



**This is our  
Annual Review  
2013**

 University of  
**ULSTER**

Front cover image: Brona Jackson,  
BA (Hons) Dance graduate,  
now part-time lecturer at Magee

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# Foreword



Gerry Mallon, Chair of Council

In the context of ever-changing times for the higher education sector, and against the sustained economic challenges of 2013, Ulster continued to develop with confidence and resilience – enabling the University's ambitions, and those of our students to be realised.

Neither challenges nor changes have diminished Ulster's focus and the University remains responsive and adaptable, meeting head-on those demands and expectations and contributing to Northern Ireland, both locally and on a global stage.

The dedication of our staff to making a sustained, meaningful impact endures. The interest and generosity of our alumni continues to open

up new possibilities for those who will follow their own path through Ulster. The University of Ulster Fund, renamed in 2013, makes it possible to respond to challenge, to reward excellence and to encourage enterprise.

Just as Northern Ireland recognises the potential that lies in an outward looking, dynamic approach to overseas opportunity, the University strives to build upon a world-wide, world-class network of partnerships. Whether through academic and research collaborations, or through providing opportunity for our students to spend time abroad, our international reach is thriving.

Ulster's unrivalled commitment to widening access continues

to open doors and foster learning opportunity. Our colleagues at the Department for Employment and Learning share and support these ambitions, enabling us to build on the success of existing access programmes and to create innovative new projects.

Responding to new ways to learn and the continued impact of technology on teaching and learning, Ulster has invested in flexible, digital and virtual learning. Our relationships with schools and community groups ensure that we stay close to the emerging needs and aspirations of future students.

2013 marked a milestone in our ambitious development plans. Our vision for a progressive Belfast city campus, fit for the future of higher education, came into sharper focus when planning permission for the main campus buildings was granted in the spring of 2013. By the end of the year, the twin cranes that rise above this emerging development site marked the first major construction work in the city centre since 2008 and they herald the emergence of a revitalised northern edge of the city.

We now look forward to creating a campus of the future, and a hub of creativity and innovation. It will provide a dynamic learning and teaching environment, matching and reflecting the aspirations of our students, parents, teachers, academics and researchers.

The plans for the Jordanstown campus were also unveiled, to include investment in a second sports hall, retention of a range of University facilities on the site, and proposals for a vibrant urban village residential development on the site of the main building and car park.

Investment in the learning and teaching environment across each campus in 2013 makes possible the most rewarding student and staff experience, with transformational learning spaces creating the best outcomes for staff and students.

Ulster's commitment to contributing to economic recovery and to sustainable progress for business and industry spans computing, digital technologies, engineering, construction as well as business services, leadership and management. 2013 also saw the establishment of the Northern

Ireland Centre for Economic Policy, within the Ulster Business School. At the heart of business, commerce and industry, Ulster's partnerships and collaborations continue to innovate, influence and inform.

Over the next year, we can expect to experience ongoing economic recovery, in which we will continue to play our part, and which can only enhance the future prospects for our skilled and ambitious graduates.

I look forward to working with my Council colleagues, the Vice-Chancellor and staff in the year ahead, and with all those who share the commitment to equipping assured graduates in an increasingly confident Northern Ireland, and beyond.

*Gerry Mallon*

Gerry Mallon  
Chair of Council

# Foreword



Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor

Just as the ambitions of our students do not stand still, neither do those of the staff and management at Ulster. The role and value of higher education in the economy has never been more vital.

At Ulster, we are well placed to meet those needs, continually ensuring that teaching anticipates a changing economy, and that learning at Ulster equips our students to reach their full potential and enhance their future career prospects. Increasingly Ulster is a learning hub where students, graduates, alumni, local and global partners, all contribute to ambitious outcomes.

2013 brought both new developments in teaching programmes across a range

of faculties and disciplines and physical enhancements to each campus – offering extensive choice and opportunity in dynamic learning environments.

The progress of plans for the Belfast city campus took a significant step forward in 2013. The transformed campus will provide an inspirational and accessible student experience in the heart of the city, enable staff and students to foster new local relationships and partnerships, and contribute to the regeneration of a previously under-developed part of the city. In the months and years ahead, this exciting journey will entirely reflect the scale of Ulster's ambition and our social, cultural and economic contribution.

In a year in which Derry~Londonderry took centre stage as the inaugural City of Culture 2013, we shared in the celebratory mood of the city, marking a quarter of a century of creative arts at Magee. During the year we welcomed actor Sir Ian McKellen to the city to deliver the seventh annual Chancellor's lecture, as he was presented with an honorary doctorate by Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt. Our creative credentials were also in the spotlight as composer Professor Brian Irvine delivered the University Convocation Lecture at the Magee campus.

The value of the arts for all was explored through the international conference on Music, Technology and

Disability hosted at Magee. Colleagues and students based at the campus showed that Ulster is at the heart of cultural talent and diversity, and central to the creative industries that are fast becoming a unique strength for Northern Ireland.

The University's reputation for research excellence thrives upon the transfer of academic insight and rigorous inquiry into meaningful outcomes for society. The impact of our 15 Research Institutes continues to influence across a diverse range of disciplines.

The £11.5million investment in the Centre for Stratified Medicine places Ulster at the forefront of pioneering research into chronic degenerative diseases. Almost £36million secured in research grants in 2013 will support the difference that we can make in disciplines as diverse as bioengineering, functional brain mapping and the arts and humanities.

Continued focus on connecting enterprising people, ideas and leadership to unlock the potential of innovation, achieved unprecedented outcomes in the past year. Outstanding levels of management training, spin-out companies,

global licensing of numerous technologies and the 150th Knowledge Transfer Partnership milestone ensured that 2013 was another year of entrepreneurial vision and success at Ulster.

The steady stream of esteemed visitors to Ulster demonstrates the high regard in which we are held. As the year came to a close, we welcomed Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal to the Jordanstown campus to mark the 40th anniversary of the introduction of occupational therapy at the University. As the only provider of degree level occupational therapy in Northern Ireland, the occasion was an opportunity to reflect on the value of the expertise of staff and students to individuals and families throughout Northern Ireland across four decades of learning and professional practice.

From longstanding centres of excellence to emerging new opportunities, our ongoing achievements and contribution reflect the energy and enthusiasm of a truly engaged Council, a committed, talented staff and an energetic student body. It is my privilege to work alongside my colleagues and students as we continue to

deliver our current corporate plan and as we look forward to the next exciting phase in the University's development.

Professor Richard Barnett  
Vice-Chancellor

# Revolutionary Research

Ulster's 15 Research Institutes and affiliated research centres proved in 2013 that the University is an institution where knowledge is generated, challenged and tested, as well as being taught. It has built an exceptionally strong reputation for internationally excellent research and innovation, helped by the seamless transfer of ideas from the research lab and lecture hall to the marketplace. Ulster recognises that research feeds innovation, innovation feeds productivity and that productivity fuels social, cultural and economic growth.



Professor Jim McLaughlin with Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster at the launch of the Connected Health Innovation Centre



Professor Tony Bjourson heads the University's £11.5million Centre for Stratified Medicine

In 2013 Ulster's research teams were awarded 237 grants totalling almost £36 million. The University spends £1million per week on research and plays a major role in the local economy as a linchpin of investment and economic growth. Funding awards were made to each of Ulster's six faculties and across all four campuses, highlighting research excellence throughout the University, with major research awards going to medical technology, bioengineering and energy efficiency.

In October 2013, Ulster opened an £11.5million Centre for Stratified Medicine which puts the University at the forefront of medical research into chronic degenerative diseases.

Also in October, the University became a partner in a £7million UK-wide research initiative that could lead to better understanding of the social, environmental and health issues affecting people's lives in Northern Ireland.

Ulster is partnering with the NI Statistics and Research Agency and Queen's University Belfast to set up the Northern Ireland Administrative Data Research Centre in Belfast. The project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council with additional funding for health-related research from the Health and Social Care Research and Development Division of the Public Health Agency.

Earlier in the year, the University announced that the first functional brain mapping facility on the island of Ireland was to be established at the Magee campus. The £5.3million multidisciplinary project will be carried out by the Intelligent Systems Research Centre at the University, in conjunction with the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute, the Institute of Nursing and Health Research at the University and C-TRIC.

At Jordanstown, 2013 saw the opening of the £7million Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC). The Centre is supported by a £5million R&D grant from Invest Northern Ireland with an additional



Dr Jenny Worthington

## £11.5m

Centre for Stratified Medicine, putting the University at the forefront of medical research into chronic degenerative diseases

## £600k

Awarded to the School of Engineering from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

£1.8million investment by a consortium of leading technology companies.

Connected health is an emerging model for healthcare delivery that uses technology to provide healthcare remotely. CHIC offers an ideal platform for showcasing the University's pioneering connected health research and provides Northern Ireland with a world-class facility, within which high-quality R&D, networking and intellectual property generation can be carried out on connected health applications.

### EC Recognition

The University was one of just 11 UK universities to attain the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award during 2013. The

award recognised Ulster's commitment to improving the working conditions and career development of its research staff which ultimately sustains the quantity, quality and impact of Ulster's research for the benefit of society and the economy.

The European Commission's HR Excellence in Research award acknowledges higher education institutions' alignment with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their recruitment.

### Research Excellence

In November, Ulster made its submission to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). This periodic review – the successor to the Research

Assessment Exercise which last took place in 2008 – is conducted nationally to assess the quality of UK research and to inform the selective distribution of public funds for research by the four UK higher education funding bodies.

In 2013, the University entered 502 staff in the Research Excellence Framework and submitted 1,720 outputs and 63 research impact case studies. The REF expert panel assessments of research quality will be conducted during 2014 and the results will be published in December 2014. In the interim, research activity at Ulster will continue unabated.

### Research In Action

#### Cancer Care

Researchers from the University's Biomedical Sciences Research Institute were awarded a £214,000 grant by Prostate Cancer UK to investigate a new drug combination to help reduce the spread of prostate cancer to other parts of the body.

Dr Jenny Worthington, research team leader at Ulster, said the study aims to improve the treatment of advanced prostate cancer, for which there are currently very few treatments available.

Her research explores a new drug combination therapy which aims to specifically target aggressive prostate tumours to control their growth and, most importantly, reduce the number of tumours which form in other areas of the body.

#### Battling Bacteria

A 2013 research project could revolutionise the way airborne bacteria are identified and the speed at which they can be detected.

The School of Engineering at Jordanstown received a major grant of £600,000 from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to explore the possibility of developing a portable, compact device that could immediately diagnose pathogens such as hospital superbugs.

Professor Paul Maguire from the University's Engineering Research Institute is exploring approaches to the challenge of instant or almost instant pathogen detection.

The three-year research project, in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, may also transform the detection of pathogenic warfare agents such as anthrax.

#### Harnessing Energy

In 2013, University researchers began working on a more effective way to turn discarded food waste into gas for use in homes across Northern Ireland.

Working alongside researchers from the Tata Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) in India, a team from the School of the Built Environment plans to create an anaerobic

digester, which will use solar energy over a sustained period of time to generate gas from domestic organic waste for small scale applications such as barbeques or heating greenhouses.

Dr Mervyn Smyth, Reader from the School of the Built Environment has been working on the project with lecturers Dr Jayanta Mondol and Mark Anderson and Dr Aggelos Zacharopoulos, a Research Fellow in the Centre for Sustainable Technologies.

#### Literary Legacy

Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh and Professor Elmer Kennedy-Andrews were awarded a £408,376 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to undertake research which will contextualise representations of Jews in Irish literature for the first time.

The project will create an online database of all texts and writers relevant to the theme, while a conference in 2016 will bring scholars together to analyse aspects of the topic in depth. In conjunction with the conference, an exhibition will be organised at the Belfast campus, and subsequently

in Dublin at the Royal Irish Academy in collaboration with the Irish-Jewish Museum.

**Child's Play**

Research undertaken by ARK (the Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive), a collaboration between the University and QUB, indicates that the old adage that 'children should be seen but not heard' is becoming a thing of the past in Northern Ireland.

Findings from the Kids' Life and Times survey indicated that around three out of four children who participated in the 2013 survey felt that their views were sought and were taken seriously in their school, on issues including what they do in the classroom and how

to make the school better, while four out of five children believed it was easy to give their views.

More than 3,700 P7 pupils across Northern Ireland responded to the online survey which included questions designed to assess children's perceptions of how seriously their views were taken by adults in schools and within the wider community.

**Marketing Support**

Many small sports clubs will struggle to survive if they don't adopt the right marketing tools, according to research carried out by the Ulster Business School's Dr Damian Gallagher in partnership with Professor Audrey Gilmore and PhD student Alina Stolz.

Their findings were published in the prestigious *Journal of Strategic Marketing* in 2013.

The research highlights that a lack of funding can be attributed to insufficient marketing activities. Sports organisations need to secure their survival, not only on a short-term but also on a long-term basis. They need to generate and develop relevant resources such as time, money and knowledge (often via volunteers), which is collectively understood as fundraising, in order to tackle their main problems, the researchers found.



# Enterprising Innovation

The University of Ulster is an innovation powerhouse, a knowledge hub around which businesses can thrive, connecting smart people and smart ideas. 2013 was an outstanding year for innovation at Ulster, as the University recorded its highest-ever level of support for business, providing almost 1,000 innovative solutions to companies, more than 50,000 days of management training, creating five new spin-outs and licensing numerous technologies to businesses across the world.

**1,000**  
innovative solutions  
to companies

**Transferring Knowledge**

Ulster works with thousands of businesses each year to transfer University knowledge and expertise through a range of methods such as events, consultancy, innovation support programmes, technology transfer and licensing.

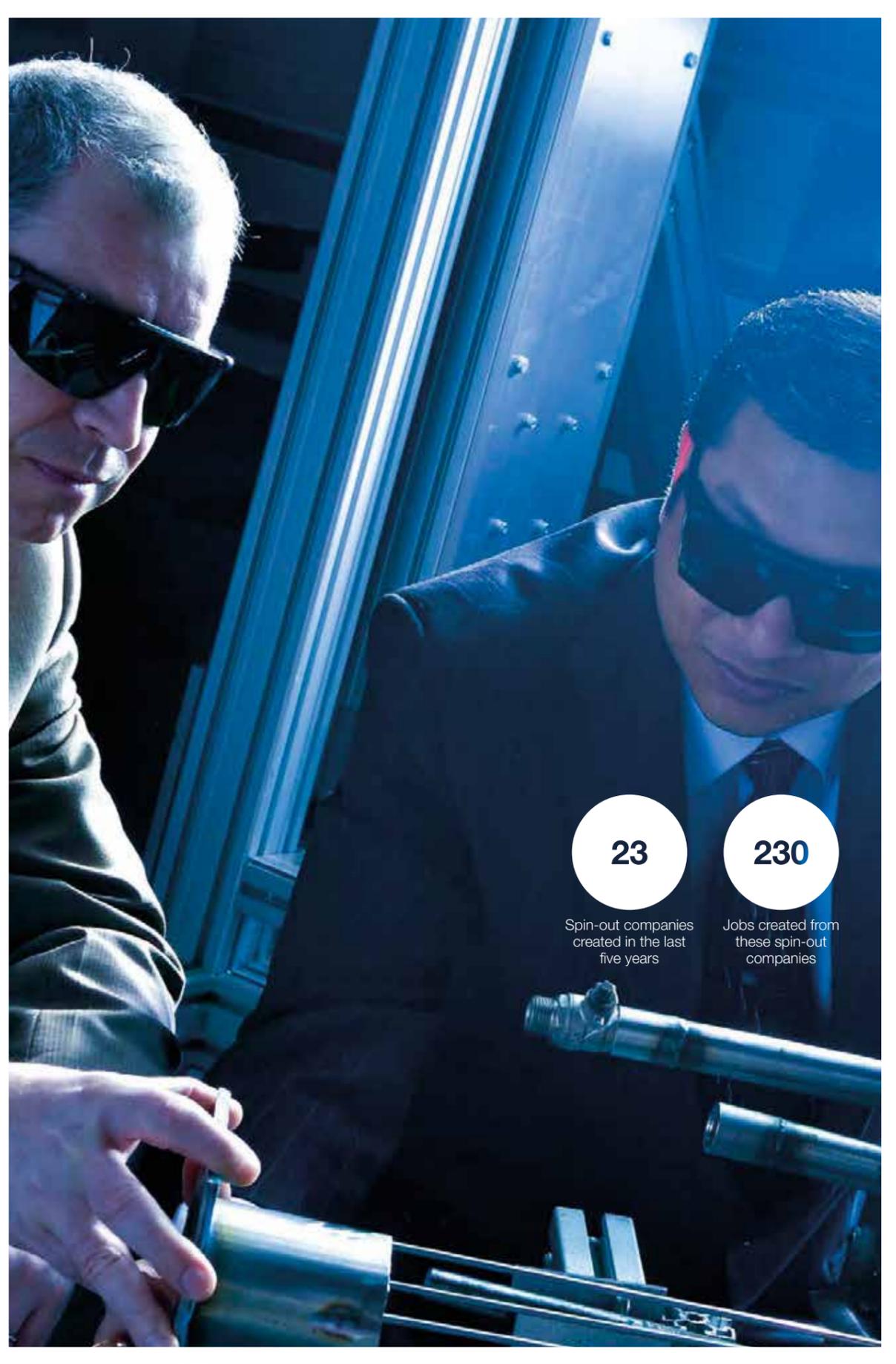
known as an associate. The objective of a KTP is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the spread of technical and business skills through innovative projects.

**50,000**  
days of  
management training

Ulster is a key provider of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and in 2013 reached a significant milestone having undertaken 150 projects – putting the University in the top 10 of knowledge providers out of the 141 UK-wide providers.

KTPs offer businesses/ organisations the opportunity to access resources, research and development and expertise that may not be available in-house. That expertise has helped a range of companies from engineering to biomedical science; from textiles to environmental technologies; from ICT to retail.

A KTP is a three-way partnership between a business, academic institution such as a University, and a recently qualified graduate



**23**

Spin-out companies created in the last five years

**230**

Jobs created from these spin-out companies



Ulster spin-out company HidInImage

**FUSION of Knowledge**

Ulster is also a key provider in Northern Ireland for other industry/university collaboration programmes such as InterTradeIreland's FUSION programme and Invest Northern Ireland and Enterprise Ireland's Innovation Voucher programmes.

In 2013 the University celebrated a major milestone after helping 200 companies to become more innovative through FUSION, a hugely successful cross-border knowledge transfer project.

Clonarn Clover, a free range egg producing and packing company in Co Cavan, became the 200th company from the Republic of Ireland to partner with the University in the programme.

FUSION is the first all-Ireland initiative to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer by linking companies in one jurisdiction with research institutions in another.

**Creative Innovation**

In 2013 the University announced that it will spearhead a £3.5million EU support programme

for the creative industries. Ulster is the lead partner for Honeycomb – Creative Works, a trans-national support programme aimed at maximising the economic potential of the burgeoning creative industries sector.

The programme is supported by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and is being delivered in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology, The Nerve Centre, Derry~Londonderry, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Creative Skillset and their teams in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

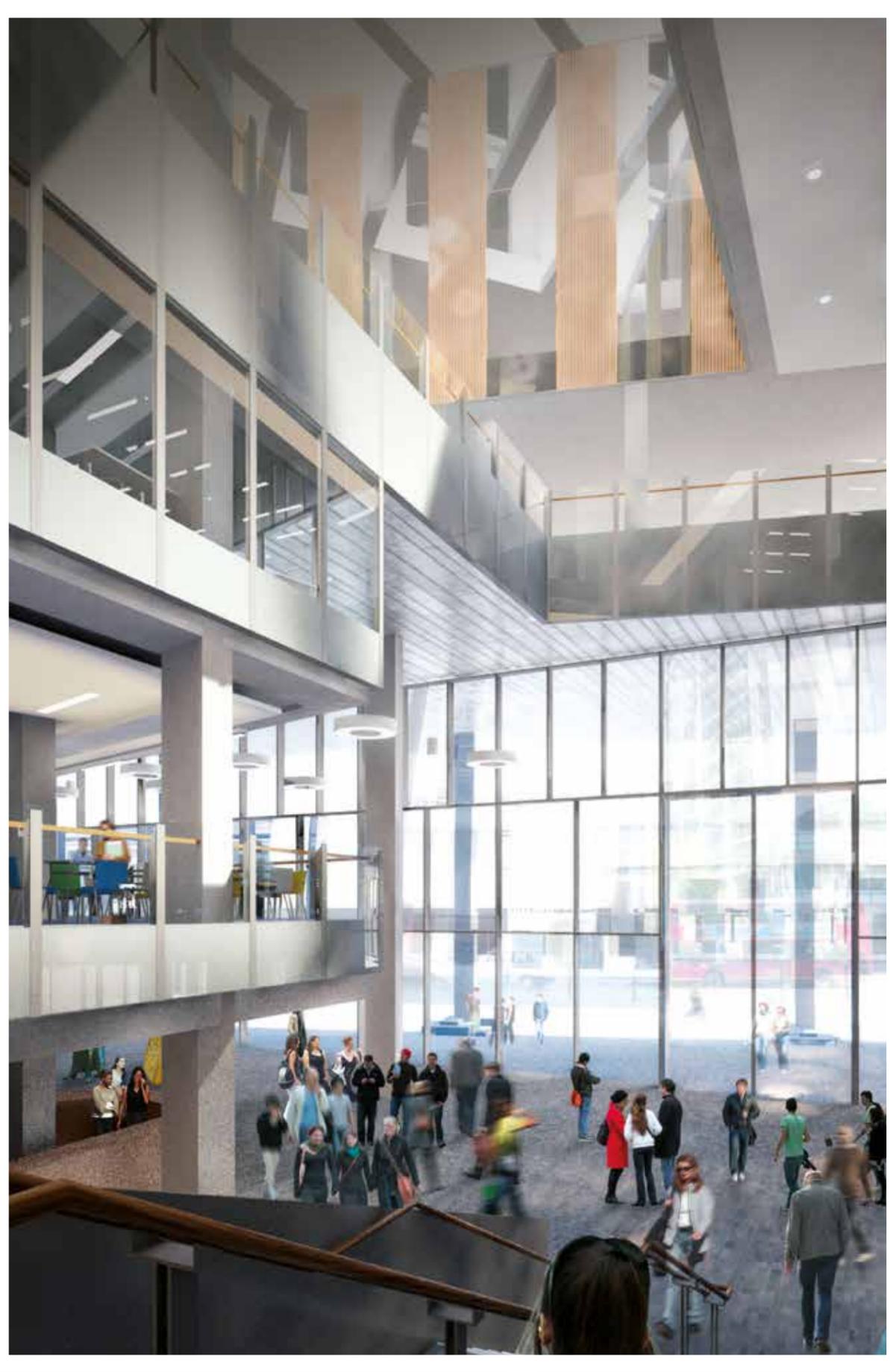
**Spin-out Success**

Over the past five years Ulster has supported the creation of 23 spin-out companies which employ 230 staff. During 2013, one Ulster spin-out company, HidInImage Ltd, led by Ulster academic and CEO Dr Joan Condell secured significant additional funding to commercialise the company's research into digital watermarking.

The team of Ulster academics based at the Intelligent Systems Research Centre at the Magee campus, has developed digital watermarking technology to ensure the security of transmitted data through hidden software messages.

In 2013, the University announced plans to increase its investment in SiSaf Ltd, one of Northern Ireland's most innovative start-up bio-tech companies. The news came as the growing company secured new funding in the region of £500,000 to carry out clinical trials of its new drug delivery system.

SiSaf, which is located in the Northern Ireland Science Park and the Irish Innovation Center, San Jose, Silicon Valley, California, is using the investment to complete the clinical trials of its innovative drug carrier system, SiSafe®. The first application being trialled involves an application to cure acne more efficiently, and without any adverse side effects. The innovative drug delivery formulation could radically change the efficacy and safety of current acne skin treatments.



# Building on Success

**£250m**

Belfast city campus development

**£6.2m**

New sports hall at Jordanstown campus

2013 was a year of renewal and innovation across the University's four campuses, as construction projects went on site, future plans were unveiled, and new facilities came on stream.

## Greater Belfast

The University's plan to create an inspirational, ultramodern campus at the heart of Belfast gained momentum in the spring of 2013, when planning permission for the main campus buildings was granted.

Soon after, demolition work began at the former Interpoint, Playboard and York House sites to make way for the £250 million Belfast city campus development, designed by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios. The new campus is scheduled for completion in 2018, and will see the relocation of teaching and research activity from Jordanstown into the city centre location.

The Belfast city campus will create an innovative

educational environment that will stimulate and inspire students and staff alike. It will contribute to economic, social and cultural development. It will also provide an opportunity to transform a previously neglected part of the city centre, building on the success and energy of the neighbouring Cathedral Quarter.

The first phase of construction for the Belfast city campus began in late 2013 on a site immediately adjoining the existing campus building.

Once this phase is complete in 2015, the University will move staff and students out of the Orpheus building (the former Belfast Co-Op) paving the way for construction of

the main phase of the Belfast city campus.

At Jordanstown, the University unveiled its vision for the future of the suburban campus, including a £6.2million second sports hall adjacent to the existing £13million High Performance Centre.

The plans also propose that the existing main building and car park be replaced by an urban village residential development – enhancing the area, and creating an exciting, vibrant place to live.

A range of existing University facilities will be retained on the Jordanstown site, including the Dalriada Student Village, Dalriada House, the Institute of Fire Safety Engineering Research and Technology,



Plan for residential development at Jordanstown



Magee library

and the University's extensive range of sports pitches and indoor training facilities. The University has been part of the Jordanstown landscape for over 40 years, and while its operations will be scaled back as the majority of campus students and staff relocate to Belfast, the retention of these important University facilities on the site means the University will continue to be an important part of Jordanstown in the years to come.

**Magee**

Refurbishment of Magee's Minor Hall and the adjacent lecture theatre was completed in 2013. Upgrade projects also delivered improvements to teaching spaces on campus, and a new videoconferencing suite was opened.

The campus also became home to the University's Centre for Renewable Energy Engineering, bringing a new range of engineering programmes to the campus.

As the year closed, proposals to build a new teaching block on the Magee campus moved forward, as architects Samuel Stevenson & Sons were appointed to design a new teaching building to be constructed close to the existing campus library.

**Coleraine**

The focus at Coleraine is on making improvements to the physical estate in order to enhance the campus experience for its 5,500 students.

As facilities in the South Buildings on the campus reached the end of their economic life, improvement works began to upgrade the hospitality and leisure facilities on campus and to relocate student-focused services – including the Students' Union, plus Student Support and the International Office – into the main campus building.

The main catering facility at Coleraine was upgraded providing a fresh, attractive and modern social space for staff and students.

2013 also saw the completion of a new, centralised University data centre at Coleraine. The new data centre replaces older legacy facilities at Jordanstown and Coleraine with modern ICT data storage

‘The Belfast city campus will provide an opportunity to transform a previously neglected part of the city centre, building on the success and energy of the neighbouring Cathedral Quarter’

technologies in a purpose-built, energy-efficient secure environment.

**Next steps**

Improvement work at Coleraine will continue in 2014, as the space formerly occupied by the Senior Common Room is upgraded to provide corporate meeting and teaching facilities.

Construction of a new £5.1million teaching block on the campus, adjacent to existing teaching accommodation, is also scheduled to go on site in early 2014. The improvements form part of a larger long-term £18million investment programme to upgrade and renew facilities at Coleraine.



The Diamond Hall, Coleraine

The new directorate of Access, Digital and Distributed Learning was constituted during 2013, opening up greater complementarity for three strategic central functions for the University: Widening Access and Participation, Digital Learning and Continuing Education.

**25%**  
Of additional tuition fee income will be re-invested in widening access and participation

**£200k**  
Widening Access and Participation Fund to help qualifying students with on-course costs

## Accessible, Digital, Flexible

A commitment to widening access lies at the heart of Ulster's educational mission, and in 2013, a new Access Agreement was approved by the Department for Employment and Learning, identifying outreach projects, continuing education, bursaries and new funding opportunities for Ulster students.

### Widening Access

In this agreement the University will re-invest around 25% of additional tuition fee income in widening access and participation bursaries, on-course support, outreach and engagement activity, and projects such as Step-Up.

The University is creating a new Widening Access and Participation Fund of £200K to help qualifying students with on-course costs. The fund will help with travel and other costs of work experience, placements, internships and international exchanges.

The objective is to lower barriers to new life experiences and create more accessible, social learning environments for Ulster students.

### Digital Learning

Digital Learning earns its place at the heart of learning and teaching. The Office for Digital Learning was announced during 2013, with the aim of moving digital educational technology into the mainstream of University learning. The University's virtual learning environment has grown to become the biggest system in the University – a virtual learning hub with 44million page views in 2013 alone. During 2013 there were as many students registered on distance learning courses as there were physically based at the Belfast campus.

### Flexible and Continuing Education

Ulster's commitment to workforce and community

education has seen strong growth.

2013 also saw the announcement of the Centre for Flexible and Continuing Education, with a mission to take forward – with all University faculties – a strategic and planned approach to flexible learning opportunities. Growth continues in this area with over 1,500 enrolments on modular programmes. Educational attainment for several hundred community learners was recognised at the 'Celebration of Community Achievement' in October 2013. The new Centre will provide a powerful identity to the University's external communities, businesses and public sector stakeholders. The new Access Agreement

# ‘Ulster is committed to expanding continuing education opportunities for disadvantaged communities’

commits the University to further expanding continuing education opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

### Highlights

There are a wealth of school and pupil engagement projects and activities designed to give potential Ulster students the confidence to seize the opportunities higher education offers. Below, we profile just some of them:

#### Tick The Box

The Tick the Box campaign was established to encourage applicants from a fostering or social care background to access additional support while studying at Ulster simply by ticking a box on their UCAS application form.

For people who have left care or have previously spent time in care and are thinking of applying to Ulster, the University has put in place a financial and personal support structure to ensure they get the maximum benefit from their studies at Ulster.

#### CultureTECH Junior

Ulster’s Centre for Widening Access and Participation was a partner in CultureTECH Junior, a three-day science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) event held in The Venue, Derry~Londonderry.

Over 5,000 primary and post-primary school pupils got hands-on experience with exhibits, challenges and experiments during CultureTECH Junior.

The University, Seagate, the European Centre for Nuclear Research, W5 and Intel were among the 40 organisations taking part.

#### Tutoring In Schools

In 2013, 141 schools from across Northern Ireland took part in Ulster’s Tutoring in Schools (TiS) programme. This initiative placed 211 Ulster students in primary, secondary or special needs schools to work alongside teachers and pupils on educational projects. The range of school projects spanned digital imaging, literacy, numeracy, programming and the Irish language.



Dr Brian Murphy (left) and Dr Shane Crothers shared in the excitement of CultureTECH Junior



Step-Up student Shannon Downey

#### Step-Up To Science

Step-Up to Science is a long-standing educational partnership with priority schools in the North West and in Belfast. 2013 saw the mainstreaming of the programme within the University’s Access Agreement.

The programme serves as an introduction to the higher education environment and raises pupils’ aspirations, expectations and academic performance.

In 2013, 140 pupils graduated from the Step-Up programme – and over 1,500 pupils have graduated since its inception in 2000.

#### Inspire To Aspire

Students with disabilities can face many challenges in their educational career, but access to the University of Ulster is not among them.

Ulster’s Inspire to Aspire was launched in 2013. The outreach programme is targeted at young people from special schools and provides information for their parents and advocates about university life and opportunities. Ulster can support disabled students in many ways as they pursue their academic studies.

Disability issues form a core part of Ulster’s commitment to widening access to university, according to Professor Anne Moran, Pro-Vice-Chancellor

for Educational Partnerships and International Affairs.

#### I’M HAPPY

At Coleraine, the University began work on a £360,000 widening access project to engage with some of the Borough’s most disadvantaged communities. Funded by the Department for Social Development, the I’M HAPPY project brings the University into partnership with communities in Coleraine Churchland (Killowen and Heights) and Coleraine East (Ballysally and Millburn) to raise aspirations and build community confidence and capability through participation in computer-based activities such as app development.



Research assistant and mentor Carrie-Lyn Kane (Coleraine) with Nelson McCausland MLA, Minister for Social Development and Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor at the launch of the I'M HAPPY project

The I'M HAPPY project will provide a significant skills boost to the North West, making it an increasingly attractive proposition for prospective STEM based industries.

**Promoting STEM To Sixth-Formers**

The 'Widening Access By Introducing Programming in Schools' project at the University's Magee campus completed its third year during 2013 with both the number of schools and pupils involved increasing year on year.

The project was designed to help Year 14 pupils with the transition from school to higher education – by giving them a taste of what it would

be like to study computing at university.

**Science Shop**

The Science Shop offers all Ulster students an opportunity to undertake a project with a community or voluntary group across Northern Ireland.

In 2013, 160 Ulster students completed 95 projects for Science Shop partner organisations. Science Shop activities covered a wide range of disciplines including architecture, communications, social policy, geography, business and management, law, environmental health and computing.

In one project, which took place in the run-up to Christmas 2013, Claire

Mulrone, community engagement manager who looks after Science Shop projects, and Belfast School of Art academic Louise O'Boyle, secured funds to work with two schools in North Belfast on a Science Shop project entitled 'A Peaceful Christmas'.



In partnership with PIPS Charity, pupils from Little Flower Girls' School and Belfast Boys Model School created designs for Christmas cards suitable for people who had recently been bereaved.

The six winning designs were printed and sold by the schools and the charity to raise much-needed funds.



## Teaching and Learning Excellence

The University's learning and teaching activity embraces not only the fostering of creativity in curriculum design and delivery, but also the recruitment of students, the quality of their educational experience and the provision of career skills that maximise their employability after graduation.

A new Learning and Teaching Strategy was endorsed by the University in 2013, following a six-month engagement process called 'The Big Conversation', which ensured that the views of academic staff, professional support staff, employers and students were reflected in the strategy.

The strategic vision is one of empowering learners to excel in professional life through transformative higher education, and will be realised through three strategic aims:

- to provide appropriate learning opportunities which are flexible, responsive to, and inclusive of the needs of students, the professions, industry and the wider community

- to provide transformative, high quality learning experiences through the promotion of meaningful staff/student partnerships that engender a shared responsibility

- to enhance Ulster's role as a sectoral leader for students' employability as an integral part of the whole student experience.

The strategy had been formulated in the context of a higher education environment experiencing ongoing turbulence and far-reaching, unprecedented change. Its aim is to better position the University to be more resilient and adaptable in this changing learning landscape.

### National Student Survey

The University improved its performance in several survey elements and achieved an overall higher student satisfaction rating of 88%, 3% higher than our benchmark (85%) in the 2013 National Student Survey. This was the ninth year of the survey, which covers all publicly-funded higher education institutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as most of those in Scotland.

These improvements are in line with the focus of the previous Learning and Teaching Strategy, which aimed to achieve and secure continuous improvement in key aspects of provision, including teaching and assessment and feedback. This focus will be maintained



Dr Justin Quinn, Director of the University's new Centre for Renewable Energy Engineering, which launched its first four degree programmes in 2013

in the new Teaching and Learning Strategy, and the National Student Survey results will be an important measure the University will use to gauge its effectiveness.

#### New Programmes

Studying at the University of Ulster remains a very popular choice, with the University remaining in the top 15 UK universities for UCAS applications. Each year, the University receives around 35,000 applications for places on full-time undergraduate degree programmes.

2013 saw four new engineering degrees introduced at the Magee campus. Delivered at the newly-established Centre for Renewable Energy Engineering, the suite of

programmes contains: BEng and MEng in Manufacturing Engineering, and BEng and MEng in Renewables Engineering.

The new developments in engineering at Magee will provide well-qualified graduates who are familiar with the techniques and needs of the engineering industry.

New programmes were also introduced in subjects as varied as computational intelligence, food science and nutrition, business, computing and mathematics, commercial law, physical activity, English literature, sport and exercise medicine, business economics, and in nutraceuticals, functional foods and supplements.

#### Employability and Marketing

Equipping students for future success in their professional careers is a vital part of the University's work. University faculties work closely with the Department of Employability and Marketing on engagement, outreach and employability opportunities such as the Professional Experience Programme, Open Days, and on student marketing campaigns.

Over the year, Employability and Marketing recorded higher levels of student, graduate and employer engagement, combined with increased levels of satisfaction with the services it provides.

Just six months after graduation, over 87% of all Ulster leavers were working, studying or a combination of both.

The University's Department of Employability and Marketing was awarded Matrix accreditation, the UK's quality standard for careers advisory services a prerequisite for membership of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, (AGCAS) the professional body for UK University Careers Services. The Department also received the prestigious AGCAS Employer Engagement Award as recognition of the quality of the successful engagement with employers – a key stakeholder group for the University.

In a new development, the first parents' evening was held at the University, bringing this important stakeholder group on campus to give them insight into life at Ulster, and to see what the University can offer their children – our future students. The event was compered by UTV's Paul Clark.

Over 350 people attended the event at Jordanstown, where they engaged with staff and students, received advice, and were able to tour campus facilities.

#### Giving Ulster Students An EDGE

2013 saw the first Ulster students graduate with a special award that provides official recognition

and evidence of student engagement in activities taken outside their programme of study. Ulster's new EDGE Awards are designed to enhance students' employment prospects though enabling them to engage in a wide range of activities to enhance their career prospects – showing future employers that they are committed to developing their personal skills, giving Ulster graduates an 'EDGE' in their career.



EDGE Award winners Stephen Kells (second left) from Stewartstown and John Paul McCloskey from Craigbane, pictured with Professor Carol Curran, Dean, Faculty of Life and Health Sciences and Dr Sharon Milner, employability development manager (right)



Paul Clark compèring the parents' evening held at the University

#### School and College Engagement

In 2013, there were over 150 engagement visits to schools and colleges across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, reaching out to an estimated 30,000 pupils with information about the University, and encouragement to study at Ulster.

The Employability and Marketing team promoted study opportunities at Ulster at 12 UCAS recruitment fairs in Great Britain. 75,000 potential students attended the events at Birmingham, Bristol, Durham, East Midlands, Exeter, Manchester, Sheffield and Tyneside.

#### Placement Employer of the Year

In May, Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry MLA joined leaders of local and national enterprises on campus at the University's fifth Placement Employer of the Year awards.

The gala event recognised the support and commitment of the many employers who offer high-quality work placements to Ulster students.

Senior officers from the University and leading industry representatives presented awards to winners in the competition, which attracted more than 160 nominations.



# International Affairs

2,500

International students registered for full-time and part-time courses at the University

80

Countries represented spanning North America, the EU, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific

Ulster's world-wide network of educational partnerships continued to grow in 2013, as did the numbers of students embracing the increasing opportunities to spend time abroad as part of their studies. Ulster now has over 2,500 international students registered on full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses. These students come from over 80 countries in the world, spanning North America, the EU, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

### China

During a visit to China in April by a senior management delegation from the University, new partnership agreements were signed between Ulster and five Chinese institutions: East China University of Science & Technology; Liaoning Provincial College of Communications; the University of Electronic Science & Technology of China; Shenyang Ligong University; and Shenyang Jianzhu University.

Later in the year, a partnership agreement was signed with the respected Southwest Jiaotong University to broaden co-operation and intensify collaboration in academic and research-related activities.

This partnership will build close links between Ulster's Artificial Intelligence and Applications Research Group at the Computer Science Research Institute (CSRI) and the Intelligent Control Development Centre (ICDC) in Southwest Jiaotong University.

### Middle East

The University's work in the Middle East intensified in 2013 with the launch of a sports management degree course in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The establishment of a BSc (Hons) Applied Sport Management programme by the University – to be delivered in partnership with the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) in Abu Dhabi – provides a unique

opportunity for young Emiratis to study for roles in the country's future as a world-class sporting destination.

The sports management degree builds on the reputation Ulster has established in the Arabian peninsula through its nursing programmes in Saudi Arabia, and through the work of the Ulster Sports Academy.

In Saudi Arabia, the University's work in delivering nursing education continued into its seventh year. The partnership signed in 2006 with SAAD Nursing and Allied Health Science College trains female nurses to BSc Hons standard, and also offers a Graduate Certificate in Nursing Practice.



Kyaw Thu Hein, from Myanmar, has taken up a prestigious Chevening Scholarship to study for the LLM in Human Rights and Transitional Law at the University's Magee campus

**Internationalisation**

Ulster's current Internationalisation Strategy (2012-2016) has as a strategic priority the growth of outward student mobility – and there are now over 430 Ulster students taking part in a range of outward mobility projects that can take them as far afield as India, China, the USA, as well as to Europe, through initiatives such as the European Commission's ERASMUS programme.

**Brazil**

During the year, the University welcomed 22 students from Brazil as part of the 'Science Without Borders' programme.

'Science Without Borders' is a Brazilian government-funded initiative to encourage their students to study abroad,

and bring their new knowledge back home.

2013 was the second year of the programme, and represented a three-fold increase in the number of Brazilian students taking up study opportunities at Ulster in biomedical sciences, architecture, computing and engineering.

**Africa**

The University's award-winning partnership with international charity Habitat for Humanity continued, with 18 students spending up to a month in Ethiopia, working on the construction of new homes.

**Erasmus**

In 2013, the University secured the renewal of its Erasmus Charter. This is

a prerequisite for continued participation in the new ERASMUS+ programme to facilitate partnership and study opportunities across the whole European higher education community.

Rosin McEvoy, Head of International Student Experience at Ulster, said that the new ERASMUS+ programme offers enormous scope for Ulster students to enhance their education and boost their employability and skills, and for University staff to build transnational partnerships and networks throughout Europe.

**Confucius Institute**

The Confucius Institute at the University evolved further in 2013 as it launched the first eight Confucius Classroom Hubs in Northern Ireland.

Held in Stormont, the launch was attended by five NI Assembly Ministers.

Peter Robinson, First Minister of Northern Ireland welcomed the establishment of the Confucius Classroom Hubs in Northern Ireland and commended the work of both the University of Ulster and the eight schools.

The first eight Confucius Classroom Hub Schools are: Aquinas Grammar School, Belfast; Grosvenor Grammar School, Belfast; Lumen Christi College, Derry~Londonderry; St Columb's College, Derry~Londonderry; Bangor Academy; Millburn Primary School, Coleraine; Downshire School, Carrickfergus; and South West College, Enniskillen/Omagh/ Dungannon.

**Stormont Showcase**

As Northern Ireland was gearing up for the G8 summit in June 2013, a showcase event at Stormont highlighted the work of the University in the field of international development.

Senior politicians, policy makers and representatives of international NGOs were in attendance to see at first hand the depth and scale of the work carried out by the University in this crucially important arena.

The Stormont event, hosted by the University and The Coalition of Aid Development Agencies, focused on best practice projects in the field of international development currently being undertaken in Northern Ireland.

With research and development partnerships in countries and regions across the world including, for example, India, China, Malawi, Uganda, Mozambique, Seychelles and Sri Lanka, the University continues to be at the forefront of building partnerships with academic institutions, businesses and governments around the world.



Ebun Oladele from Nigeria and Shannon Martin from the USA met Ulster's Chancellor, Dr James Nesbitt, at a University reception for international students



A Confucius Institute event at Botanic Primary School, Belfast

# Developing Connections

In today's ever-changing higher education landscape, Ulster refuses to stand still. The University is committed to adapting and evolving to ensure that Ulster plays its part in building a prosperous, inclusive, self-reliant and confident Northern Ireland with much to offer the wider world.



From top: Gavin Campbell; Professor John Hume

### Outstanding Alumni

Over 150,000 people throughout the world are proud to call themselves alumni of the University of Ulster. The network grows annually and is an incredibly rich and vibrant resource. Ulster is very proud of the achievements of its graduates and we know they are making tremendous impact in business and society today.

In 2013, Gavin Campbell, Director of Engineering at Bombardier Aerospace Belfast, received the prestigious First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award. Gavin graduated from Ulster with a BSc Hons Engineering in 1985 and HND Mechanical Engineering in 1983.

This annual award is made to a graduate of the University in recognition of outstanding achievement.

### Scholarships and Awards

The inaugural University of Ulster Scholarships and Awards ceremony was held in December 2013 to present the awards made possible through the generosity of alumni and friends of Ulster as well as donations to the University of Ulster Fund.

The event recognised students from all four campuses. Donors, award recipients, their families and senior University staff attended the ceremony where a range of donor-funded awards and scholarships were presented by the Vice-Chancellor.



Maya Frost

The inaugural Barnett Scholarship in Pharmaceutical Sciences was presented to Maya Frost from Letterkenny Co Donegal. The scholarship, available to students taking the MSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences within the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, was established with a £100,000 gift from Norbrook Laboratories.

The scholarship was named in honour of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, at the personal request of Norbrook Laboratories Chairman and honorary graduate, the late Lord Ballyedmond OBE.

The University of Ulster Fund – previously known as the Alumni Fund – was launched

in 2012 and offers a range of scholarships, bursaries and awards to recognise and reward achievement, promote student innovation and creativity and provide help for students who need additional financial support.

During 2013, the Fund was supported by a range of fundraising initiatives including two student-led telethons and two appeal letters. Over 400 alumni made gifts to the Fund, making it possible for the University to present 25 awards at the ceremony.

### Building Relationships

The partnership between the University of Ulster and Santander Universities UK has become well established since its inception in 2011 and is proving beneficial for many

areas of the institution. In 2013, nine students were recognised for their academic prowess, leadership skills and commitment to career progression as part of the Santander Scholarship programme.

### Honouring the Peacemakers

The University announced its intention to establish the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace in 2012 and has, since then, been working to win support for the Chair and raise the funding required to establish it in perpetuity. We are delighted with the progress made in 2013, which saw the University receive a number of very generous donations to this project.



From top: Professor Paul Muldoon; Sir Gerry Robinson

## ‘The School of Creative Arts and Technologies celebrated 25 years of design at Magee, at its annual End of Year Show’

### Cultural Connections

2013 was the year for the arts. During Derry-Londonderry’s year as the UK’s City of Culture, the University played a significant role in events that took place in the city.

An International Conference on Music, Technology and Disability took place at Magee focusing on the theme ‘Inclusive Creativity’.

The spotlight was on how new digital technologies are being developed and applied to create a level playing field for musicians of all ages with physical disabilities and learning difficulties.

The Media, Communication, and Cultural Studies Association (MeCCSA) annual conference, ‘Spaces and Places of Culture’, was hosted at Magee

by the Centre for Media Research in the University’s School of Media, Film and Journalism. The conference programme included contributions from the world of film and TV studies, media production, journalism, radio, photography, creative writing, publishing, interactive media and the web.

The School of Creative Arts and Technologies celebrated 25 years of design at Magee at its annual End of Year Show. In 2013, for the first time ever, the show was held off-campus in the London Street gallery inside the Walled City.

The University was a major partner in CultureTECH – Northern Ireland’s biggest creative industries event.

Taking place in September 2013, hundreds of students attended the festival as part of their new term inductions. The week-long programme included the International Loebner Prize Contest in Artificial Intelligence and the Belfast Media Festival.

The shared commitment of the Provost of the Coleraine campus and Causeway Coast Arts to supporting the arts and engaging with local communities in the Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Council areas was manifest in the Cultural Crossings programme.

This series of arts and cultural events reflected the musical and cultural influence of emigrants from Ireland and



celebrated traditional music and its connections to cultures around the globe with an eclectic fusion of musical traditions.

### Life Stories

Life Stories in partnership with Danske Bank – a series of interviews with prominent University of Ulster graduates and honorary graduates who have excelled in their chosen sphere – continued to evolve in 2013.

We welcomed: Professor Paul Muldoon, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; Susan Lynch, one of Northern Ireland’s best known actresses; churchman The Rt Rev. the Lord Eames OM and business leader Sir Gerry Robinson, a native of Donegal and one of the UK’s foremost business leaders and analysts.

Life Stories audiences on the Magee, Coleraine and Belfast campuses received a rare opportunity to hear the personal account of the life and achievements of these distinguished alumni. The in-depth interviews, punctuated by examples of their work, explored each guest’s early years, the key landmarks in the development of their career and the highs and lows of their working life, as well as their outlook and plans for the future.

## Sporting Life

During the year, Ulster's sports people won plaudits in sports as diverse as golf, swimming, athletics, football, volleyball, canoeing, rugby and handball. In tandem with sporting endeavour and achievement, Ulster aims to be the leading institution in Ireland for the study of sport and exercise and to use our knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the local, national and international community.

Ulster's sporting prowess and state-of-the-art facilities were on show in 2013 when the University hosted the Collingwood Cup – the oldest all-island senior soccer competition – and the 2013 Irish Universities Cross Country Championships.

### Sporting Talk

In May, the Ulster Sports Academy organised a Sport and Good Relations Conference alongside Omagh District Council. Two Olympic gold medallists, an Irish international rugby player, a GAA All-Star and a leading academic in sport for development took part.

The Sport and Good Relations Conference focused on how sport can be used as a tool to build bridges between communities, while simultaneously improving social engagement, encouraging integration, building trust and promoting diversity.

Guest speakers included Dame Mary Peters, Dr Nigel Carr, Dr Stephen Martin and Peter Canavan.

Ireland's sporting history came under the spotlight at the

ninth Sports History Ireland conference at the Magee campus in July.

International sports analysts and historians from Australia, the Middle East and mainland Europe joined experts from major institutions in the UK and Ireland for the annual event which was held in Northern Ireland for the first time, marking Derry~Londonderry's status as UK City of Culture.

Topics as diverse as Irish sportsmen's contribution to the Spanish Civil War and hare coursing in Victorian Connacht were down for discussion at the lively conference which attracted the largest ever number of delegates.

There was a particular focus on Ulster's rich and unique sporting heritage with contributions from leading scholars in sports history from home and abroad. The keynote address was given by Dr Dónal McAnallen who explored issues surrounding the past and present commemoration of historical events by sports bodies during the present 'decade of centenaries'.

### Sport on Film

The Ulster Sports Academy released a DVD celebrating the power of sport to build peace and inclusion among communities.

The DVD is based on the activities of the North East PEACE III Sport for Peace Building project and highlights a number of good practice activities and events that took place over the preceding 12 months.

The project uses sport as a medium to bring people together to understand each other's cultures and develop relationships. It included a number of workshops, seminars, conferences, residencies and international exchanges and focused on engagement and empowerment to create lasting legacies.

The success of the project has come from the structures created in the planning phase and the close working relationships established with local councils and volunteer groups and clubs to create a long-term sustainable legacy.



Golf swing research in the Sport and Exercise Sciences Research Institute

More than 200 qualified coaches obtained accredited qualifications as part of the project. The programme builds on the University's commitment to the local community and focuses on creating networks between researchers, policy makers and practitioners to share knowledge and build capacity through the power of sport.

The North East PEACE III Sport for Peace Building project is funded under the European Union's PEACE III programme.

**Sporting Connections**

Ulster GAA teamed up with the University in 2013 to unveil a major sponsorship programme for adult students of the Irish language.

The scholarship scheme will run in partnership with the School of Irish Language and Literature and is to be known as Gaeilge sa Chlub ('Irish in the Club').

It aims to promote the use of Irish within clubs throughout Ulster by providing financial assistance to GAA members who sign up for the Diploma in Irish Language course at Ulster.

This two-year (part-time) course is currently available at the Belfast and Magee campuses with University outcentres at Cookstown, Ranafast and Downings.

Students are instructed in listening, speaking, reading and writing and many diploma graduates progress to the degree course in Irish Language and Literature.



Ulster Elks v Donegal Town



Inside the University's sports centre at Jordanstown

**Sport for LIFE**

The Ulster Sports Academy launched the 'Sport for LIFE all-island' project in September 2013, encouraging primary school children to participate in physical activity.

The award-winning venture, run by the Ulster Sports Outreach Unit, will target over 200 schools and 4,000 children in low socio-economic areas across Ireland.

Working in partnership with Dublin City University, University College Cork and the National University of Ireland, Galway, the project will be delivered by trained student volunteers from each university along with primary school teachers.

Sport for LIFE is recognised by both the World Health

Organisation (WHO), for best practice in promoting physical activity to marginalised groups and the Schools for Health in Europe (SHE) network, for promoting physical activity as part of the European Food Framework.

Sport for LIFE and the Sport for LIFE 'Teaching Training Legacy' projects were awarded London 2012 Inspire Awards.

Professor Deirdre Brennan, Sport for LIFE all-island project leader at Ulster, believes that the Sport for LIFE project was successful in significantly increasing vigorous, moderate and light physical activity levels among children living in areas of disadvantage across Northern Ireland.

It was also successful in reducing the sedentary behaviour of children.

University researchers are now in a position to share this best practice programme with other colleagues, so children from across the island of Ireland can benefit.

# People Power

Ulster's people – both internal and external to the University – come from all over the world. While their backgrounds are diverse, they are all bound by a shared passion for enriching the student experience, undertaking world-leading research and contributing to the social, economic and cultural development of Northern Ireland and beyond. The achievements of the wider Ulster community during 2013 are too numerous for this short section, but some of the most notable are highlighted.



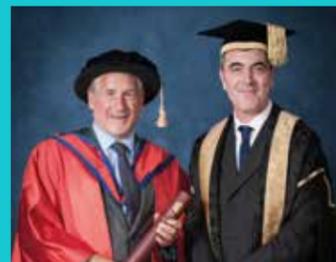
Professor Brandon Hamber



Dr James Uhomobhi



Dr Loretta Brennan Glucksman



Dr Simon Kelner and Dr James Nesbitt



Professor Sean Strain (left) and Dr Mike Johnston



Vincent McCormack, who accepted an honorary doctorate on behalf of his late wife, Dr Inez McCormack

## Ulster's People Power

**Professor Gerard Parr** was appointed to join the Strategic Advisory Team of the UK Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) – a prestigious UK Government Committee which identifies priorities for research and early career science training funding. The Minister for Employment and Learning Dr Stephen Farry MLA appointed **Clare McKeown**, lecturer in building/construction technology, as an educational representative on the Board of CITB – ConstructionSkills NI.

Leading scientist **Professor John Callan** was appointed as the first holder of the prestigious Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science,

establishing the Norbrook Laboratories Professorship within the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Coleraine campus. Educationalist **Professor Rosalind Pritchard** was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy – Ireland's premier learned society, numbering Nobel Prize winners, world-famous scholars and high-ranking politicians amongst its members. Professor Pritchard was honoured for her world-class contribution to the field of education theory.

**Dr David Barr**, Head of the School of Modern Languages, was appointed as one of only seven international experts to sit on the WorldCALL Steering Committee. WorldCALL is the global professional association

for teachers of computer assisted language learning. **Professor John Gillespie**, from the School of Modern Languages was appointed Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) – the first person from Northern Ireland to be awarded the prestigious honour. The HEA is a national, independent organisation which champions excellent teaching and learning in higher education.

## Ulster's Global Impact

**Professor Brandon Hamber**, Director of the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE), was named by Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) as one of the world's most influential people in the reduction of armed violence.



Professor John Callan



Professor Hugh McKenna

Sensor technology innovator **Professor Jim McLaughlin**, who leads Ulster's Connected Health programme, highlighted to a large Silicon Valley audience how healthcare technologies developed at Ulster have inspired a set of globally successful spin-out companies. **Dr James Uhomobhi**, lecturer and e-learning co-ordinator, Faculty of Computing and Engineering, was appointed Visiting Professor of computer science and IT at Igbinedion University in Nigeria.

Education expert **Professor Roger Austin** travelled to New York to attend the US launch of his new book *Online Learning and Community Cohesion: Linking Schools*. Co-authored with Bill Hunter of the University of Ontario

Institute of Technology, the book examines the ways ICT has been used to promote citizenship and community cohesion in projects that link together schools in different parts of the world. The 2013 British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) annual lecture was delivered by **Professor Sean Strain**, Professor of Human Nutrition and Director of the Northern Ireland Centre for Food and Health (NICHE) at Ulster, in the presence of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

**Professor Hugh McKenna** Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) hosted a delegation from the Swedish Research Council interested to see the ground-breaking work carried out by Ulster's pioneering research institutes.

**Professor Derek Jackson** and **Professor Andrew Cooper** received accolades from a leading US geoscience organisation for their research findings. The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)-funded research on the physics of blown sand on beaches was selected as the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) spotlight article.

#### Ulster Welcomes Friends

Ulster hosted a number of esteemed visitors in 2013. In November, the University welcomed **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** to its Jordanstown campus as part of a day-long visit to Northern Ireland.

The Princess Royal's visit marked the 40th anniversary



HRH The Princess Royal



Professor Gerard Parr

of the introduction of occupational therapy education at the University.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland **Theresa Villiers** visited the Belfast campus where she delivered a keynote address on the political and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland and was briefed on the University's plans for an expanded city centre campus.

Acclaimed theatre and film actor **Sir Ian McKellen** delivered the 2013 Chancellor's Lecture, taking the opportunity to call for more work to be done to build gay equality. It was the first time the annual Chancellor's Lecture had been delivered at the University's Magee campus. He also received

an honorary doctorate from the University. Distinguished composer **Brian Irvine**, Professor of Music in the School of Creative Arts at Magee delivered the University of Ulster Convocation Lecture at the Magee campus, illustrated with live musical accompaniment.

**Award Winners**

Ulster lecturer **Dr Sharon Brady** from the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing at Magee, fought off strong competition to win a top award for her research into personality disorders. She won the prize for 'Best Presentation from a Junior Scientist' at the British-Irish Group for the Study of Personality Disorders' Annual Conference. MSc Marketing

course director, **Dr Damian Gallagher** received a Fulbright Northern Ireland Public Sector Scholar 2013/14 Award – one of the most prestigious and selective scholarship programmes operating in the world.

In September, the University launched the NI Centre for Economic Policy (NICEP). Later that year, its inaugural Director, leading economist **Professor Neil Gibson**, was awarded a prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship – the only Northern Ireland person to receive the honour in 2013. Ulster academic **Patrick Richardson**, optometry lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences, won a 'Best in Category' prize at the prestigious Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) £25k

Awards for 'Eye-C-3D', a high resolution camera designed to view the back of the eye in 3D. His invention's novel optical design dramatically reduces manufacturing costs.

**Honouring Excellence**

Our 2013 roll call of 11 eminent figures from the worlds of education, business, science, international affairs and the arts received recognition for their impressive achievements.

Former editor and editor-in-chief of *The Independent* and *The Independent On Sunday*, **Simon Kelner** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for distinguished services to journalism.

Acclaimed movie director and screenwriter, **Terry George** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of his services to Northern Ireland film.

Ambassador **Melanne Verveer**, who delivered a lecture on the Belfast campus in 2012 on the role of women in peace building in Northern Ireland and around the globe, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD).

An honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) was conferred on the chair of The American Ireland Funds, **Loretta Brennan Glucksman** in recognition of her distinguished service to peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

The US-based peace campaigner, **Dr Sally Milbury-Steen** was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) for promoting peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ireland, **The Hon Mrs Justice Susan Denham** received an LLD in recognition of distinguished service to law nationally and internationally.

From the world of business, the Chief Executive of the Dairy Council for Northern Ireland, **Dr Mike Johnston** was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) in recognition of his distinguished work in marketing and for his leadership of the organisation.



Professor Neil Gibson



Dr Terry George



Dr Melanne Verveer

The managing director of the mobile and cloud computing firm Kainos, **Brendan Mooney** and **Joe Sloan**, chairman of the consumer goods distributor the SHS Group, both received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to business development.

**Professor Christopher Hunter**, a Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sheffield received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his distinguished research in molecular recognition. **John Fay**, Director of the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for distinguished services to education related to agriculture, food and rural enterprise.



From top: Professor Linda Clarke (left) with Dr Sally Milbury-Steen; Dr Joe Sloan with Professor Jackie McCoy; Dr Brendan Mooney

From top: Dr Susan Denham; Professor Christopher Hunter; Dr John Fay

Finally, the University community was deeply saddened to lose a number of great colleagues and friends during 2013 – Ulster is diminished by their parting. Among them, we remember **Professor Bob Welch**, (pictured) former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and **Professor Seamus Heaney**, who accepted the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Ulster in 1992. Their abundant knowledge and energy in the service of the University will be greatly missed.



# Governance

## Council Composition:

### Ex-Officio Members

### Pro-Chancellors

Mr G Mallon (Chair)  
Dr J Harbison

### Vice-Chancellor

Professor R R Barnett

### Honorary Treasurer

Ms R Peters-Gallagher

### President of the Students' Union

Miss C Flanagan

### Appointed Members Eight persons not being members of staff or students of the University

Mrs M Clark  
Mr J Hunter  
Mrs R Laird  
Mr A Langan  
Mr L Nellis  
Ms J O'Connor  
Mrs H Quigley  
Dr AM Telford

### Elected Members Two members of Academic Staff

Professor N Black  
Dr B Mason

### One member of Academic-Related Staff

Mr P Quinn

### One member of Non-Academic Staff

Mr B Magee

### Audit Committee Composition:

### Members appointed by the Council

Mr J Hunter (Chair)  
Mr A Langan  
Mr L Nellis  
Mrs H Quigley

### Council Sub-Committee of the Organisational Development Committee 2012-2013

### Nominations Sub- Committee Composition:

### Chairman of Council

Mr G Mallon (Chair)

### Vice-Chancellor

Professor R R Barnett

### Independent members

Ms K Erwin  
Dame G Keegan  
Mr D Licence

### Statement of Primary Responsibilities

The University has also adopted a statement of primary responsibilities which is available for download at: [http://www.ulster.ac.uk/secretary/secretariat/council/statement\\_of\\_primary\\_responsibilities.pdf](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/secretary/secretariat/council/statement_of_primary_responsibilities.pdf)

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This publication is available in alternative formats on request from the Public Relations and Communications Department.

# Ulster in Action





[www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)