to help raise funds for this increasingly important cause.

Funds raised will help Student Support develop this innovative initiative in 2018 and provide more interventions.

For further information on the many ways you can help, please email giving@ulster.ac.uk or visit ulster.ac.uk/mindyourmood

Donate and make a difference right now!

Donate by text message:
Text **Mood18 £10 to 70070.**

Donate online via:
ulster.ac.uk/donate
– select Mind Your Mood.
It is safe and secure.



Riding the waves of change

From her base in the 'blue spaces' of Ireland's west coast, Ulster alumna Easkey Britton travels to faraway places like Iran, India and Papua New Guinea to make a social impact through surfing.



There is something quite awe-inspiring about a surfer who chooses to take on some of the biggest waves that nature can create along the storm-lashed west coast of Ireland in winter. Step on to the board, Easkey Britton.

The international surf pioneer and Ireland's first female big wave surfer relishes these terrifying cold-water mountains and the feeling of being drawn out of her comfort zone. For the sea is where this Ulster alumna comes alive, gets lost, learns, rises to challenges, works out and relaxes – and it has always been this way.

Dr Easkey Britton, environmental scientist, adventurer, leader and change-maker, comes from Ireland's first family of surf and has built her life around the ocean since the age of four. Her father and uncles were among the country's first surfers, after they 'liberated' two surf boards that their mother, Easkey's grandmother,

brought back to Donegal from a trip to America in the 1960s. The boards were intended as décor for the family hotel in Rossnowlagh. Instead, they kicked off a surf culture that thrives in Ireland today.

With her family – and the Atlantic Ocean – behind her, Easkey grew up on a surf board. It wasn't long before her surfing prowess was bringing in a multitude of medals, awards and achievements, including a precocious second in the Irish Woman's National Championship at the age of nine. Five Irish National Championships followed, and in 2005, aged 16, she became the youngest Irish person to surf the famous Teahupoo in Tahiti, one of the most powerful and deadly waves on the planet.

Easkey made history in 2007 when she became the first woman to surf the legendary Aileen's Wave, off the Cliffs of Moher. She also remains the only woman to have surfed the

biggest waves at Mullaghmore Head in County Sligo, a feat that earned her a performance of the year nomination in the Oscars of surfing, the WSL Big Wave Awards.

All the while, she has surfed – and brought surfing – to communities around the globe, fostering inspiration, empowerment and social change.

"I've been in love with water for as long as I can remember," Easkey told *Ulster Graduate*. "The sea is the single greatest influencer in my life and for me surfing is this playful medium that allows me to indulge in that passion and which has also allowed me to build a career.

"People may think it is utter madness, chasing storms and getting excited

"I've been in love with water for as long as I can remember."

"Every day you are meeting new surprises and learning new things."

by bad weather, which is when we get the good waves in Ireland, but I like to think of it as a good addiction, a healthy addiction that gets under your skin. I can't not do it."

Yet there is more to Easkey Britton than surfing. In the mix of any attempt to define her, a quest to learn, a will to create change and to 'be change' in the world must also be considered. So too must an academic aptitude that has earned her a first-class BSc in Environmental Science and a PhD in Life and Health Sciences, specialising in human wellbeing and coastal resilience, both at Ulster University.

"My academic side is born of a real curiosity that comes from having grown up being immersed in the outdoors and nature," she explained. "Every day you are meeting new surprises and learning new things, and so a hunger for knowledge developed that has both fuelled my academic leanings and deepened my understanding of what I was experiencing."

It was while she was finishing up her PhD in the surf town of Portrush in 2013 that Easkey began exploring surfing's potential as a creative medium for social change. Hearing there might be surfable waves in Iran, she travelled there with a friend, French documentary maker Marion Poizeau.

Donning a 'hijab swimsuit' Easkey encouraged local girls, women and communities to try surfing for the very first time, challenging cultural restrictions and promoting

empowerment. The ground-breaking adventure, captured in the inspirational film, *Into the Sea*, made headlines all over the world.

The trip prompted Easkey to co-found Waves of Freedom, an initiative to support the development of surfing in Iran, and she returned several times to set up clubs, teach and bring equipment. The initiative later morphed into Like Water, a project expanding the philosophy of surfing as a creative medium for social change beyond Iran.

Since the Iran venture, Easkey has also found time to spearhead the world's first global Surf for Social Good Summit, graduate from the internationally renowned THINK Creative School of Leadership, be an Oxfam Hero, take on ambassador roles for Clean Coasts Ireland and surf brand Finisterre, plus deliver motivational speeches at international conferences.

Currently, she is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in NUI Galway,

"We are looking at the links between nature, health and wellbeing and how engaging with nature and the outdoors can impact health and wellbeing both at an individual level and within communities across Ireland.

"The work is highlighting what I've intuitively known all my life, the healing power of the sea. I believe there is huge potential and implications in it for the island of Ireland. It feels like the start of what is going to become a really important body of research in the years to come, so it is something I'd like to remain really involved in."

Alongside this work, surfing remains an ever-present, almost daily ritual, with the winter of 2017/18 dedicated to yet another project, this time a film focusing on paddle surfing the big waves off the west coast of Ireland.

Through it all, Easkey stays grounded and humble about the change and impact she is making on the world.

"I think if we constantly find ways to feed our curiosity, ask questions and be reflective, we can always make an impact."

where, as a member of a research cluster for social innovation, participation and policy, she co-leads a work package on an interdisciplinary joint funded EPA/HSE project called NEAR-Health aimed at connecting people with blue and green spaces.

"I think if we constantly find ways to feed our curiosity, ask questions and be reflective, we can always make an impact. For me, it feels really good to know that I'm having my own impact, however great or small, in trying to make the ocean a better, healthier place."



"Thrilled and deeply honoured to be recognised by the University I graduated from in what seems like a lifetime ago."

Distinguished and Honorary Graduates 2017



Every year Ulster University honours outstanding alumni who have not just made an exceptional contribution in their chosen field, but who have upheld the values the University holds dear – innovation, leadership, vision. We are delighted to profile our most recent distinguished and honorary graduates.

DISTINGUISHED IN CREATIVITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Creative Director and founder of Emmy-nominated and BAFTA-winning children's TV production company, Sixteen South, is the recipient of the **First Trust Bank/Ulster University Distinguished Graduate award for 2017/18.**

Colin Williams, who has created a range of appealing children's characters and whose completely Northern Ireland-produced TV shows are screened all over the world, graduated with first class honours in Design in 1995.

He initially worked in advertising agencies before establishing Inferno in 2002, a production company developing commercials and promotional projects for big brands including Coca-Cola, Nokia and the BBC.

He started Sixteen South after finding inspiration while watching *Bear in the Big Blue House* with his young daughter. Since then his company has won more than 30 major international awards and is rated among the UK's top independent TV production companies with shows like *Lily's Driftwood Bay*, *Sesame Tree*, a co-production with the US team behind *Sesame Street*, and *Pajanimals*.

Under Colin's direction, Sixteen South produces all its shows in-house in Belfast and employs over 100 people. His latest show, *WildWoods*, a comedy series aimed at four to seven year olds, premiered last autumn. The studio is also in production with *Claude* for Disney Junior worldwide and *Pinkalicious* for PBS in the US.

Accepting his award, Colin said he was "thrilled and deeply honoured to be recognised by the University I graduated from in what seems like a lifetime ago".

First Trust Bank representative, Mark McKeown, said: "We have been proudly supporting the Distinguished Graduate award since 2001 to help recognise the invaluable contribution that graduates make to the lives of others and to society as a whole. We offer our congratulations to this year's deserving winner, Colin Williams. As founder of the multi-award winning Sixteen South TV production company, now rated among the UK's top independent TV production companies, Colin and his team are helping put the Northern Ireland creative industries sector on the map and we are delighted to award Colin this prestigious accolade."

Colin succeeds last year's Distinguished Graduate award winner, **Sonia Flynn**, Vice-President of SoundCloud, the world's largest music and audio platform, which has over 170 million monthly listeners.

One of the few female managing directors in the technology sector internationally, she is hailed as a role model for young women considering careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first students of Ulster University's course in Animation, the only course of its kind in the UK, graduated in 2017.



Ricky sets the PACE for Usain Bolt

Former Ulster University student Ricky Simms has had a front row seat in the career of history-making sprinter Usain Bolt.

As Bolt's sports agent, the Donegal man has been at the side of the Jamaican since he was a teenager.

While the charismatic runner has been burning up the track, smashing records and winning millions of fans along the way, Ricky has shone in the background as his agent, providing endless business and sporting opportunities for his client.

Monaco-based Ricky is regarded as one of the most influential men in world sport. His sports management and marketing company, PACE, looks after the interests of a host of famous athletes, including the Jamaican sprint king, Olympic 5,000m and 10,000m champion Mo



Farah and Kenya's queen of the track Vivian Cheruiyot among others. His role sees him travel the globe.

The former Irish middle distance runner graduated with a BA Hons Sport and Leisure Studies in 1996 and a PGCE in Physical Education in 1997 from Ulster University.

Following his honorary graduation Bolt tweeted his congratulations to Ricky:



Honorary Graduates 2017

Wendy Blundell OBE, Director UK Regions Institution of Civil Engineers

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for her leadership of and inspiration to young women in the field of civil engineering.

Professor William Campbell, Biologist and parasitologist

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his distinguished services to research.

Fr Harry Coyle

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his promotion and teaching of the Irish language.

Stephen Coyle, Chief Executive Officer, AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his support for economic regeneration and peacebuilding.

Thomas DiNapoli,

Comptroller, New York State
Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his support of the Northern Ireland peace process and for promoting US investment in the region.

Fr Gary Donegan

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his peace building and community work.

Seán Doran, DoranBrowne ArtsPreneurs

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) for his contribution to the English National Opera and international arts.

John Irvine, journalist

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his contribution to journalism.

Dáithí O Ceallaigh, former Irish Ambassador in London

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his contribution to the Press Council of Ireland and a distinguished diplomatic career.

Martin O'Neill OBE, Republic of Ireland football manager

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his contribution to Irish football.

Michael O'Neill MBE, Northern Ireland football manager

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his contribution to Irish football.

Sally O'Neill, leading human rights advocate

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for her overseas development work.

David Orr CBE, civil engineer

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his contribution in the field of engineering.

Professor Peter Sachs, academic, University of Applied Sciences in Kempten, Germany

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his contribution to teaching, research and internationalisation in digital electronics.

Richard Simms, director of PACE Management

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his achievements as a sports agent.

Foy Vance, successful recording artist

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his outstanding contribution to songwriting and the music industry.

Patrick Yu OBE, former CEO NI Council for Ethnic Minorities

Received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his promotion of racial equality, diversity and multiculturalism.

Corporate partnerships

Ulster University's wide range of industry partnerships continues to increase our students' employability and drive economic development across Northern Ireland.



Professor Ian Montgomery and Martina Madden, O'Neills (centre), with Lyndsay Rodgerson and Stuart Penrose from Randox and members of Ulster University GAA

Ulster, the GAA and Randox connect with China

The University's commitment to growing its international networks and enhancing the student experience was highlighted last October as the GAA team undertook a historic promotional tour of China.

The highly successful two-week tour was aimed at providing our students with experiences of the customs and opportunities in China, enhancing links with Chinese academic institutions and increasing the University's sporting, social, cultural and business engagement in the country.

With interest in GAA sports growing in China, the team played several games

showcasing Gaelic football and hurling, provided masterclasses and promoted Ulster's sporting excellence during visits to Beijing, Wuhan and Huangshi.

The trip was supported by County Antrim-based global healthcare diagnostics firm Randox Laboratories, which has been exporting to China since 1992 and supports a range of other activities across Ulster University.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement Professor Ian Montgomery said: "As an internationally focused University it is important to continually build new partnerships in China and to further enhance our many existing linkages there. I am delighted at how this tour extended our work in the country, reinforced our networks and provided excellent global experiences for our students."



Growing Northern Ireland's financial engineering pipeline

Ulster University Business School has further enhanced its relationship with the Chicago-based CME Group Foundation by securing significant funding to establish a 'Developing Financial Engineering Pipeline' project that includes support for one PhD and 10 MSc studentships.

The project will be collaborative across Ulster University Business School and the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment and follows the success of the CME Group Financial Innovation Laboratory, which was officially opened in Jordanstown in August 2015.

It aims to address the skills gap by focusing on the pipeline of potential entrants to the Fintech industry at various stages over a two-year period. It includes an extensive schools and community programme of educational aspiration and attainment raising.

KPMG offers fast-track to accounting success

Ulster University has teamed up with KPMG to offer students embarking on the Graduate Diploma in Accounting the opportunity to be a 'KPMG Fast Track Scholar'.

The Diploma enables graduates from non-accounting and diverse academic backgrounds to obtain a general introduction to the subject,

and then specialise in particular areas of accounting suited to their career path.

Shauneen Martin became the first KPMG Fast Track Scholar, completing her Diploma in Accounting and graduating in summer 2017. She is now working with KPMG in their Lanyon Place office in Belfast.

The partnership is going from strength to strength and KPMG is now offering two additional scholarships in the 2017/18 academic year, providing full fees for the postgraduate course and in addition offering invaluable work-based learning opportunities.



Shauna McCloy, Ulster University,
and Stephanie Gowdy, PwC Student
Recruitment Senior Manager

PwC supports students' competitive EDGE

Leading professional services firm PwC is helping to build students' employability prospects after signing up to support Ulster University's EDGE Award.

EDGE Award accreditation is a coveted recognition of students who enhance their academic study through the completion of

developmental extra-curricular activities such as work placements, volunteering, or studying abroad. Gaining an EDGE Award helps to boost graduates' career opportunities through evidence of key transferable skills that are highly sought after by employers.

Stephanie Gowdy, Student Recruitment Senior Manager from PwC said: "Supporting the EDGE Award reinforces our commitment to helping students develop and build their skills. We see this partnership as an investment in the future labour market."

Legal innovation first

Two international law firms have joined forces with Ulster University to create and support developments in legal innovation.

The Legal Innovation Centre, launched last year, is at the forefront of advancing the use of technology-driven innovation in legal services and legal education globally. A collaboration between the School of Law and the School of Computing, Engineering and Intelligent Systems, it is the first centre of its kind in the UK.

It will undertake research on technological innovations to improve

the legal process and promote greater economic efficiency and improved access to justice.

The Centre was established with funding from leading global law firms Allen & Overy and Baker McKenzie, both of which have established bases in Belfast in recent years. The Centre has also received sponsorship from Invest Northern Ireland.

Jane Townsend, Partner and Head of Allen & Overy's Legal Services Centre in Belfast, said: "This collaboration supports our commitment to continually improve and enhance

our systems and the way we do things while deepening our strong relationship with Ulster University."

Jason Marty, Global Chief Operating Officer of Baker McKenzie, said: "This new Centre directly connects to the opportunities and challenges facing the legal industry, providing tangible impacts in how we build our teams, technologies, and business while also contributing to the work of the Centre with direct benefit to the people and legal system of Northern Ireland and beyond."

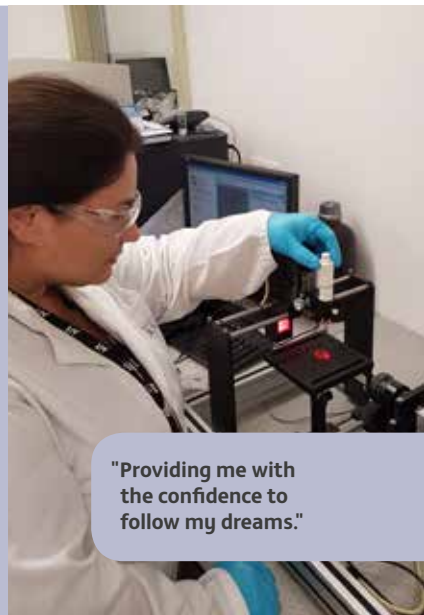
The gift of an unexpected future

Maya Frost was the first winner of the Barnett Pharmaceutical Sciences Scholarship in 2013, a scholarship supported by Norbrook Laboratories.

After completing a Masters in Pharmaceutical Science at Ulster University, Maya went on to complete a PhD in the Republic of Ireland. In addition to lecturing, Maya has presented her work at international conferences.

Maya would not have been able to complete a Master's degree without being awarded the Barnett Scholarship. She returned to full-time education at the same time that her son started school, becoming a great example to him about the benefits of hard work and motivation.

Maya said: "The Barnett Scholarship was the gift of an unexpected future which enabled me to pursue my chosen career. The impact has been very positive, providing me with the confidence to follow my dreams and move forward without compromising on my goals."



"Providing me with the confidence to follow my dreams."

Your gift gives a lift to students

More alumni giving
= more students helped



235% increase in funds awarded to students

Offering a range of financial support to help our students in a variety of ways, the Ulster University Student Fund is a key channel for enhancing their academic experience.

The Student Fund helps to bring down the barriers that prevent people with ability and drive, especially those from low income families, from going to university and reaching their potential. It transforms futures by helping our students push towards or fulfil their ambitions and their potential.

Every gift – large and small – is hugely worthwhile, appreciated enormously and used to ensure maximum impact.

More and more of our alumni are realising the impact their donations have on current students and are stepping up to support the Student Fund. Please consider joining them and give a gift to help a deserving student.

100%
of every gift
goes directly to
help students

**Income to the
Student Fund has
TRIPLED
in the last 5
years**



You can make a gift today
at ulster.ac.uk/donate or
email us at giving@ulster.ac.uk

Shaping the health and wellbeing of children



The Gateway Scholarship is aimed specifically at adults with limited financial resources who want to return to education or would like to improve their employment prospects by attending university for the first time.

The scholarship has been a major help to BSc Health and Wellbeing student Natasha Howlett who has turned her life around from addiction. Becoming pregnant with her daughter, now 18 years old, was the catalyst she needed and she has never looked back.

Natasha now works part time to educate primary-school children on the risks of substance abuse and the implications on health, family and community and is undertaking her degree at the Magee campus so she can continue this work professionally.

She believes her BSc will not only benefit her life and career, but will also shape the future of others. "I feel that education is the key in helping our young people make healthier choices for their futures," she said. "This is something I now believe in passionately.

Natasha added: "I cannot express what this scholarship means to me. Not only will it help me to avail of all the opportunities I am given by studying at Ulster University, it also represents a real, and much-needed, vote of confidence in my chosen path. I am also proud to be setting a good example for my daughter to follow. I am deeply humbled and thankful for this support.

Magee bot set to come out fighting

Thanks to funding from the Student Fund's Vice Chancellor's Award, a team of engineering students from Magee embarked on a project last year to build a robot to go into the ring in combat competitions.

Interest in the project at Magee was very high, and it wasn't long before Team Magnitude was taking the idea forward, led by Jonathon Burnside.

The build process for the robot utilises all the machine facilities available on Magee campus and is developing the engineering students involved in many ways. As the move from design on computer screen to real object is not an easy process, the learning experience is a unique and valuable support for the future career aspirations of students, requiring them to employ a range of mechanical and manufacturing engineering to electrical and electronics skills.

The team is developing a heavyweight two wheel drive robot featuring the ability to run upside down. A twin-



Second year engineering students working on the robot Magnitude

bladed rotating weapon, capable of top speeds in excess of 800mph, is also built into the bot.

The robot project has been a great success in exposing students to the challenges of the manufacture of complex items.

Jonathon Burnside said: "There is no way this project could have moved forward at the rapid pace that it did over the 2016/17 academic year without the Vice-Chancellor's Award funding.

"It has been an amazing experience and the team would like to thank sincerely the Student Fund for supporting their aspirations and playing a large part in establishing this exciting and rewarding pursuit on campus at Magee.

Thank you for taking the call

A million thanks to all Ulster alumni who took the time to speak to our students during the 2017 telephone campaign. It was our best campaign ever, with students chatting to nearly 1,000 graduates.

The telephone campaigns are hugely valuable to our students, offering the chance to gain practical advice from our alumni, like you, about careers and life beyond Ulster.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office runs this campaign each year in the spring term, to ensure more students can benefit from the experience.



As a Business with Marketing student, Adrian Boyd worked on the telephone campaign and said of the experience: "Working on the

telephone campaign was highly enjoyable and allowed current and graduating students like me to engage with business leaders. Advice provided by alumni has shaped my career path and helped me develop a five-year plan. During the campaign, I was also offered internships and mentorship for consultancy services."

Following the campaign Adrian graduated with first class honours, before securing a position in a marketing agency in Belfast called Market Resource Partners, where he was promoted after three months. Adrian has since started a company helping small businesses with marketing strategies.

Graduates spoken to in 3 weeks

937

Average gift per call

£71

Top income in one calling session

Overall total for campaign

£6,586

Total
£68,287

**BEST TELEPHONE
CAMPAIGN EVER**

If you receive a request about speaking to one of our students, please do consider taking the call. It can be very rewarding and enjoyable for both students and alumni!



10 Ulster alumnae leading in the world of sport

The Women's Rugby World Cup and UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship held last year on Irish soil for the first time showcased the merit and appeal of female sport. Ulster University alumnae are well ahead in the race as the female influence in world sport continues to rise.

Marissa Callaghan

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

Marissa Callaghan

FDSC Sports Coaching 2010
ADCert Performance Analysis and Coaching Practice 2017

Marissa is the current captain of Northern Ireland's international football team and is intent on inspiring the next generation of female footballers. Alongside her international career, she holds several notable coaching roles. She is the Female Football Ambassador for the Irish Football Association and Academy Director at Cliftonville Ladies.

GETTING TECHNICAL AT GOLD COAST

Clare Houston

FDSC Sports Coaching 2009

There are 70 nations and territories competing in the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia, and in the thick of all the planning for the 18 sports and seven para sports, will be alumna Clare Houston. Originally from Ballyclare, County Antrim, Clare is the Technical Officials Manager with the organising body, Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation.



Noleen Lennon (right)

NETBALL INTERNATIONAL

Noleen Lennon

BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Sciences 2006

This experienced Northern Ireland international earned European Championship silver as part of the Northern Ireland netball team last autumn. Noleen also played at the last Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and will bring her knowledge and

experience of the top tier of the game as the Northern Ireland team aims for glory at Gold Coast in 2018. Noleen works as a Performance Pathway Officer with Netball NI and is also an accomplished, all-Ireland winning basketball player.

KARATE MASTER

Carol Duffy

BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Sciences 2012

PGCE Physical Education 2013

Now a teacher in London and inspiring her school's netball team, Carol represented the Irish Senior Ladies National Karate Squad from the age of 18, earning a world ranking of 19 in her weight category. She won European bronze at both the British and Belgian Open Karate Championships and competed at European and World Karate Premier League events. She is a past recipient of several Ulster sport scholarships and last September, Carol scooped both the Kent and England Netball Teacher of the Year awards.

TOP ALL-ROUNDER

Louise Galvin

Second-year Masters in Sport and Exercise Medicine student

A qualified physiotherapist and highly successful all-round sportswoman, Louise represented Ireland in the HSBC Sevens World Series and was part of the 15s squad in the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup held in Ireland. Louise has excelled across a range of sports, having captained UL Huskies to multiple titles and Ireland at underage level in basketball. Louise played GAA football for her home county of Kerry, winning the Munster Championship and National League as well as representing Munster at interprovincial level. Louise is also a past recipient of a Student Fund Sports Scholarship.

MOST CAPPED IRISH SPORTSWOMAN

Shirley McCay

BSc Hons Sport Studies 2009

ADCert Management Practice 2015

The most capped Irish international sportswoman, the final cap total for this hockey legend is still rising and will continue at least until the World Cup in London 2018. Shirley reached the 250-appearance mark for Ireland in a EuroHockey win over the Czech Republic in Amsterdam last year.



Shirley McCay

UEFA TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Sara Booth

BSc Hons Sport, Exercise and Leisure 2001

Having been Tournament Director for the highly successful UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship held at venues across Northern Ireland last summer, former international player Sara is continuing her work to drive participation levels and raise the profile of women's football with the IFA. As a player, she won 12 Premier League club titles, two Irish Cups and debuted for Northern Ireland at age 15, going on to captain the team and win 33 caps. She also played in America.

TAKING CARE OF RUGBY BUSINESS

Fiona Hampton

BSc Hons Communication, Advertising and Marketing 1999

With overall responsibility for the multi-million pound commercial revenues at Ulster Rugby, Fiona takes care of business behind the various teams who line out for the province. As Head of Sales and Marketing she ensures the club's financial stability and strategic growth. With the final stages of the Women's Rugby World Cup played at Ulster's Kingspan Stadium, Fiona was heavily involved in its delivery from the bid phase to its record-breaking conclusion.

KICKING ON

Rakia Alouane

BSc Hons Health Physiology 2017

Now in preparation for the 2018 European Championships in Estonia, international taekwondo champion Rakia graduated just last year. After the Europeans, she plans to take a Masters in Sport. The martial arts expert managed to complete her degree while also competing in three European competitions.

WORLD RANKING TRIATHLETE

Aileen Reid

PGCE Physical Education 2008

The most successful Irish triathlete of all time, Aileen competed in two Olympic Games for Ireland and a Commonwealth Games for Northern Ireland. She was ranked in the top 10 in the world from 2013 to 2015 and has a number of world series medals to her name. Now living and coaching in Australia's Gold Coast, her influence and impact in Irish triathlon will be felt for years to come. She would have loved to have competed in the 2018 Commonwealth Games on her doorstep but was forced to retire from competition last year through injury.



Aileen Reid

Alumna ambassador inspiring the next generation



Whether you graduated last year or you are one of our more mature alumni, there are many ways to stay connected with Ulster University after you leave – and becoming one of our ambassadors is one.

Engaging with students – and fellow graduates – as a key city or regional contact can be fun and rewarding. Offering support, sharing your story, inspiring leaders of the future can have a huge impact and is a great way to support your University.

It was the chance to share her story that attracted US-based alumna Dr Emma Fleck to becoming an international ambassador.

Now Associate Professor of Management at Susquehanna University's Sigmund Weis School of Business in Pennsylvania, Emma bounced back from what she describes as “not her finest moment” when describing her A-Level results, to take on an International Business degree at Coleraine, which led to the opportunity to spend a year studying in the US.

“It was an amazing year in the States, and I came back a stronger student with a plan to travel and see the world,” said Emma.

“Because of this experience, and with the support of many amazing professors at Coleraine, I rose to the top of my class in my final year and graduated with first class honours, subsequently being awarded a full scholarship for a PhD. After four years, I graduated with my doctorate and following six years working at Ulster University as a faculty staff member in Coleraine, I emigrated to the US to live out my international dream in higher education.

Today, I love my job and my life, and although my A-Level results were not what I had hoped for, I did not allow them to define me. That, along with my extremely positive Ulster University experience, is why I remain keen to help the next generation of students.

Currently working with two Ulster students and a graduate, Emma believes the ambassadorial role is significant in the alumni network: “Students and graduates often need a little support and advice if considering studying or relocating to a particular geographical area, so I think we can make a real difference by our acts of encouragement, supplying contacts, offering career development support – anything that can give students and recent alumni a leg up as they begin to carve out their chosen careers.

“I have found it a very positive way to engage with students and graduates who need a bit of help. I'd say just do it. Get in touch with the University and get going.



JOIN OUR GROWING MENTORING COMMUNITY

Ever thought of mentoring a student or fellow graduate? It can mean anything from a Skype or Facetime call, exchanging a few emails giving industry advice, to honing a job application, meeting face-to-face or even offering a period of work experience.



Find out more at ulster.ac.uk/alumnimentoring or contact: alumni@ulster.ac.uk

Destination Ulster – top of the world

As all Ulster University graduates know, when you studied there, you lived in one of the most beautiful parts of the world.

This has been confirmed by Lonely Planet, which has rated Belfast and the Causeway Coast the best region in the world to visit in the coming year. Coupled with *National Geographic* voting Donegal, less than four miles from our Magee campus, as the Coolest Place on the Planet in 2017, Ulster has an awful lot to shout about.

Please continue to tell your friends and relatives from home and abroad about the wonderful experience students can have when they come to study at any of our campuses. A warm welcome and one of the most wonderful University experiences to be had anywhere in the world is always on offer.



Make an impact with a student placement

From IT and manufacturing to engineering and the creative industries, more and more of Northern Ireland's leading employers are keen to offer Ulster University students opportunities for work placements.

Placements offer extremely positive benefits on both sides of the equation. For students they are essential to enhancing their employability and forming a bridge between the classroom and the workplace.

For employers, the benefits range from playing an active role in shaping the skills of the future workforce, to gaining opportunities to snap up student and graduate talent and making an impact on society by preparing young people for the world of work.

A great many Northern Ireland firms employ Ulster University graduates, often in high-profile and leadership roles. As their career paths frequently started with a placement, BSc Economics with Finance student Thomas Gallen is hoping to mimic their success.

Thomas managed to secure his placement year with global professional services firm PwC, with a role in finance, sales and deployment in its PwC Augment business unit.

"On my third day there, I was on a project for an investment bank," said Thomas, "so the amount of responsibility I have been given has been a huge surprise, but a great one. I feel I have developed a lot of key skills during my Ulster University placement year."

How you can offer work experience opportunities

Could your company benefit from a talented student or graduate? Are you in a decision-making role or can influence those who are? Help us open doors to more local and international companies who can help improve the employability of our students and graduates.

This could involve:

- A simple workplace visit
- A few weeks' work experience
- A year-long placement
- An international internship
- Virtually any other kind of employability opportunity



To offer a work experience opportunity at your organisation, please contact us at alumni@ulster.ac.uk. We'd love to hear from you.



Dr Paul Clark MBE, television presenter and Ulster honorary graduate; Catherine McCooley, Ulster University graduate; Maeve Moreland, Titanic Foundation Ltd; and Gren Armstrong, Invest NI

IMPACT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ulster University's inaugural Impact Excellence Awards recognised leading organisations across a wide range of sectors for their commitment to pioneering research and graduate employability in 2017. Among the awardees was Titanic Foundation Ltd, which scooped the Placement Employer Impact Excellence Award for an organisation with up to 50 employees.

Tick the box to STAY WITH US



There's too much to lose by losing touch

New data protection laws are coming into effect in May 2018. If you don't tell us how you would like to stay in touch, we will be limited as to how we contact you after this date.

Keeping your connection with us is as simple as ticking a box. By doing so, you'll get the maximum benefit from being a member of the alumni community.

Please read the back page of the magazine, tick the form that came with this edition and use the Freepost envelope provided, or go online to update your preferences and details at: ulster.ac.uk/alumniandsupporters/ticktostay

Alumni benefits and services include

- Connect and grow your network
- Keep your University email
- Free access to the University libraries
- Enhance your CV by volunteering (e.g. as a mentor, guest speaker, international ambassador)
- Invitations to exclusive alumni events
- Engage students on placements, work experience or internships
- 10% off further study (*criteria apply)
- and much more...



STAY CONNECTED

Ulster University Alumni

Ulster_Alumni

Ulster University Alumni

ulster.ac.uk/alumniandsupporters/ticktostay



INSPIRING EVENTS



Tommy Bowe



Professor Paul Moore and Jon Snow

As part of our exclusive series of events for Ulster University alumni and supporters, Jon Snow, the face of Channel 4 News since 1989, dropped in for a conversation with Professor Paul Moore last November. The conversation, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Fund, explored Jon's career, observations on journalism in a digital age, fake news and social media against the backdrop of recent events including Brexit and the US presidential election. Alumni and guests were delighted to hear from Jon and meet him; an opportunity not possible without being connected to the University.

Other such guests have included Ulster University alumnus, honorary graduate and Ulster rugby player Tommy Bowe.

7 ways to stay involved with YOUR University

As a graduate of Ulster what you gained never leaves you – and it can be used to help others who are following in your footsteps. Here are seven ways you can give back to your University as an active member of its alumni community.

1. BECOME A MENTOR

Offering mentorship and guidance to current students and recent graduates finding their way could help someone get over a road block in their career or secure their first job.

2. BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR

If you are based overseas you can help open doors, offer local advice and be a key point of contact in your area. Sharing your story and experience can prove very valuable to students and graduates.

3. VOLUNTEER – SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE

Volunteering to help review CVs and application forms, becoming a member of a board or committee or simply giving a hand during careers fairs, graduations and arts and cultural events is always welcome and worthwhile.

4. HELP SECURE A WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

No matter where you work, you can help those following your footsteps into your industry. Help open the doors and ask – could your company offer a placement/work experience? It benefits both student and company.

5. BE A GUEST SPEAKER

The University regularly seeks people from various industries to deliver talks and workshops. Students love to hear from people out in the 'real world'.

6. ORGANISE A CLASS REUNION

Be the one to arrange a class reunion – it keeps the University's networks going. It doesn't have to be big. A few drinks somewhere nice creates the opportunity to catch up.

7. MAKE A DONATION

Donating is one of the most important forms of alumni giving. It could mean anything from a life-change for a student, a breakthrough in research or an addition to a University building. No matter how big or small, your donation will make an impact.

You can find out more via:
ulster.ac.uk/alumniandsupporters
 Or contact us at:
alumni@ulster.ac.uk



Alumni adventures

Sarah McCormack

BSc Hons Environmental Science 2000
PhD Engineering 2004

Sarah McCormack has been immortalised in a group portrait as one of eight outstanding female scientists working in Ireland today. Commissioned by the Royal Irish Academy and Accenture, and unveiled by the then Tánaiste, Frances Fitzgerald TD, the painting was part of the Academy's recent 'Women on Walls' campaign to make female academic leaders more visible. Now an Associate Professor at Trinity College Dublin, Sarah focused on solar energy for her PhD at Ulster University.

Gearoid Devaney

Dip HE Hospitality Management 1997

Belfast-born Gearoid was one of the judges in the Decanter World Wine Awards in May in London. Judging has become a regular duty for the elite wine expert, who in 2009 became one of fewer than 300 people worldwide to pass the notoriously tough Master Sommelier exam. Gearoid is now a director of Flint Wines, an exclusive independent merchant based in London. A regular speaker at industry events, he also runs staff training for restaurants, hotels and gastropubs, hosts tastings and masterclasses and examines for the Court of Master Sommeliers in the UK and in Asia.



Sarah McCormack (second from right)
portrayed with other female academic leaders

Scott Dubin

MSc International Business 2002

Since arriving from the USA to complete his MSc, Scott has built a career providing critical logistical and operational support to humanitarian and development projects in a host of complex and insecure environments, including Darfur, Iraq, South Sudan and Liberia. As Team Lead for Warehousing and Distribution with Chemonics International, he supports US Government-funded public health initiatives, ensuring uninterrupted supplies of vital health commodities around the world. Scott is also the project lead on a cutting-edge initiative to utilise drone technology for delivering much-needed medicines, lab samples, blood transfusions and vaccines within hard-to-reach regions of the world.



Nuala McAllister

LLB Law with Politics 2011

Aged just 28, Nuala was elected Lord Mayor of Belfast in May – the first young mother to be sworn in as the city's first citizen. She took the theme of 'global Belfast' for her year in office.

Phil Taggart

BA Hons Media Studies 2008

Usually found tearing up the night-time music scene as a BBC Radio 1 DJ, Phil got to play Glastonbury last year with his own live set on the BBC Music Introducing stage. The Omagh-born alumnus is a major influence on introducing new bands to a wider audience in the UK.



Nick Boyle

BSc Informatics 1989

Under founder and CEO Nick Boyle, Lightsource Renewable Energy, the largest owner, operator and developer of solar installations in the UK and Europe, announced it was expanding into the US market. Nick's drive and vision has taken Lightsource from six employees in 2011 to over 300. His company is based in Holborn, London, with offices in San Francisco, Mumbai, Belfast and Dublin.



Kate Loughran

LLM Human Rights Law and Transitional Justice 2015

After graduating with distinction in her Master's in 2016, Kate headed for Johannesburg, where for a "hugely valuable" six-month period she became a legal researcher for Justice Froneman, a prominent judge at the Office of the Chief Justice in the Constitutional Court of South Africa. She went on to take up her current research assistant post in the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit at the University of Cape Town.

Micah Jones

**BA Hons Architecture 2007
MA Architecture 2010**

Architecture graduate Micah Jones was featured on Channel 4's Grand Designs last September with his 'supershed' design. His principal motivation for the project was to accommodate his growing young family, but it was also a childhood dream to build his own house. Presenter Kevin McCloud described the house as "One of the finest rural houses I've seen: pragmatic, ecological, unpretentious and full of joy."





Sara Hall

BA Hons Combined Arts 2003

Sara's autumn/winter collection of luxury tweed capes and coats featured in Vogue. Sara initially started designing and producing capes for children in 2014, but later launched Sands & Hall, which specialises in luxury ready-to wear women's outerwear collections in Irish and British tweeds and cashmere.

Tiernan McCann

MPharm Hons Pharmacy 2014

Well-known GAA player Tiernan has chosen to work as a pharmacy locum in Dublin to facilitate his inter-county football career. He combines work with frequent trips back to his native Tyrone for demanding training sessions.



Peter Johnston

BSc Hons Public Relations 2011

Among Peter's milestones last year was the rebranding of Kalo, the technology start-up he founded in 2014 to help 'gig economy' companies manage their freelancers. In the past year, the company also more than doubled its number of enterprise customers, hired several key executives, and announced it would complement bases in London and San Francisco by opening an office in Belfast as the first tenant of the city's new hi-tech Ormeau Baths co-working space. In 2017, Peter made the Debretts 500 List, being named as one of the most influential people in Britain.



Roy Turkington

BSc Hons Biological and Environmental Studies 1972

Roy, who is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, received a major award from the Canadian Botanical Association last year for a lifetime of achievement in his field.

The Lawson Medal is the most prestigious award the association can confer. In a remarkable 37-year career, the plant ecology scientist published over 150 papers, and supervised or co-supervised an astounding 14 PhD and 15 MSc graduate students. Lauded as the embodiment of a 'keen and passionate mind', Roy's former students can be found in faculty positions across Canada, the USA and the UK.

Alumni who invest in our students

Supporting our students by ensuring they have access to all the opportunities that have the potential to enrich their academic experience can make the world of difference.

Your support contributes significantly to our graduates going out into the world of work as confident, skilled and experienced individuals, playing a role in the development of our society, locally and globally. This is a key motivator for many alumni who decide to give. It represents an investment in Northern Ireland's development and future.

He says, "Post graduation I was not aware of the impact such a Student Fund could have on a young person's life.

One day, when I was interviewing students for recruitment, I met a student who was the recipient of such funds, and his story was very moving, and made me reflect on the impact such support can have. I would encourage my fellow alumni to contribute also and to help make a difference to the University that supported you.

"I would encourage my fellow alumni to contribute also and to help make a difference to the University that supported you."

the fund can go a long way and I'd urge people to donate.

Joan has taken part in the University's telephone campaign to give advice on study and careers and is keen to mentor current students. She attends the annual Degree Show and made a point of being at the opening of the student-run design shop, Unique, at the Belfast campus, which sells original pieces by students and alumni ranging from sculpture to scarves.

"Studying at Ulster made it possible for me to change careers from a job which was no longer challenging. I support the Student Fund to help other people do the same or to get started on a career.

Respected scholar's proud legacy in Modern History

Those thinking of supporting Ulster University and who want to make an impact on a particular area of interest can look to the late Dr John Springhall for inspiration.

Dr Springhall joined the then New University of Ulster at Coleraine in 1970. He was a pioneer in the field of youth studies and wrote widely on imperialism, decolonisation and British and US popular culture. He had a real skill for bringing the subject to wide audiences through an approachable style.

John sadly passed away in 2015, but had made the decision to leave a legacy in his will to Ulster University, specifically to support work in the School of Arts and Humanities.

Through prizes, bursaries, funding for research trips and an annual lecture, his legacy will reach all levels of work in Modern History at the University, including undergraduate, postgraduate, early career scholars, staff and the wider public.

In addition, a portion of the legacy has been used to appoint Dr Stan Neal as a fixed-term John Springhall Post-Doctoral Lecturer in Modern British/Imperial History. Stan says "Being appointed the John Springhall Post-Doctoral Lecturer has been a fantastic opportunity for me, allowing me to gain more teaching experience following my PhD and to complete peer-reviewed research articles in top academic journals. The

modules I am delivering have also given students the opportunity to study areas of British imperial history, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, that they have never studied before. As a result, the legacy of John Springhall continues to enhance the student experience and the teaching programme in history at Ulster."

Professor Ian Thatcher, Research Director, History, School of Arts and Humanities, said "Stan is an inspirational and outstanding addition to teaching at Ulster and is as passionate about his subject as John was so this fits perfectly with the spirit of his legacy."

"John's generous gift will have a significant impact on the students and staff, being used to promote the knowledge that John clearly cared so dearly about, and ensures that his contribution and memory lives on for many, many years to come."

Dr Stan Neal,
John Springhall Lecturer
in Modern British/Imperial History



Leave a legacy
You can help build the Ulster University of the future by leaving a legacy.

If there is a school or library that you would like to benefit, a scholarship you would like to set up, or research you would like to support, you can establish your personal legacy by leaving a gift in your will. You can also leave a non-specific gift which means we can direct your donation to priority areas at any given time.



Any gift can have a tremendous impact on Ulster University. Every situation is unique, so if you're interested in finding out more, contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office on **+44 (0)28 7012 3208**, or **giving@ulster.ac.uk** or speak directly to your solicitor who will advise you.

Tick the box to **STAY WITH US**



There's too much to lose by losing touch

Ulster University's Development and Alumni Relations Office strives to make your connection to the University rich and rewarding. We keep you updated on career opportunities, exciting news, and exclusive events. New data protection laws are coming into effect in May 2018. If you don't tell us how you would like to stay in touch, we will be limited as to how we contact you after this date. Keeping your connection with us is as simple as ticking a box. By doing so, you'll get the maximum benefit from being a member of the alumni community.

To stay in touch, please fill in the form that came with this edition of *Ulster Graduate* and return it using the freepost envelope provided. Or, if you prefer, you can tick online at ulster.ac.uk/alumniandsupporters/ticktostay

You can update the way in which we communicate with you at any time. We value your privacy and make every effort to use your personal data in a way that is transparent and fair. We never share your information with other organisations.

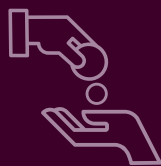
Top reasons to stay connected:



Maintain lifelong connections to a worldwide community of fellow graduates



Receive exclusive invitations to University events, often featuring well-known business, sports people and celebrities



Hear about opportunities to help and give back

1st

to receive University news and updates



Expand your network with a wide range of industry leaders and key players



Access great career advice and work experience opportunities



Save money with offers and hear about new postgraduate courses that can enhance your career

To find out more about how we use your data visit: ulster.ac.uk/alumniandsupporters/dataprotection

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