

# MMX

ANNUAL REVIEW



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## CHAIR OF COUNCIL'S FOREWORD STRIVING FOR SUCCESS

In writing my introduction for the University's annual review of 2010 I recalled that one of the first conversations I had with the Council of the University, the Vice-Chancellor and others was about our desire to see the University of Ulster develop as an excellent institution, not only in comparison with other higher education institutions but more generally in the world of business, commerce and industry.

That is a challenging aspiration and, I am pleased to say, that the staff and students of Ulster have not only embraced it, but have taken huge strides towards its achievement. Success in the development of innovative new programmes; endorsement from the Quality Assurance Agency for the institution's present and likely future management of the academic standards of the awards it offers as well as the present and likely future management of the quality of the learning opportunities available to students; recognition for our students and academics locally, nationally and internationally: all have gone towards promoting Ulster not only as unique, but also as an institution that values excellence across the broad range of its activities.

That reputation has been enhanced through visits by, among others, the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese; former US President, Dr Bill Clinton; former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Olympic rower Sir Matthew Pinsent, golfer Rory McIlroy; and leading fashion designer Zandra Rhodes. Of course, we also appointed and installed Dr James Nesbitt as Chancellor of the University.

The achievements, successes and broad range of activities of the University are recorded in more detail in this Annual Review and I commend it to you.

Looking forward it would be all too easy, in the face of the economic downturn and the most severe cuts in public expenditure in recent memory, to abandon our aspiration for excellence and to settle for something less. Ulster has developed a clarity of vision over the past few years. Through many discussions with the Vice-Chancellor and senior staff on the development of the new Corporate Plan, the Council is of the view that the University is best placed to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the current economic climate. To achieve the ambitious objectives that will be set out in that plan we will need to become increasingly innovative, increasingly flexible and increasingly less reliant on public funding. My Council colleagues and I are focused on continued success for Ulster and look forward to working with you – our stakeholders in Northern Ireland and beyond – to bring that about.



*Gerry Mallon*

Gerry Mallon  
Chair of Council

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD**  
**CHANGING TIMES**

Welcome to our Annual Review for 2010 which, once again, illustrates a successful and busy year for the University of Ulster.

There have been many highlights during the 12 months, from high-profile visits to each of our campuses to the highly successful outcome in our most recent audit by the sector's auditory body, the Quality Assurance Agency, for our teaching and learning provision. Our research and innovation activities continue to attract significant funding and have an impact on society, while our plans for development and growth have taken shape and made progress both in Greater Belfast and the North West.

It has, however, also been a year of change in higher education and many of you will undoubtedly have been keeping abreast with governmental decisions and the reaction of students and their universities to the changes that are on the way. Many of you reading this publication will, like myself, have attended university when there was substantial government support. Today, such support is much more limited and student fees are most certainly set to increase in the next 12 months.

Here at Ulster, though, we are keen to ensure that ability to learn, rather than ability to pay, remains the basis on which students choose to come to this University – from wherever they live in the world. So now, more than ever, it is important to us to deliver the best products and services – as well as supporting our students in every way possible through the provision of first-class learning facilities, which can make higher education truly accessible for all who can benefit from it.

It is support and enthusiasm from you, our community of supporters and friends, that has such an impact on the students of today. We want to ensure they have the best possible experience, but these are difficult times and we need more help. Throughout this publication you will find various examples which illustrate where contributions from donors, sponsors and supporters have made a difference and enabled us to provide our students and the wider community with opportunities which make a significant difference in transforming their lives.

I hope that these case studies inspire you to become a University of Ulster supporter and can assure you that we value all forms of support such as the giving of your time, your expertise and regular donations.



And, if you are already a supporter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and hope that you will continue to be part of the Ulster family during the months and years ahead.

As always, the significant achievements reported here are a result of the dedicated work of our staff, the leadership provided by the Council, and the support of the University of Ulster Foundation. I'm delighted to take this opportunity to thank them all.

Professor Richard Barnett  
 Vice-Chancellor



### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Long recognised and lauded for the quality of our teaching and learning, coupled with an emphasis on our graduates leaving us as highly employable, 2010 saw a number of new initiatives and partnerships come to fruition in the areas of teaching and learning which are testament to our increasingly global reputation.

#### QUALITY ASSURED

In March, the University received an institutional audit visit by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

The outcomes of the audit showed that the QAA is confident in the soundness of the University's present and likely future management of both the academic standards of our awards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students.

Overall there were many positive findings in the report, and we were particularly pleased by the recognition given to our commitment to the economic, cultural and social development of the region which is reflected in our strategic priorities and the actions taken to realise these. These include our widening access policy, our network of partner institutions throughout Northern Ireland and the high percentage of our programmes which have an integrated work-based component.

The University was also gratified by the audit team's commendation of our approach to the development and implementation of new institutional strategies with their emphasis on consultation, pilot activity and evaluation in order to secure robust processes and the necessary consensus to achieve and sustain effective change.

This was an excellent outcome for the University and a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of our staff.

#### A FIRST IN PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION

The first cohort of trainee solicitors graduated from Ulster's Graduate School of Professional Legal Education with a PG Dip in Legal Practice at the Magee campus in summer 2010.

The group of 30 graduates studied at the School which was officially opened in 2009 by the then Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland, Sir Brian Kerr. Its launch marked a major development in professional legal education as it is the sole such provider in the North West, and only the second in Northern Ireland.

Paul Mageean, Director of the Graduate School of Professional Legal Education, said: "We were delighted to celebrate our first cohort of trainees successfully completing the course, making their graduation day an important one in the history of Magee and professional legal education in Northern Ireland."

The School provides full-time training to those wishing to qualify as solicitors. Trainees must be law graduates and have apprenticeship places in solicitors' practices. The course has received strong support from the judiciary, law firms and agencies such as the PSNI and the Court Service, which have hosted study visits.



### NEW COURSES AND DEVELOPMENTS

On a regular basis we look at the courses we offer to ensure that they are responding to demand from potential students and, equally importantly, to the needs of employers and industry in Northern Ireland and beyond.

A number of new undergraduate courses were introduced in 2010 and included MEng Engineering Management; MSci Transport Planning; BSc Hons Creative Computing; BSc Hons Information & Communication Technologies; BSc Hons Accounting & Managerial Finance; BSc Hons Accounting and Law; BSc Hons Creative Enterprise; and BSc Hons Health Physiology.

The BSc Hons Accounting and Managerial Finance is an innovative new degree that gives graduates a vital first step to careers as qualified accountants, with specialist expertise in managerial finance.

Accountancy governing body, Chartered Accountants Ireland, has signalled its support for the full-time course which combines accounting and managerial finance and started in September 2010.

Based at our Magee campus, the programme in the North West marks a major expansion of professional and business education provision in the area and is expected to boost prospects for business development in the North West.

Professor Dolores O'Reilly, Ulster Business School, said "At present we are in the process of seeking professional recognition from Chartered Accountants Ireland. This will mean that for the first time the North West will have an accounting programme that is recognised by the profession. That means it will combine academic and professional accreditation, giving successful students a head start in a variety of financial services careers."

### TRAINING IN THE CITI

Members of the financial team from the University's Department of Business, Retail and Financial Services developed and delivered bespoke training in-house for Citi Group – one of the world's leading financial services institutions – based in Belfast's Titanic Quarter during the year.

The aim of the programme was to upskill staff in the Group's global securities division as part of their professional development in obtaining a Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment benchmark qualification.

Professor Philip Hamill said: "Delivery of this programme further builds the excellent relationship we have with Citi Group, and reflects our flexible and strategic approach to meeting the needs of the financial industry. I am also delighted to say that we will continue to deliver this training in 2011."

### ENSURING EMPLOYABILITY

The second Ulster Placement Employer of the Year event took place in April with employers in both the public and private sectors, as well as Ulster students and staff, nominating placement partners who provided exemplary student experience in the previous 12 months.

More than 100 guests heard senior University academics praise the important role of work experience in students' professional careers and personal growth.

Winners of the six categories were: IBM UK Ltd, Parker Green International, Department of Radiology – Causeway Hospital, Partnership Care West, Northgate Information Solutions and Translink.

Lynda Shannon, Communications Manager at Translink, was presented with the Placement Employer of the Year Award as nominated by an Ulster staff member.

She said: "It's wonderful to be recognised in this way and especially as we were nominated by one of the University's academics.

"We have been taking placement students for the past 10 years – it's really nice to be making a difference to young people and hopefully helping them at the beginning of their careers."

Professor Denise McAlister CBE, University Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and Chair of the 2010 judging panel, said: "I am delighted once again at the breadth of the diversity of the organisations and sectors represented in the competition.

“Notwithstanding the difficult challenges facing employers in the current economic climate, it is encouraging to note that they continue to see the benefits of planning for, and investing in, the skills and knowledge needed for future growth and prosperity.”

#### **MIND THE GAP**

Northern Ireland graduates can now benefit from a unique initiative offering them a work placement alongside further study – all in aid of securing long term employment.

The Graduate Acceleration Programme (GAP), developed by Business in the Community in partnership with the University of Ulster and QUB, was launched in early 2010. The programme involves a work placement, lasting up to 26 weeks, in which graduates complete a project or piece of work, while studying for one of two specially developed qualifications: the Graduate Certificate in Professional Practice with the University of Ulster, or the Graduate Certificate in Organisation and Management with QUB.

Professor Denise McAlister CBE said: “The scheme gives graduates the opportunity to gain meaningful work experience and a valuable qualification at a time when they may otherwise be struggling to gain employment. It is also an excellent example of Ulster’s commitment to partnership working.”

Funded by the Department for Employment and Learning under its Steps to Work programme, government, the universities, and many businesses have come together with a common goal of helping unemployed graduates affected by the recession.

Figures announced in December 2010 showed that during the year 145 graduates had been placed within organisations across Northern Ireland and that, on average, 45% of them gained employment through their 26-week placement.

#### **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Teaching and learning opportunities at Ulster are not confined to Northern Ireland and, as well as solely online courses which are accessible to anyone with access to the internet anywhere in the world, we also provide education and training in other countries.

This activity is carried out by academic staff and facilitated by Ulster Educational Partnerships Ltd (UEP) – previously known as UU Health Ltd. A wholly owned subsidiary company of the University, UEP was established to develop, secure and manage education and training contracts across all academic disciplines.

The company has extensive experience of working with international partners, such as delivering nurse education in Saudi Arabia, meeting their educational needs and delivering programmes – including professional development – within the client’s home country.

#### **NORTH AMERICAN HUB**

As part of our development plans in the North West, Magee campus is set to be the focus of our links with the USA – our North American hub – and significant strides have been taken towards achieving this in the last 12 months.

In June we announced a new link with the prestigious Fulbright Commission, the USA’s premier scholarship institution. The Magee campus will be the location for a Fulbright Distinguished Chair – one of only four UK institutions to receive this accolade.

Set to begin in September 2011 in American Studies, it is planned that the Chair will be occupied by a distinguished US citizen who will make a vibrant contribution to the University’s teaching and research at Magee, and to the life of the wider community in Derry.

Two new courses planned for Magee will also attract transatlantic interest – an online Masters in Irish and Scottish Studies in collaboration with the Universities of Strathclyde, Guelph and St Thomas, New Brunswick, Canada; and new programmes in Irish Studies aimed at exchange students and the wider public.

The announcement of the Fulbright award during the summer also coincided with a visit to Magee by officials from Westfield State College, USA to look at setting up links with Ulster as two institutions which offer similar courses and share an emphasis on international partnerships.



## REVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH

From predicting the force of a tsunami to influencing policy on the wellbeing of children and young people, our research programme is having a real impact on the world and its inhabitants.

During the 2009/10 academic year, research at Ulster generated over £12.5 million for the Northern Ireland economy – with £3.1 million of that funding coming from the UK Research Councils.

Awards were made to each of our six faculties and across all four campuses, highlighting research excellence throughout the University, with major awards funding research into medical technology, computer networking, the built environment, social science and human rights.

Our research activities continue to focus on specific areas of excellence, structured around our 16 Research Institutes, and during 2010 there were many projects which came to fruition. Here we take a brief look at just six areas of work – one from each of our faculties – which reflect our regional, national and international reach.

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Helen Jackson, researcher in the Faculty of Arts, has been undertaking a project to investigate how locational technologies may offer new possibilities to articulate the urban landscape where time has eroded the material representations used to construct social histories and memories.

Using today's networked mobile technologies, Helen has created a browser for the iPhone that augments historical photographic archives of the Titanic Quarter in Belfast, with the real scene. The project aims to investigate whether these

technologies have the ability to draw on the physical and cultural uniqueness of the 'here and now' of a specific location and align these with virtual geometric spaces to create a new relationship between temporal and spatial perception.

The project was funded by the University's Proof of Principle Award, and developed in conjunction with the Belfast-based mobile applications development company, Paperbag Limited. During the development of the project, Helen had the opportunity to meet with Apple's European Development representative to discuss its design and application, and the project was also highlighted at the Learning with Apple conference in Dundalk in September 2010. It was also showcased at the Emerging Landscapes Conference at the University of Westminster in June 2010, and selected for demonstration at SHOWCASE (a conference designed as a platform innovation in the fields of cloud, mobile and web applications), at the Magee campus in September 2010.

### BURNING AMBITION

As part of an ongoing €1.6 million project supported by the European Research Fund for Coal and Steel, experts from the Institute of Fire Safety Engineering Research Technology (FireSERT) organised an experiment to demonstrate how steel beams in modern office buildings react in a burning inferno. The experiment – the first fire test of its kind anywhere in the world – was observed by a global audience of construction professionals.



On fire: A FireSERT experiment in action

The growing popularity of the use of cellular steel beams in composite floors comes at the same time as increasing attention to fire safety engineering design. Findings from the FireSERT research will help develop uniform European design rules in the construction industry. The research project, which has enabled FireSERT scientists to realistically model fires, will have widespread application in everyday life. The knowledge will help construction professionals – from the architect to the engineer – to safely utilise new building methods and products and employ the most economical fire protection and prevention techniques to ensure the minimum harm to people; little or no damage to buildings; and enable companies to commercially survive fires.

#### **SMARTER LIVING**

Research in the area of assisted living within smart environments continues to be one of the key themes of the Computer Science Research Institute.

Efforts within this domain aim to address some of the problems associated with global ageing. To support this work at Ulster, a number of laboratories have been refurbished to create a suite of smart environments. A smart kitchen and smart living room enable research into the area of assistive technologies and activity recognition. In addition, a newly refurbished robotics laboratory is being used to investigate the development of autonomous robotics which could be used within home-based settings.

To ascertain the impact of this work, researchers are engaging with end users to consider their views on developed solutions and to incorporate their unmet needs into future iterations. Ongoing user evaluations with mobile phone-based reminder systems for those with dementia are helping to define a technology roadmap for next generation cognitive prosthetics. Collaborations with user groups with long-term conditions of chronic pain, stroke and chronic heart failure are assisting in the development of home-based technologies for self monitoring and self management of health and wellbeing. Collaborations with user groups are also supporting the development of intelligent garments to promote the paradigm of active ageing.

#### **MOVERS AND SHAKERS**

The Geophysics Research Group (GRP) within the Environmental Sciences Research Institute undertakes research into processes in the shallow crust of the earth. In particular, it focuses on understanding the science of earthquakes, where and why they start and stop and what controls their timing and size.

Professors John McCloskey and Sandy Stacey, with their colleagues in the GRP, have been pioneers in earthquake research with a particular focus of their work concentrating on the identification of regions most susceptible to earthquakes. In 2005, the team forecast the large quake which occurred off north western Sumatra, 10 days before it struck.

The GRP is continuing to work towards the effective deployment of earthquake science for the benefit of the poor in developing countries who often benefit least from earthquake science. These are the people who are most likely to die in big earthquakes, but they are also the ones who benefit least from earthquake science. The Group is engaging with a wide range of NGO's such as Concern Worldwide, Save the Children and a network of 32 NGO's in South East Asia where the threat from big earthquakes is very high, to change this balance.

As long as a magnitude 7.0M<sub>w</sub> earthquake kills 230,000 in Haiti but only 50 in California, the GRP still has work to do to equalise the scales in favour of the poor.

#### LET'S TALK

Sorry really is the hardest word when it comes to Britain's banking bosses taking responsibility for their part in the economic downturn, according to Ulster researchers in communication.

Recent research incorporated an analysis of the public testimony of four CEOs – Sir Tom McKillop, former chairman of RBS Group plc; Sir Fred Goodwin, former chief executive of RBS Group plc; Lord Stevenson, former chairman of HBOS plc; and Andy Hornby, former chief executive of HBOS plc. The outcomes of the research offered interesting insights into both the nature of public apology and the link between apology and acceptance of blame/responsibility.

The research revealed that the banking bosses employed a range of strategies, including the use of excuses to suggest that impersonal forces over which no-one had any control, were at work. The perceived identity of the bankers as ethical, competent and just individuals was at risk, resulting in the construction of narrative accounts by them for failure, which stressed the importance of external factors and de-emphasised the role of individual decision making in crucial situations.

The study examined naturally occurring CEO talk in a social context in which the CEOs themselves, their politician interrogators, the media reporting the event and the wider public all had powerful and conflicting agendas. The findings of the research were published in the major US management journal, *Organization*.

#### RURAL REGENERATION

Since 2008, the Business and Management Research Institute has been awarded £3.5m to fund a number of projects in the areas of retailing, environmental management, innovation and business improvement.

In Northern Ireland, almost 40% of businesses in the retail sector are located in rural areas. Independent rural retailers have long faced a battle against out-of-town supermarket giants, with varying levels of success. Many have been forced into closure, leaving a gap in their community, while others continue to prosper in spite of the competition.

In addition to the adverse affects of the recession, the social and cultural repercussions of this significant decline call for immediate action to secure the economic prosperity of the sector. Professor Barry Quinn and Dr Karise Hutchinson are collaborating with key institutions across Europe to help rural retailers grow their businesses in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

The first phase of their research identified the challenges facing rural businesses, including a lack of finance; limited vision and capacity for change by owner-managers; and the inability to compete with large-scale retail developments in town and city centres.

Through the project, workshops and mentoring support will be delivered, to help owner-managers improve service quality, develop new business opportunities, and meet the needs of local consumers in their community.



Get smart: Developing the technology in Ulster's smart living room





Award-winning: LenisAer's Edel O'Neill and Alan Leacock (right) with Liam Nellis, Chief Executive of InterTradelreland

## ENTERPRISING INNOVATION

2010 was another very successful year for innovation at Ulster, with an unprecedented number of accolades and awards received by the companies and projects that the Office of Innovation supported – and in many cases helped establish – throughout the year.

### RECORD ANGEL INVESTMENT

During 2010 Sophia Search, a University spinout company, closed one of the largest-ever angel investments in a Northern Ireland company raising a seven-figure sum in US dollars. On the back of this investment, Chris Horn (co-founder of Iona Technologies) who was one of the private individuals who took part in the round, was appointed as the company's chairperson.

Dr David Patterson, co-founder and chief executive of Sophia, said Mr Horn's knowledge of, and contacts in, the US market would be invaluable to the start-up which has developed a set of search tools to find documents within organisations.

Dr Patterson began researching this subject in 2004, when he was director of an artificial intelligence research and technology transfer centre at Ulster which focused on data mining, machine learning and information retrieval. He collaborated with Dr Vladimir Dobrynin at St Petersburg State University and the two men subsequently founded Sophia which was then spun out with funding from the University of Ulster and Invest NI. Within months it won the £25K award for start-ups and, in November 2009, won InterTradelreland's Seedcorn competition for high-growth firms.

### SILICON VALLEY ACCOLADE FOR ULSTER SPIN-IN

In March, Ulster 'spin-in' company SiSaf scooped a top innovation award in Silicon Valley, USA. The Belfast-based medical technology firm collected one of the two major prizes

at the Irish Technology Leadership Group's (ITLG) annual awards ceremony for development of an innovative drug-delivery system.

SiSaf was founded in 2006 by Professor Suzanne Saffie-Siebert, a visiting professor at the University, who is the company's CEO. She said: "This is a blue-chip accolade from world-class business leaders. It is an international acknowledgement of the huge potential of our technology – and a credit to the support from Innovation Ulster Ltd and the University, who have been instrumental in SiSaf's success."

The ITLG is an independent organisation comprising high – level technology leaders in Silicon Valley who are Irish or Irish – American. It includes senior executives from some of the Valley's leading corporations whose aim is help Ireland address the challenges of embracing new technology opportunities.

### CELEBRATING INNOVATION

Three University of Ulster innovation teams had cause for celebration in 2010 after their projects won awards at the Northern Ireland Science Park (NISIP) CONNECT £25K Awards Gala.

Winner of the main prize of £10,000 was LenisAer, whose innovative business concept focuses on the construction of improved fuel-efficient, emission-reducing engine nacelles for the aerospace industry. The LenisAer team also won in the Clean Technology category of the awards.

Winners: The *Dipsticks* team

Jellyflug bacteria



US accolade: Prof Suzanne Saffie-Siebert with Arnold Schwarzenegger

LenisAer's Dr Alan Leacock said: "Getting to this point has been really difficult: and I don't doubt that things are going to be more difficult in the future – but this award really gives us the motivation to continue with what we are doing."

The Biotech category winner was SmartAIR Medical, who developed a drug dosage monitor device, SmartAIR DDM that will improve the patient's inhalation technique, ensuring optimal deposition of drugs within their lungs. Their technology will also help medical professionals to ensure that patients are taking their medicines correctly.

In the Digital Media and Software Category, the winners were the team behind Jellyflug, who have developed an interactive game for Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch based on the microscopic world of bacteria. The Jellyflug game is a means to explain and project the life of microscopic creatures within the kitchen environment and how they affect our lives.

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

A new product that can identify whether a drink has been spiked enabled an Ulster student team to lift Ireland's prestigious 'College Entrepreneur of the Year 2010' award.

The *Dipsticks* project was awarded top prize of €10,000 at the Enterprise Ireland Student Enterprise Awards. The University was represented by Philip Anderson, Clare McCollum, Gordon Baird, Gareth Shappard and Judith McNally. *Dipsticks* consists of a strip of paper impregnated with chemical reagents, which give a visual indication of the presence of drugs in the liquid being tested.

In addition, the 'Most Technologically Innovative Idea Award' of €7,500 (plus €20,000 worth of consultancy) went to *Ecotent* – also an Ulster project. An innovation from students Houston Reid, Stephen Cladwell, Terri O'Kane and Jonathan Garland – the two-man tent is constructed completely of 100% biodegradable materials which will solve the problem of clean-up operations after music festivals.

The student teams were mentored by Ulster Business School staff Fred Scharf and Chris McLean in the run-up to the competition through their New Venture Creation module in the Ulster Business School – and they will now benefit from

an Enterprise Ireland mentor/business coach to develop the commercial viability of their overall concept.

On the night of the ceremony, Fred Scharf also shared a prize worth €4000 in recognition of the academic institution with the highest quality projects overall.

### C-TRIC DOES THE TRICK

Ulster expertise took centre stage in Dublin in March when pioneering research and development business projects were showcased at the inaugural *Irish Times' Innovation awards*.

The Altnagelvin-based project C-TRIC took the top prize for a cross-border innovation project, while Clinical Conduct Associates – a Fusion project – was runner-up in the same category at the prize-giving held at the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

C-TRIC (Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre) was developed as a joint partnership between the University of Ulster, the Western Health and Social Care Trust (Western Trust) and Derry City Council – with funding for the project provided by ILEX urban regeneration company and Invest Northern Ireland.

### US CONNECTIONS

Innovation Ulster Ltd participated in the US-NI Economic conference, hosted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and chaired by US Economic Envoy Declan Kelly, held in October in Washington DC.

The one-day conference brought together business and government leaders from both countries to discuss investment strategy and economic development issues surrounding international expansion.

The Northern Irish delegation included First Minister Peter Robinson, deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster and then Employment and Learning Minister, Lord Empey of Shandon.

Tim Brundle, Director of Innovation Ulster, attended the conference to promote the University's impressive track-record in innovation both here in Northern Ireland and beyond, and to build relationships with potential new partner organisations on both sides of the Atlantic going forward.



Belfast



Jordanstown



Coleraine



Magee

## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

In February 2009, Ulster announced ambitious plans for a new city-centre campus in Belfast and the expansion of the Magee campus in Londonderry.

### GREATER BELFAST

The Greater Belfast plan will see the bulk of activity in Jordanstown transfer to a new campus constructed around our existing site in York Street. By creating a much larger campus in Belfast, Ulster will be positioned as a key player in the regeneration of the city.

With planners hoping to revitalise the northern end of the city centre with a vibrant Cathedral Quarter and Library Quarter, the prospect of a bustling university with its traffic of full and part-time students and staff throughout the day has generated much excitement. By 2018 we will have over 15,000 students and staff studying and working in the new campus.

Our plans also offer Belfast and the Northern Ireland Executive a fresh opportunity to think how they can reconnect communities in the north, west and east area with the city centre and improve the quality of life in those neighbourhoods – especially in terms of opening up educational pathways.

While our primary goal has been ensuring the delivery of the new campus, it is clear that to achieve it will require the support and confidence of community groups, business leaders and politicians.

Back in March, the University was a sponsor of the City of the Quarters conference taking place in the Cultúrlann on the Falls Road and the Harbour Commission offices in Belfast. It brought together community and business leaders, architects, politicians and civil servants to reimagine Belfast, drawing on lessons from cities like Barcelona and Galway. The conference was

addressed by the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Alastair Adair who briefed delegates on the University's plans.

It was at this conference that Lord Empey of Shandon confirmed that his Department and the Department of Finance and Personnel had approved the University's business case for the Belfast campus and he committed £16 million of DEL funding towards the project.

### TAKING SHAPE

Following a Europe-wide tendering process which took place in 2010, the internationally-renowned Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCB Studios) has been appointed as project lead architects for our Greater Belfast Development.

The project will bring together a team led by FCB Studios and include award-winning Northern Ireland architectural practices McAdam Design and Mott MacDonald to create a world-class urban campus.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "I am delighted that the University is able to bring such a distinguished international architectural consultancy team to the city to work with us in developing our vision for a modern, vibrant and accessible city-centre campus. I am also delighted that two Northern Ireland practices, McAdam Design and Mott MacDonald, will also be part of the design team and hence, through this consultancy, money will be put back into the Northern Ireland economy at this difficult time for the construction sector.



“Through this 21st century campus development we will be providing world-class facilities and widening access opportunities for education. At the same time, the University is making a major contribution to the economic, social and cultural regeneration of the city’s north side, including the Cathedral Quarter – injecting vitality, energy and creativity into the once run-down 18th century heart of the city.

“The plan will help transform the Cathedral Quarter and surrounding areas into a dynamic educational, cultural and creative destination and the appointment of the design team is a significant step forward in the realisation of this vision.”

The next stage of the project will see the FCB-led team working with the University to develop detailed proposals which are scheduled to be submitted for planning approval in late 2011/early 2012.

#### **NORTH WEST**

Northern Ireland has the lowest number of university places per head of population of all the UK regions. Under-provision is at its highest in the North West, and the University continues to make the case for increased provision at Magee.

We have been engaged in an intensive lobbying campaign in this regard – holding meetings with elected politicians and ministers, as well as engaging with community and business leaders, to mobilise support for our plans.

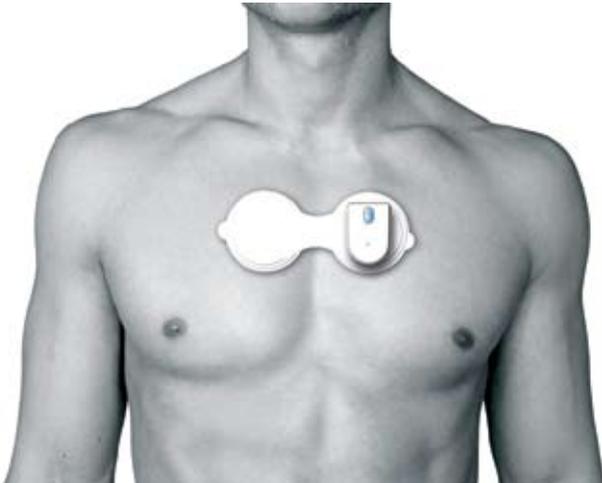
This culminated in an unprecedented statement in November 2010 by the six Foyle MLAs in support of the current Magee expansion bid which has been circulated to all Stormont Ministers in the run-up to the Executive’s decision on its budget priorities for the next four years.

In line with one of the aims set out in our Corporate Plan, we are seeking to increase our current student body of approximately 4,000 to between 5,500 and 6,000 –

this equates to 1,000 additional full-time undergraduate STEM students, plus another 1,000 part-time students. In 2009, the University signed an agreement with Foyle and Londonderry College which would give Ulster the exclusive option to purchase college lands when it relocates – meaning that we are well placed to expand our physical presence in Derry once our plans are approved.

In Coleraine, our focus is on consolidation of student numbers. Currently we have 5,500 students studying on this campus and plan to maintain student numbers at this level at least. As a forward-looking university, however, we are always considering how we best meet student needs and demands in the future so we are considering options at Coleraine which include the possible migration of our main teaching and learning activities from their current location in south building (which is reaching the end of its economic life) towards the central teaching and administrative blocks.

THE YEAR  
IN PICTURES



JANUARY

**Going Global:** Intelesens – a University spinout company – received CE regulatory approval for its life-saving wireless health monitor product, Vitalsens



FEBRUARY

**A Grand Day Out:** Jan Sanger – world-renowned animation designer and model maker – revealed the secrets of how the Oscar-winning duo, Wallace and Gromit, were brought to life. In the first of two visits to Belfast campus in 2010, she delivered a public presentation and ran a hands-on workshop for 12 – 18 year olds. Participants were lucky enough to meet the original Wallace and Gromit models



MAY

**Good Sports:** Belfast-based management development and events company Podiem, teamed up with the Ulster Business School and Ulster Sports Academy to launch 'Raise your Game' – a unique series of business and management conferences, aimed at showing business leaders how lessons learned from sport can be applied to commerce



JUNE

**Gold Feat:** Dr James Nesbitt was installed as Chancellor of the University at a special event in the Riverside Theatre, Coleraine campus



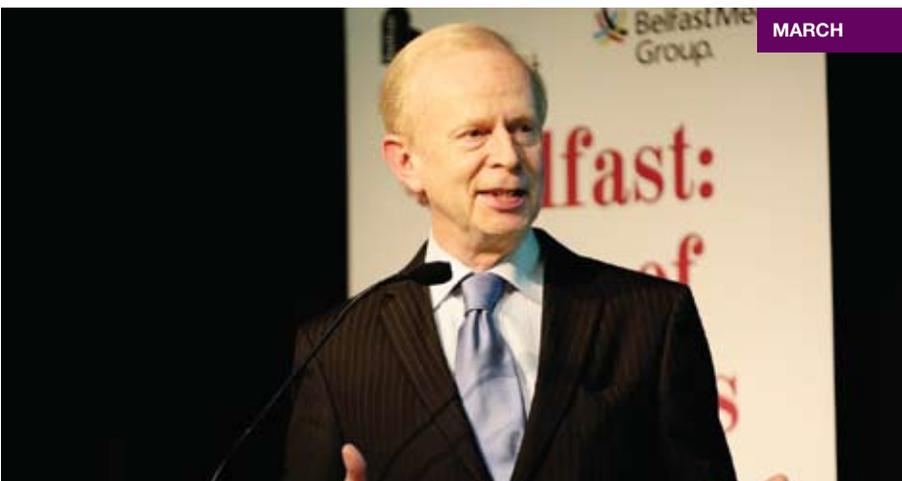
SEPTEMBER

**In safe hands:** Former US president, Bill Clinton, delivered a message of hope for Northern Ireland during a keynote address at the Magee campus



OCTOBER

**Double celebration:** The Integrated Masters in Planning and Property Development (launched in 2008) received dual accreditation from the industry's most prestigious bodies - the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)



**Financial commitment:** At the City of the Quarters conference, Lord Empey of Shandon announced a £16 million pledge from DEL to our Belfast campus redevelopment

**Looking forward:** Irish President, Mary McAleese, visited the Belfast campus to deliver the fourth annual Chancellor's Lecture. Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed her on arrival



**Step-Up to the plate:** Celebrity Chef Danny Millar was chief judge at a Step-Up product, design and development competition. Sixteen teams of Year 10 pupils from schools in Belfast and Londonderry battled their way through to the final, having produced healthy and innovative recipes at the earlier stages of the competition



**Raising awareness:** Six students saw their creative advertising ideas hit the streets of Northern Ireland when they won a competition (run by the University and the Publicity Association of Northern Ireland) to develop an advertising campaign under the guidance of a local agency. The campaign led to a 30% increase in enquiries to Action Cancer



**On Song:** Paul Brady took lifetime fans on a journey through his successes, stresses and stimuli in music in the first of *Life Stories*, a series of public conversations with distinguished alumni at the Magee campus



**Getting personal:** The University's Biomedical Sciences Research Institute and Randox laboratories signed a formal research agreement aimed at developing personalised tests for breast cancer. Dr Olaf Sunnotel has been appointed to the first Randox Fellowship in Personalised Medicine



Sparkling the Imagination



Science Shop Award winners



Getting Sporty

## ACCESS ALL AREAS

Widening access to higher education has been a core activity at Ulster for many years – and 2010 continued this tradition in many areas, both in and out of the classroom.

Here we take a brief look at just some of the events which saw us open our doors to the wider communities in which we are located, for the mutual benefit of all.

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CHEMISTRY

Pupils from 29 schools throughout Northern Ireland enjoyed a fun-packed day of chemistry at the tenth *Salters' Festival of Chemistry*. The largest festival of its kind in the UK is organised by the University's Department of Access and Educational partnerships, and run in association with the Salters' Institute and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Amongst a day full of activities, the teams took part in a competitive, hands-on, practical activity, *The Mysterious Death of Captain Salter* in which pupils used their analytical chemistry skills to identify the guilty party from evidence gathered at the scene of the 'crime'.

### ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES

Since last September, hundreds of pupils from five primary and five post-primary schools in Northern Ireland have worked in close collaboration with 10 partner schools across the border as part of the successful *Dissolving Boundaries* programme, spearheaded by Ulster's School of Education and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth to facilitate cross-cultural educational linkages between the participating schools.

Now in its tenth year, the current phase of *Dissolving Boundaries* – jointly funded by the Departments of Education in Belfast and Dublin – used ICT to encourage enterprise and create mutual understanding through collaborative curricular work using both virtual and real contact between the pupils north and south of the border.

### SPORT FOR LIFE

The year got off to a great start in the School of Sports Studies' Outreach Unit with the launch of *Sport for LIFE*, a project encouraging primary school pupils to participate in physical activity.

The innovative venture – funded to the tune of \$330,000 by the Coca Cola Foundation – involves outreach officers drawn from Sports Studies students working in partnership with primary teachers to deliver a 12-week programme educating primary 5 pupils on the health benefits of physical activity.

The project has already achieved the highest accolade with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games awarding the *Inspire* mark to the programme. This makes *Sport for LIFE* one of only three sports programmes in Northern Ireland to achieve the award and Ulster one of only seven UK universities with the status.

Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, said: "The *Inspire* programme is ensuring the legacy of the 2012 Games starts now as projects like *Sport for LIFE* are enabling people in Northern Ireland to make positive life changes."

### SUMMER SPORTS – WITH A DIFFERENCE

A unique summer sports camp offered by Faculty of Computing and Engineering and the Ulster Sports Academy gave young people a unique opportunity to blend sport and technology. The camp combined multi-sport activities with courses in mechanical technology and computing.



Launching Sport for LIFE



Budding chemists: Pupils from Christian Brothers' School, Belfast

Professor Gerry McAllister said: “The blend of academic and sporting activities gives participants a unique opportunity to get a realistic experience of university life and opens up doors to young people through exposure to academic and sporting development.

“The mechanical technology aspect of the scheme offers an opportunity to work alongside the Student Formula Car Team to design, build and race a solar powered racing car, while the computing feature guides the teenagers on designing their very own interactive website using industry-standard tools and interactive technologies.”

#### **NO STING IN THIS TALE**

Primary 6 and 7 groups in the North West received practical experience in business and technology in an initiative that also gave them a first taste of higher education.

The Widening Access in Primary Schools (WASPS) project is the brainchild of the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems at Magee and is funded by the University’s Access Agreement.

Dr Sandra Moffett, Lecturer in Computer Science, said: “The WASPS initiative is focused on providing a series of ‘hands-on’ practical workshops to encourage Primary 6/7 children to enhance their creative and business skills using technology.”

#### **RISING TO THE CHALLENGE**

Ulster students who engaged in a unique Science Shop project were recognised for their achievement at a special ceremony at the Coleraine campus in May.

The Ulster Science Shop is an innovative community outreach initiative which pairs skilled students with community groups in need of specific knowledge and expertise. The team of second year Hospitality and Tourism Management students undertook the task of helping to plan and manage a conference in partnership with the Coleraine and District Samaritans as part of a Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions module.

The annual Science Shop Awards also recognised a collaborative project when Interactive Media Arts students, Michael Harvey, Maria Breen and Neil Devlin won top prize of £650. In association with the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

(BVCB), the team produced a portfolio of photographs, merchandise and an interactive map offering a modern perspective of Belfast’s iconic landmarks, old and new.

Joe Hughes of the BVCB said: “The final presentation of the students’ work was totally beyond our expectations: the quality of the photography was worthy of the best agency in Belfast or London. The imagination, creativity and innovation displayed left us, frankly, speechless. As a first experience working with the Science Shop this project was outstanding.”

Science Shop Manager, Claire Mulrone, added: “These students have been recognised for their invaluable and creative contribution to their respective community partners. This is an endorsement of the value of Science Shop outreach activities at the University of Ulster to the community and voluntary sector right across Northern Ireland.”

#### **REACH OUT AND DANCE**

In June, children taking part in a project to promote positive self-esteem and confidence staged a dance and drama performance at Jordanstown campus.

The event forms part of a four-year research project exploring the development of creative teaching activities to promote positive self-esteem and self-confidence in young children.

The project, which was set up following the receipt of a generous gift from a private benefactor is entitled, *Sparkling the Imagination* and encourages stronger home-school partnerships and the number of parents/guardians taking part in the activities has grown steadily since its inception.

Project Manager, Dolores Loughrey, from the University’s School of Education, said: “Parents have commented positively on the opportunities presented to them to work in class alongside their children. They feel more involved in the school life of their children and so are more likely to provide the support needed to thrive in the school environment.

“The long term aim of the project is to inspire children to enjoy learning – and be motivated to remain within the education system, and so reach their full potential as people and contributors to society.”

## OUR CREATIVE HEART

Creativity is at the heart of the University's strategic focus, with our teaching and learning, research and commercial activities striving to interact with our wide range of audiences in ways that are continuously developing as innovatively as possible.

Most visibly, of course, it is our activities in creative subjects and areas that demonstrate this and 2010 continued the tradition of previous years with a wealth of accolades and achievements for our students, graduates and staff.

### TURNER PRIZE SUCCESS

Ulster graduate Susan Philipsz became the first sound artist to win the Turner Prize for Modern Art. Susan completed a Master of Fine Art in 1994 before embarking on her early career at the Catalyst Arts Centre in Belfast.

She uses her own voice to create uniquely evocative sound installations. She recorded three separate versions of a traditional folk song, *Lowlands Away*, which tells the tale of a man drowned at sea who returns to tell his lover of his death. It was first performed beneath three bridges over the River Clyde in her native Glasgow, but also played in the white void of the galleries at Tate Britain.

The prestigious win underscores the artistic reputation of the University's School of Art and Design, which boasts a further five Turner Prize nominees among its alumni and staff.

Alistair Wilson, MFA Course Director at Ulster, who taught Susan during her time in Belfast, said: "The Master of Fine Art course at the University is no stranger to success in relation to international art prizes in general and the Turner Prize in particular, having been responsible for six individual nominees from the body of staff and alumni over the life of the competition.

"Susan Philipsz, however, has become the first alumna to win the £25,000 prize outright. We are very proud of the record of our past students in this prestigious international showcase and Susan's nomination and ultimate success is particularly sweet. This success justifies the unequivocal approach to professional practice and international research which the MFA course aims to foster."

### ULSTER FESTIVAL OF ART AND DESIGN

Top fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and Oscar-nominated animator Paul Young were just two of the acclaimed designers and artists who appeared during the week-long Ulster Festival of Art and Design at the Belfast campus in June.

Sponsored for the second year by Carson McDowell, the festival – which incorporates the end of year show for students studying in the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment – is now well established on the arts scene in Northern Ireland, with many of the exhibitions, talks and workshops fully booked months in advance.

Cartoonist Matt Pritchett revealed how he developed his distinctive style adored by thousands of readers of the *Daily Telegraph* every day, while Professor of Visual Communication Greg Maguire – whose work is featured in James Cameron's Oscar-winning *Avatar* and box office smash, *Terminator Salvation* – revealed the secrets behind his success. Greg's lecture provided a fascinating firsthand exploration of the character creation processes for film, television and games.



Susan Phillipsz



Bridge over the River Clyde



Zandra Rhodes

Ulster graduate Paul Young produced the feature length cartoon *The Secret of Kells* which was shortlisted in the Best Animated Film category at the 2010 Academy Awards. Paul is co-founder and CEO of Cartoon Saloon, a multi-award-winning animation and illustration design studio based in Kilkenny.

#### WALLED CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Three Grammy award-winning classical musicians featured in the Walled City Music Festival hosted at Magee in August. Artistic Directors concert pianist Dr Cathal Breslin and his wife Dr Sabrina Hu – a flautist from the United States – played alongside the visiting international artists in a number of concerts, including Grammy winner Kathryn Stott, a pianist well known for her exciting collaborations with cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Acclaimed New Zealander Jonathan Lemalu, (the New Zealand-born bass baritone and one of the most popular performers on the international concert circuit), performed alongside his wife, mezzo soprano Sandra Martinovic and pianist Michael Hampton.

Completing the trio of Grammy winners was exceptional French violinist Augustin Dumay, who concluded the festival with a recital of violin sonatas, accompanied by Cathal Breslin.

#### PASSION FOR FASHION

Each year Northern Ireland's brightest up-and-coming fashion designers showcase their new collections at a gala fashion show and in 2010 it marked the opening of the Ulster Festival of Art and Design.

Sponsored by Victoria Square and featuring work from final year students, the show provides a platform for the vast wealth of creative talent amongst our student body.

In March, fashion students were also asked to design and produce an outfit to be showcased on the catwalk at the Wagner's Light *Spring Into Summer* fashion event at St George's Market, Belfast. Ulster student Laura Abraham's reward for winning was a work placement with top international designer Vera Wang in London.

The Belfast campus also hosted an exhibition in February featuring costumes and accessories from the eighteenth century to the present day. Historic and contemporary costumes from the Ulster Museum's fashion accessories collection including an eclectic array of eighteenth century shoes, nineteenth-century corsets, and hats from the 1950s and 60s were on display.

#### END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The last few weeks of the academic year see a flurry of activity across our Belfast, Coleraine and Magee campuses as student work in a variety of creative courses is showcased in their end of year shows.

In Coleraine, the creative work of some of our most exciting media talent was displayed at the Riverside Theatre. The show, by students in the BA Media Studies and Production and the BA Interactive Media Arts courses, featured video, interactive media, radio and photography.

The annual Design End of Year Show at Magee again showcased work by graduating students from the BDes Hons Design and Communication and the BSc Hons Multimedia, Computing and Design and offers prospective employers and members of the public an excellent opportunity to spot emerging young talent. Justin Magee, Senior Lecturer in Product Design and Show Co-ordinator, said: "The End of Year Show showcases a diverse range of innovative work in various design disciplines.

"In the one exhibition, visitors will see an exciting array of work in animation, graphic design, illustration, interactive design, moving image, product design, photography, advertising, mobile technology and games content. The exhibition is an important event for these young designers, offering them a platform to share their work and promote themselves to a wider audience at the outset of their careers."

At the same time in the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment, the remainder of the University's top young artists were recognised at an award ceremony to celebrate the opening of their annual show. Seventeen students received awards for their outstanding achievement and exceptional work produced in their final year at the Belfast campus.



## PEOPLE

Our people – both staff and external stakeholders – are central to the achievement of our corporate goals and objectives.

## CAST IN A LEADING ROLE

In June, the acclaimed actor **Dr James Nesbitt** – a former Ulster student and an honorary graduate – was installed as the fourth Chancellor of the University, succeeding former London Lord Mayor, **Sir Richard Nichols** who stood down after eight years in the post.

The ceremony took place in the Riverside Theatre, where Dr Nesbitt spent his formative years as an actor, honing skills that would see him take on theatre roles in *Up On The Roof*, *Hamlet* and *As You Like It*. In 1991, he secured a supporting role in his first movie – Peter Chelsom's comedy *Hear My Song*, and a series of TV and movie appearances followed, including roles in Michael Winterbottom's movies *Love Lies Bleeding*, *Jude* and *Welcome to Sarajevo*.

Undoubtedly his big breakthrough was as a romantic lead in the hit ITV comedy drama series *Cold Feet* which ran from 1998 to 2003. The series was garlanded with awards including the Golden Rose at the Montreux Television Festival and a Best TV Comedy Actor award for Dr Nesbitt.

Dr Nesbitt commented: "I am proud to be Chancellor of a University that has demonstrated its commitments to teaching excellence, research, and social inclusion – a university which is full of potential..."

## VALUABLE VISITORS

The University appointed a number of Visiting Professors during 2010. **Veli-Pekka Niitamo**, research director at mobile phone giant, Nokia, joined the Ulster Business School team. **Paul Muldoon**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, was appointed a Visiting Professor in the School of English, History and Politics. Leading architectural historian **James Stevens Curl** will lend his expertise to staff and students within the School of Architecture and Design. Hospitality entrepreneur **Michael McQuillan**, who set up *the streat* café chain, was appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Ulster Business School. Michelin-starred chef

**Michael Deane** became a Visiting Professor in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, within the Ulster Business School. Prominent Northern Ireland business leader **Terence Brannigan**, joined the Ulster Business School. **Gerry Murray**, one of Northern Ireland's leading chartered accountants, has been appointed a Visiting Professor where he will be attached to the Department of International Business, where he will assist in the development of the new undergraduate degree programme in accounting and managerial finance at the Magee campus. **Jim Kitchen**, director of the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) in Northern Ireland, took up his visiting professorship in the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment. The Honourable **Dr James Haughey**, director, senior manager and medical doctor at Norbrook Laboratories in Newry, joined the Biomedical Sciences team as a Visiting Professor.

## ULSTER'S PEOPLE POWER

During the year, the University consolidated its reputation for excellence as evidenced in the achievements of staff.

**Professor Hugh McKenna**, Dean, Faculty of Life and Health Sciences, was appointed by the Chief Executive Officers of the UK's four funding bodies for Higher Education to chair one of the main panels for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise. The panel will assess the quality of research in the fields of dentistry, pharmacy, allied health professions, nursing and midwifery. Dean of the Ulster Business School **Professor Marie McHugh**, became Vice-President of the British Academy of Management.

**Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh**, Dean, Faculty of Arts, was elected to membership of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). The Marketing Institute of Ireland awarded **Professor Pauric McGowan** a Fellowship, and **Professor Liam Kelly** was elected Vice-President of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA, Paris) at its annual congress.



Artful: Dr James Nesbitt visits the Riverside Theatre

**Máiréad Nic Craith**, Professor of European Culture and Society, took up a guest professorship in the Department of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Göttingen in Germany. Emeritus Professor and leading medical engineering entrepreneur, **Professor John Anderson**, was honoured at the Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) CONNECT £25K Awards, for his contribution and dedication to the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation in Northern Ireland.

**Dr Shaleen Singhal**, lecturer in the School of the Built Environment, won plaudits for his research exploring how cities can become more competitive. His study entitled: *City Competitiveness, Regeneration, and Property-led Business Strategies*, was highly commended in the 2009 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards. Associate lecturer in the School of Art and Design, **Donovan Wylie**, was one of four nominees for the prestigious Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2010.

Ulster geophysicist – **Professor John McCloskey** – based in the Environmental Sciences Research Institute, was named among the UK's 100 most influential scientists for his work on earthquake science, in the inaugural Eureka 100 list published by *The Times*. **Dr Stephen McClean**, School of Biomedical Sciences, was named as one of the top three teachers of biosciences in the UK by the Higher Education Academy's UK Centre for Bioscience.

The American legal profession honoured **Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin**, School of Law, by awarding her a place in the Irish Legal 100 – a prestigious annual listing of leading figures in law across the United States. Senior lecturer in the Department of Accounting and a member of the Business and Management Research Institute, **Tony Wall** was selected for the prestigious Fulbright Northern Ireland Public Sector Fellowship Awards for 2011-12.

**Colin Smyth**, School of the Built Environment, was appointed a member of the UK Quantity Surveying and Construction Professional Group Board. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy awarded a Fellowship to **Dr Sheila Lennon**, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Research Institute, in recognition of her contribution to research in neurological rehabilitation.

**Professor James McLaughlin** was elected new chairman of the European Connected Health Campus (EHCampus) – an international initiative that links technology and healthcare to improve patient treatment and ease pressure on scarce resources.

**Professor Gerard Parr**, School of Computing and Information Engineering, was appointed to the Strategic Advisory Team of the UK Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC). The Economic and Monetary Union (ECO) section of



Fergal Sharkey with our Chancellor



Prince Turki joined by Bertie Ahern and Lord Empey of Shandon



Paddy Doherty and Pat Hume

the European Economic and Social Committee, one of the most influential organisations in the European Union, elected **Michael Smyth**, Head of School of Economics, as President. Lecturer **Ken Boston** was appointed to the Historic Buildings Council (HBC), the statutory body advising government departments on historic building issues. The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) elected **Professor Paddy Gray**, from the School of the Built Environment, as President. Lecturer in the School of the Built Environment, **Rodney McDermott** was elected Vice-Chair of Engineers Ireland, Donegal Region.

A team of researchers – **Professor Alastair Adair** and **Dr Anil Kashyap** – with support from **Professor Jim Berry** and **Professor Stanley McGreal** of the School of the Built Environment – advised the Indian government on the way forward for policy on renewable energy. Ulster's disaster relief healthcare specialist **Pat Deeny** was invited by the South Korean government to advise nurses educators and practitioners on healthcare in disasters at a major international conference in Daejeon, South Korea.

Ulster hosted a number of esteemed visitors in 2010. Former US President **Dr Bill Clinton** visited the Magee campus to deliver a lecture outlining his economic strategy to help lift Northern Ireland out of its current economic difficulties.

The fourth annual Chancellor's Lecture was delivered by **President Mary McAleese**. Speaking to an invited audience at the Belfast campus, the Irish President addressed the theme of 'The island of Ireland: the next ten years.'

In another busy year for sport, golfing sensation **Rory McIlroy** opened Ulster's £1.2m Sport and Exercise Sciences Research Institute (SESRI) laboratories, at the Jordanstown campus. Olympic silver medal winning cyclist **Wendy Houvenaghel** joined forces with staff delivering *Sport for LIFE* programme and four-time Olympic gold medal winner **Sir Matthew Pinsent**, praised Ulster's *Sport Comes 2 Town* festival. Former Ireland Cricket coach, **Adi Birrell**, spoke at an international conference on sport and good relations, and Belfast boxing star **Paddy Barnes** attended celebrations to mark the two-year countdown to the opening of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. We extended congratulations to one of our graduates,

boxer **Eamonn O'Kane**, who added to the Northern Ireland medal haul at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi by winning the gold medal in the middleweight division.

#### REWARDING EXCELLENCE

During 2010, 18 leading minds from the worlds of arts, politics, engineering, policing, business and the community were honoured by the University.

##### Conleth Hill (DLitt)

Conleth Hill, one of Northern Ireland's most accomplished actors was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for services to the arts.

##### Bro McFerran (DSc)

Managing director of Allstate Northern Ireland, Bro McFerran, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to economic development.

##### Tony Hopkins (DUniv)

Tony Hopkins, a senior business leader, received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (DUniv) for services to higher education and economic development.

##### Dr Peter FitzGerald (DSc)

Founder and managing director of Randox Laboratories, Dr Peter FitzGerald, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to economic development.

##### Terence P Flanagan (DFA)

Terence P Flanagan, one of Ireland's leading landscape painters, became the second recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Art (DFA) in recognition of his outstanding services to art.

##### Rt Hon Sir Richard Needham (LLD)

The former Northern Ireland Office Minister, Sir Richard Needham received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to business development.

##### David Kirk (DSc)

One of Silicon Valley's most well-known and successful executives, David Kirk received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to entrepreneurship.



Terence P Flanagan



Prof Sir Desmond Rea and Sir Hugh Orde



From left: Conleth Hill, Tony Hopkins, Dr Peter FitzGerald and Bro McFerran with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

### **Radhika Coomaraswamy (LLD)**

Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to human rights.

### **Feargal Sharkey (DLitt)**

First finding fame as the lead vocalist of pop punk band The Undertones, and later as a solo artist, Feargal Sharkey received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for services to music.

### **Denis Rooney (DSc)**

Denis Rooney, a senior business leader with over 40 years experience in public and private sector organisations, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) in recognition of his services to business and community development.

### **Professor Denis Moloney (LLD)**

Professor Denis Moloney, principal in a leading firm of Belfast solicitors, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to charity and the University.

### **John Crosslé (DSc)**

An internationally-respected entrepreneur and engineer, John Crosslé received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for services to engineering and manufacturing.

### **Sir Hugh Orde (LLD)**

Sir Hugh Orde, one of the UK's most prominent police officers, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to policing.

### **Professor Sir Desmond Rea (LLD)**

Professor Sir Desmond Rea, a former Ulster academic who chaired the Northern Ireland Policing Board from its inception until spring 2009 was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to policing.

### **Colin Bateman (DLitt)**

Colin Bateman, author and writer for film and television, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for services to literature.

### **Paddy Doherty (LLD)**

Familiarly known as 'Paddy Bogside', Paddy Doherty, a well-known and respected community activist in Derry, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to community development.

### **Pat Hume (LLD)**

Former teacher and constituency office manager for her husband, John, when the SDLP politician was elected to the European Parliament, Pat Hume was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to community and political development.

### **HRH Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud (LLD)**

The Prince was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for services to diplomatic and international relations, particularly his efforts to foster better relations between the West and Saudi Arabia.



## GREAT SPORTS

The Ulster Sports Academy, which is the hub of all sport activities at the University, continues to strive towards our vision of being the leading university for sport on the island of Ireland.

Now in its fourth year, 2010 saw the Academy make significant progress in key areas of increasing sport participation, engaging communities, developing sport in the higher education sector and enhancing sports studies.

Across all our campuses it was another action-packed year, with high-profile visits and endorsements from leading figures in the sporting world, as well as a wealth of achievements across the board.

The list of sports stars past and present who attended events at Ulster during the year makes impressive reading, and includes Sir Matthew Pinsent, Rory McIlroy, Richard Dunwoody, Wendy Houvenaghel, Mickey Harte and Eamon O'Kane.

### SPORTING SUCCESS

It was a highly successful year for the women's hockey team who started off by winning the Ulster Shield, then bringing home a gold medal at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Home Nations Championship – and finishing their winning season by picking up the Club of the Year award at the University's annual Colour Sports Awards. Hockey scholar, Ciara Magee, won Sports Person of the Year at the gala awards ceremony.

The men's volleyball team also had a tremendous year, winning the All-Ireland Premier League. They received Team of the Year at the Colour Sports Awards and Nick Wright, the Ulster Elks volleyball coach, also picked up the Coach of the Year award. Other notable achievements included the men's basketball team winning the Ulster Premier League for the first time in their history and Coleraine Freshers' Soccer Team lifting the Northern

Ireland Colleges Association Football League (NICAFL) Division Two League trophy – winning every single game on their way. The men's Gaelic football team won the Ryan Cup and the women's Gaelic team won the All-Ireland Universities Division One League.

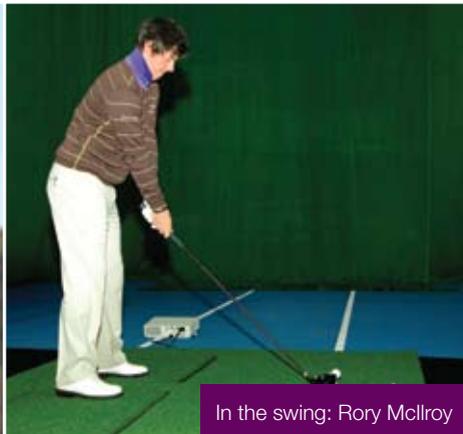
Magee student, Stephen Campbell won the coveted President's Plate, for Sports Person of the Year (Coleraine and Magee). Stephen is a blind Paralympic swimmer for Northern Ireland who earlier this year competed in the British National Championships and set a personal best at the World Championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

### MAKING AN IMPACT

It was another successful year for the Sport and Exercise Sciences Research Institute (SESRI) which saw the official opening of its world class laboratories by Irish golfing sensation, Rory McIlroy.

The aim of SESRI is to facilitate and undertake high quality research and to promote a vibrant culture of research and scholarship within the University, in partnership with health providers, sports governing bodies and other centres of excellence.

The £1.2 million refurbishment, which was funded by the Department for Employment and Learning's (DEL) research capital investment fund, includes four laboratories dedicated to biochemistry, physiology, biomechanics and an innovative biomechanics-field laboratory in the University's indoor running track. These laboratories use state-of-the-art equipment not found elsewhere on the island of Ireland.



In the swing: Rory McIlroy



Two in a row: Sir Matthew Pinsent with Ulster's Nigel Dobson

SESRI has a history of success with research studies, already gaining international status and ranked in the top third of sports-related studies in the UK.

#### REACHING OUT

In June, the Sports Outreach team ran a five-day festival for 1,500 pupils from across 50 primary schools in Northern Ireland celebrating the *Sport for LIFE* project, which encourages school children to lead healthy, active lifestyles. The festival was endorsed by Olympic silver medal winning cyclist, Wendy Houvenaghel.

The first-ever Ulster Junior Elks Community Festival of Sport, which attracted young people aged from 4-16 to Coleraine, Magee and Jordanstown campuses took place in May. The festival complements existing after school sports clubs and summer sports camps and involved qualified coaches leading sessions covering activities from introducing children to basic movement and active dexterity, to soccer, hockey, gymnastics, volleyball and fencing.

Another first took place with the Academy hosting a Junior Elks disability sports camp, in partnership with the Riding for the Disabled Association.

As part of the Sports Development Unit's aim to encourage a healthy lifestyle amongst students and staff, eight new categories were introduced to its successful Widening Access Sports Scholarships (WASS) programme. Open to undergraduate students, the programme now includes sports leadership and volunteering, GymFun, physical activity promotion, community sports ambassador, sports events, commercial development and performance services.

#### STARS AND SCHOLARS

Ulster's sports scholarship programme is designed to offer players the opportunity to study while continuing their professional sports careers.

This year's 10 performance sports scholars included sprinter Amy Foster and Paralympic swimmer Stephen Campbell;

12 international scholars including Belfast Giants ice hockey stars Jon Gleed, Josh Prudden and Richard Seeley; and eight golf scholars who received their awards in partnership with the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI) and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Commonwealth gold medallist, Eamon O'Kane, was also a recipient of a sports scholarship. Eamon made history at the commonwealth Games in Dehli in October by becoming the first boxer from Northern Ireland to win the middleweight division in 52 years. He graduated from Ulster in 2004 with a BEng in Electronics and Computer Systems and since then has been a vocal ambassador for the University and sport in Northern Ireland.

#### SPORTS ROUND-UP

In March, the Ulster-Sisk Gaelic Games Academy was launched by deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MP, MLA. Designed to develop and promote Gaelic games at every stage of the sport, the Academy had cause to celebrate in November with the announcement of a five-year sponsorship deal with the Bank of Ireland. On that occasion, GAA President Christy Cooney praised the initiative and indicated it should act as a sporting model for universities across Ireland. The event was also attended by Des Crowley, Chief Executive, Retail Ireland and UK, Bank of Ireland and Conor Murphy, MP, MLA.

A delegation from the Palestinian Olympic Committee visited the multi-million pound sports facilities in Jordanstown during May, with a view to working together on future training programmes and using the facilities as a pre-Olympics training camp.

June saw Olympic gold medal winning rower, Sir Matthew Pinsent attend the University's *Sport Comes 2 Town* four-day festival which took place in Portadown. This pilot project aims to use sport to inspire young people from different backgrounds and cultures for a better shared future. The project has strong links to the 2012 Olympics with gold medallist and London 2012 Committee chairman, Sebastian Coe KBE endorsing the project, which also included festivals at Jordanstown and Ballymoney during the year.



John Bercow, MP



Celebrating City of Culture success



Intelligent: Dolores Kelly, MLA gets to grips with robotics at Magee

## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

As a University which has locations throughout Northern Ireland, we play an important role in engaging with our local communities and wider society.

We already have long-established and strong links with external partners and during 2010 we built on these existing relationships and forged many new ones along the way.

Staff and students on all campuses are actively involved in these activities which focus on social inclusion, economic regeneration and quality of life. Just some examples of the shape these engagements can take are illustrated here.

### POLITICALLY ACTIVE

Alongside the political engagement we have been involved in over the last year relating to our campus redevelopment plans, during 2010 we also stepped up our engagement with Northern Ireland Executive ministers, senior civil servants, MPs and MLAs and individual political parties.

For the second year running, the University participated in a number of party conferences with attendance at the UUP, SDLP, DUP and Sinn Féin events.

As well as attendance at events outside the University, 2010 saw an impressive number of political representatives visit us. A succession of Executive ministers, MLAs and MPs attended meetings and events across our four campuses including First Minister Peter Robinson MLA; deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MP, MLA; Justice Minister David Ford MLA; Social Development Minister Alex Attwood MLA; Environment Minister Edwin Poots MLA; Education Minister Caitriona Ruane MLA; Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister Nelson McCausland MLA; Regional Development Minister Conor Murphy MLA; former Employment and Learning Minister Lord Empey of Shandon. Local representatives Mark Durkan MP and Gregory Campbell MP, MLA were also among our political visitors.

In July, the Right Honourable John Bercow, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons attended the UK Youth Parliaments' 2010

Annual Sitting hosted at Jordanstown campus. The University also hosted an evidence session by the Assembly Employment and Learning Committee – chaired by Dolores Kelly MLA – at Magee. As well as holding their committee meeting, MLAs were given tours of the Intelligent Systems Research Centre, the Foyle Arts Centre and the Learning Resource Centre.

The House of Commons in London was the venue for a University alumni gathering of Ulster graduates and supporters. Among those attending were Lord Bannside and Baroness Paisley of St George's, Lord Rogan of Lower Iveagh, Lord Laird of Artigarvin and Lord Smith of Clifton (former Vice-Chancellor of the University). Also showing support was alumna Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP for the City of Durham, who achieved a BSc and PhD in Social Science at Ulster, and acted as sponsor for the event.

### INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The University has also been working on engagement further afield, with a particular focus on the USA. An effective working relationship has been built up with the US Consulate and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's special economic envoy to Northern Ireland, Declan Kelly. He visited the Belfast campus in March to learn more about our development plans and again in September, to meet biomedical sciences staff in Coleraine. That engagement culminated in the high-profile visit of former President Bill Clinton to Magee.

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was a guest of the University in September when he attended the honorary graduation ceremony for HRH Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. In June, Magee's links with the USA were further strengthened with the visit of Senator Therese Murray, President of the Massachusetts Senate, who visited the Intelligent Systems Research Centre and C-TRIC.



Applefest in Hazelbank Park, Newtownabbey



US connections: Senator Therese Murray (centre) visits C-TRIC

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, was also involved in establishing new links in the US when he met Congressman Richard E. Neal during a trip to Washington DC at the beginning of the year.

#### CELEBRATING CITY OF CULTURE SUCCESS

In July, our Chancellor James Nesbitt welcomed the decision to award Derry-Londonderry the 2013 UK City of Culture. Dr Nesbitt paid tribute to the bid team and other cultural partners across the city – including the University – who helped shape the bid.

The Dean of Academic Development on the Magee campus, Professor Deirdre Heenan joined in the congratulations. She said: “This is a phenomenal achievement for the city and a fitting reward for an intelligent, innovative and inspired campaign. The City of Culture year will provide a massive cultural and economic boost and will have an enormous impact on the next generation of creative talent in the city whose skills are being honed in places like the Foyle Arts Centre at Magee.

“The University is proud to have played its part in fashioning the winning bid and looks forward to working with the city council, Ilex and other partners across the city on delivering a programme of events that will enhance Derry-Londonderry’s international standing.”

#### APPLEFEST

Celia Spouncer, an MA Art student undertook a unique project at Hazelbank Park where she worked with Newtownabbey Borough Council to revitalise a forgotten orchard. Hidden within the park are a number of fruit trees – eating and dessert apples, pears, plums, damsons and crab apples.

As land ownership and the use of the area changed over the years, the orchard was abandoned and engulfed by the newly designed park. In November 2009, the Council approached Celia for advice about restoring the orchard as part of a resurgence of interest in locally grown food; as a window for memories of traditional apples and orchards in the area; and to increase the value of the park for bees and biodiversity.

Utilising her skills in landscaping, horticulture and creative art, Celia organised and ran a number of events in 2010 including a celebration of the apple blossom with a local primary school; a day under the trees to make bunting from recycled clothes;

an Applefest complete with an outdoor kitchen underneath the trees to showcase traditional apple varieties from local orchards; and a cultural memory workshop with the local bowling club to talk about their memories of ‘scrumping’ for apples.

#### BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

From mapping submerged landscapes off Newfoundland, to excavating medieval ports in the Sudan and investigating slavery in Zanzibar, Ulster’s Centre for Maritime Archaeology in the School of Environmental Sciences is engaging in a wide range of research programmes across the globe.

Some of its most exciting discoveries have, however, taken place along the north Antrim coast. The Centre’s archaeologists have been involved in a large-scale research project investigating medieval settlement in this part of Ulster and along the western seaboard of Scotland.

Dr Colin Breen, senior lecturer in maritime archaeology, explained: “Over the past two summers, excavation has concentrated on Dunluce Castle. Surprisingly given its importance, no previous research had been conducted there until the University’s dig.

“One of the key elements of the project has been community engagement. Many primary schools from the wider Coleraine region have spent time excavating and working on the site.

“A number of local community groups have also participated in the project while numerous other individuals and visitors have engaged with the dig. Our archaeological and cultural heritage can play a significant role in society as an environmental, social and economic resource and through helping generate a greater understanding of identity and our common shared past.”

#### TALKS AND TOURS

Our annual summer festival of events and lectures, *Talks and Tours*, based at Coleraine campus ran for the 39th time in 2010, with staff liaising with local experts to act as tour guides, speakers and tutors. Taking place during July and August, subjects on the programme of events spanned history, literature, archaeology and jewellery design to name just four.



**GOVERNANCE  
2009-2010**

**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**

Mr A Kelly

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

**Eight persons not being members of staff or students of the University**

Mrs M Clark  
Mr M Graham  
Mr J Hunter  
Mrs R Kelly  
Mrs R Laird  
Mr J McDaid  
Mr L Nellis  
Mrs AM Telford

**ELECTED MEMBERS**

**Two members of Academic Staff**

Mr L Fawcett  
Professor J Gillespie

**One member of Academic-Related Staff**

Mr P Quinn

**One member of Non-Academic Staff**

Mrs L Coulter

**AUDIT COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

**Five members appointed by the Council**

Mr J Hunter (Chair)  
Mrs R Laird  
Mr J McDaid  
Mr L Nellis  
Dr AM Telford

**COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2009 - 2010**

**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  
Dr AM Telford

**STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

The University has also adopted a statement of primary responsibilities which is available for download at <http://plangov.ulster.ac.uk/governance/council/index.html>



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