



Annual Review
2014

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Forewords



Gerry Mallon
Chair of Council

Ulster University students and graduates continue to create, innovate, challenge and solve. Their skills, talents and experience shape rewarding careers and bring relevant learning into the economy, both locally and further afield.

As the economy evolves, ambitions and expectations change and so do the ways in which students want to learn. The creation of our first student learning hub takes a fresh approach to enhancing individual and collaborative learning. Supporting versatility, creativity and personal development, the new learning hubs provide the opportunity to fine-tune the teamwork skills that are so important to future career prospects.

It is this readiness for a confident career path that distinguishes the student experience at Ulster University. Alongside the provision of assured and skilled graduates for the local economy, Ulster University is responsive to business and industry, introducing new undergraduate courses designed to meet market needs. From stratified medicine to cinematic arts, these new courses ensure that Ulster University anticipates demand and equips students to be prepared for opportunities in both well-established and emerging sectors.

Alongside our commitment to course development and relevant industry placements for our students, our connections with business and industry continued to thrive in our support for innovation and knowledge transfer. Over 5,000 companies accessed industry relevant research and expertise in 2014 and our participation in the Department of Employment and Learning's Connected programme encourages more SMEs to embark upon a collaboration with the University.

Being connected and making an impact through partnerships extends to many sectors. From play-based language programmes in partnership with Barnardo's, to new initiatives with some of the most successful and high growth local engineering companies, the University is sharing its expertise and inspiring career ready skills. The Industry Liaison Committee established at the University's £11.5m NI Centre for Stratified Medicine, brings together international healthcare companies based locally and with strong research credentials. The committee will inform further course development and enhance the economic benefit of stratified medicine research in attracting inward investment. It is a fine example of local engagement that supports both the ambitions of our students and of the region.

In handing over the Chairmanship of the University Council to my successor, as an alumnus, a business leader and as a parent, I am proud of the contribution that the University continues to make. I have enjoyed working with a Vice-Chancellor and Council colleagues who shared a vision for preparing confident graduates, who fully explore the vital role of the University in our community and who are committed to ensuring that Ulster University plays its part in establishing Northern Ireland on the global stage. The arrival of a new Vice-Chancellor marks an exciting era for Ulster University - in a constantly evolving market and sector. I wish Professor Paddy Nixon, his Council and colleagues every success in the opportunity that lies ahead.

Gerry Mallon
Chair of Council



Professor Sir Richard Barnett
Vice-Chancellor

Ulster University, its students, staff, alumni, local and global partners, and collaborators, all continue to shape outcomes and opportunities for individuals, organisations and communities. 2014 was a year of continued development and innovation.

The year began and ended with significant milestones and achievements. The announcement in January of the investment in the new Belfast campus from the European Investment Bank, reflected the importance of education in supporting Europe's competitiveness and the economic prospects of Northern Ireland. The level of the investment entirely reflects the scale of our ambitious plans. The enhancements to the Belfast campus became evident on the Belfast skyline in 2014, with construction of the first of the new campus buildings underway.

Belfast campus has been the home of the Ulster University Belfast School of Art for generations, and in 2014, boasted its second Turner Prize winning alumnus – Duncan Campbell. In the coming years, as other faculties relocate to the Belfast campus, the opportunity for greater collaboration, partnership and engagement will be central to our plans. Our multi-campus developments are driven by

a commitment to the most innovative student learning environments and experiences. The start of the year also saw work begin on the £5.1m teaching facility on the Coleraine campus, and the granting in July of planning permission for the new £11m teaching block for Magee, brought us a step closer to realising the potential of the campus.

The year came to a close with an outstanding result in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The evaluation confirmed Ulster University's position as a top university in the UK and internationally. The results, particularly in law, education, biomedical sciences, business and management and art and design, demonstrate the breadth of academic leadership and the relevance and applied nature of our research – research that has far-reaching impact. Not only does our pioneering research influence and shape policy and practice, it also informs the student learning experience at Ulster University. These achievements and more, encourage graduates and leaders, donors, business, funders and foundations to support our work, with this vital investment continuing in 2014 to nurture achievement and forge new partnerships.

Towards the end of 2014 I announced my retirement. As my time at Ulster University comes to a close, our commitment to providing access to a university education to all those who could benefit from it, is as rewarding for me as it is for the students who have availed of those opportunities.

I have enjoyed the support of an insightful Council, a talented and committed staff and an energetic student body. I wish my successor – Professor Paddy Nixon – his colleagues and Council every success as they take the University, its students and many supporters forward into a new era. Challenges remain for the sector, as the funding debate continues, but from a foundation of strong local roots alongside expanding global reach and influence, Ulster University is well placed to participate in those debates and to progress its ambitions, those of its students and of Northern Ireland.

Professor Sir Richard Barnett
Vice-Chancellor

2014 Highlights



Confucius Institute at Ulster University's celebration of the Chinese New Year



Minister for Social Development Mervyn Storey MLA visits our IM HAPPY project



Pictured at the 2014 Summer Graduation at Coleraine are proud dad Bill Waring & daughter Zara (right) and Kerry Smyth



Ulster University Science Shop winners Aine McCreesh and Tomas Gorman are pictured with Belfast Lord Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, marking the 25th Anniversary of the Science Shop



Roger Bonnar was awarded the bronze Royal Society of Ulster Architects President's Medal for NI's top undergraduate architecture student

2014 Highlights



Former US President Bill Clinton and John and Pat Hume walk the Peace Bridge in Derry-Londonderry as part of the President's visit to the city hosted by the University



Director of Incore Brandon Hamber with Netta Hazan from Israel and Bassam Aramin from Palestine at an international conference sharing learning from areas of conflict



Stefania in "Cordelia" from graduate designer Fawn Miskelly at our Graduate Fashion Show



Honorary Graduate and Manager of Liverpool FC, Brendan Rodgers, with Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt and Chair of Council Gerry Mallon



Dr Lisa O'Donoghue treating a child during a visit to Mozambique as part of the Eyecare Project



Patrick Kielty visits Ulster University as part of the Life Stories series



Professor Tony Bjourson hosts Patsy McGlone MLA and Thomas Buchanan MLA on a visit to the University by the Assembly's Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee and the Employment and Learning Committee



Learning for Life

At Ulster University, we pride ourselves on our excellent, research-led teaching and learning environment, providing all undergraduate and postgraduate students with an exceptional experience that enables them to fulfil their potential.

Our students are at the heart of all that we do and in 2014, we led on a range of initiatives to champion student centred learning across our provision. We remodelled features of our physical learning environment to support students' intellectual and personal growth, provided opportunities for non traditional learners to engage with the University community, and harnessed new technologies to enhance the student experience.

Social Learning

As a progressive University, we want to be at the forefront of delivering the most modern and engaging learning environments in which our students can study. One of the main aims of our Learning and Teaching Strategy is to promote, embed and develop safe, yet challenging, learning environments that support active learning.

In 2014, we opened a new learning hub at the Jordanstown campus. We took a collaborative approach to creating the new space – with staff and students working in partnership to influence how a room could be refurbished to optimise space for enhanced student learning on campus.

This project has provided us with the opportunity to take a learner centred approach to designing and creating a space that will motivate students, promote learning and support individual or collaborative working. It offers different study options – soft seating and low tables for discussion or group projects, fully equipped group work areas for practicing presentation skills and quieter areas with space to lay out papers and work on assignments.

The hub will play an increasingly important part in providing a versatile learning experience, supporting student creativity, collaboration, productivity and personal development. There are plans in place to replicate the model at all campuses.

The Survey Said...

At Ulster University, student feedback is a key mechanism used to obtain information from the student body on their University experience. Internally, feedback is used to guide both quality assurance and quality enhancement and is designed to lead to an improvement in the student experience.

Student feedback therefore is fundamental to the operation of the University, its departments and faculties and to the experience of the individual student.

Despite a challenging external environment, in 2014, our final-year students reported high satisfaction rates with their degree course. The National Student Survey (operated by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council for England) illustrated that:

The University achieved an overall satisfaction rating of 88 per cent. This was two percentage points above the sector satisfaction rating and one percentage point above the overall satisfaction result in Northern Ireland.

This is the third year in a row that the University has achieved an overall satisfaction greater than the sector average.

On Course

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 2014 including BSc Hons Stratified Medicine, BEng Hons Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, BEng Hons Renewable Energy, BSc Hons Physical Activity, Exercise and Health, BSc Hons Economics, Chinese as a Minor Subject Combination and BSc Hons Cinematic Arts.

Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry, MLA, allocated £700,000 to the University to facilitate 70 new postgraduate courses focusing on key areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The Masters (MSc) courses are in six separate subject areas – human nutrition; management; sport and exercise psychology; biotechnology; physical activity and public health; and professional software development.

In June, Ulster University was named in The Guardian league table as the top university in the UK for studying pharmacy and pharmacology.

It claimed the number one spot ahead of 27 other universities, scoring an impressive 100 per cent in both student satisfaction and satisfaction with teaching.

What works? Student Retention and Success

We are committed to improving student retention and success. Working in partnership with our students is central to our ethos – ensuring that our focus is student-centred and that learners are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel in professional life.

In 2014, Ulster University was chosen as one of 13 institutions across the UK to be involved in the Higher Education Academy (HEA)/ Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded What works? Student Retention and Success (SRS) change programme (2012-2015). This initiative aims to improve the strategic approach to enhancing student engagement, belonging, retention and success from first year through to course completion.

Deeply embedded in the Learning and Teaching Strategy (2013/14-2017/18), our SRS programme was developed in consultation with staff and the student body.

During 2014, seven discipline teams from across all faculties and campuses initiated and evaluated a range of measures to identify effective practices in induction, active learning and co-curricular activities – all aimed at encouraging student retention.

Ed.Link

A new online resource designed to strengthen links between Ulster University and schools across Northern Ireland was launched in 2014 as part of our Schools and Colleges Engagement Strategy.

The Ed.Link portal gives schools a direct communication channel with us. It provides greater access to information and contacts and allows schools to view opportunities for working more closely with us.

The new portal merges data from the Department of Education, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, the University and Colleges Admissions Service and the University's business intelligence, making it available to schools in the one place, for the first time.

Ed.Link contains valuable information on admissions, widening participation and upcoming news and events, while also allowing the University to target tailored content to specific schools.

Discovering Ulster University

During the year, we opened our doors to school children throughout Northern Ireland, giving them opportunities to discover the wide range of programmes on offer at Ulster University via workshops, open days, work experience and interactive events.

Our academics also visited schools to promote the diverse range of study and career paths available at the University – giving staff the opportunity to engage with school children, to inspire them, showcase new technologies and highlight the wide range of exciting and creative careers that exist, particularly across the STEM sectors.

Access All Areas

The University has a long-standing record of widening access to and participation in higher education. We have consistently been successful not only in attracting students from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, but also in

the provision of a supportive and flexible learning environment for those seeking part-time learning opportunities.

In 2014, the newly formed directorate of Access, Digital and Distributed Learning brought together three complementary centres: Centre for Flexible and Continuing Education, Centre for Widening Access and Participation and the Office for Digital Learning. Together, these centres are committed to lowering barriers to accessing higher education; curating a high quality and accessible digital campus; and providing flexible solutions for personal and professional development.

During the year, the directorate began the process of administering and overseeing a £1.8m Access Project Fund, allocating resources to targeted activities, which attract and support a diverse student population by addressing barriers to higher education. The University continued to invest in learning bursaries, on-campus support for students and an expanded portfolio of outreach activities.



Amy McCrory-Gray from Moss Grove PS pictured during Engineering Ireland Week, which aims to encourage primary school children to explore the world of science and engineering.



Science Shop

In 2014, the Science Shop – a joint collaboration between Ulster University and Queen's University, Belfast – celebrated its 25th anniversary. The Science Shop supports community-engaged research and learning opportunities for University students as part of their degree programme.

Over the past 25 years, the Science Shop has delivered almost 2,500 projects and worked with more than 650 community groups including sports clubs, youth groups and recycling centres in Northern Ireland.

The partnership between both universities continues to contribute valuable research expertise and enable knowledge transfer into the community and voluntary sectors.

It is a mutually beneficial endeavour in which students can see how their skills and knowledge can be applied and make a difference in the real world, while the voluntary and community groups can access expertise and research data that can shape and inform their services, policies and strategies.

In 2014, 460 Ulster University students undertook 162 community-engaged research and learning opportunities through the Science Shop.

Step-Up

Step-Up is Ulster University's long-standing and hugely successful flagship widening access programme that provides new learning opportunities for talented young people living in areas of social and economic disadvantage.

Step-Up is an enrichment initiative, comprising a highly structured programme of activities aligned to the schools' curriculum, delivered in partnership with schools, local industry, hospitals and government agencies. The programme aims not only to raise academic aspirations and expectations, but also attainment.

During 2014-15 there were a total of 181 new entrants to the programme, with 113 participants successfully progressing to year two of the programme.

Digital Delight

In May, Jisc, a registered charity and champion of the use of digital technologies in UK education and research, hosted the Regional Support Centre Northern Ireland annual innovation in e-learning awards.

Three Ulster University teams picked up plaudits in the higher education categories, in recognition of their efforts to spearhead

the development and effective use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

One of the winning projects, an innovative, interactive teaching resource that enables students to explore the University's Academy Restaurant in a safe online environment, won the higher education e-learning innovation award for learning support.

The 'Virtual Academy' integrates all aspects of creative media to enhance the student learning experience in one user interface. This includes explorable 3D models of the bar, kitchen and dining areas, video interviews, time-lapses, instructional videos and interactive activities.

Athena SWAN Charter

The Athena SWAN Charter recognises and celebrates good employment practice for women working in STEM in higher education and research.

Ulster University has been highly committed to the principles that underpin the Athena SWAN Charter for many years and in 2014 had that commitment recognised by an institution-wide Athena SWAN Bronze award.



This award endorses Ulster University's commitment, at all levels of the institution, to sustaining the quantity, quality and impact of female STEM academics and students progressing into academia.

The University has established an Athena SWAN Committee to drive forward the Athena SWAN agenda. This Committee will build on the Bronze Award and monitor the implementation of the Athena SWAN Action Plan 2014 – 2017.



Building the Future

The University's physical environment has a key role to play in enhancing the student and staff experience. 2014 saw major advances for a number of core projects that will shape how we teach and how students learn for years to come.

Greater Belfast

The ambitious £250m redevelopment of the University's Belfast campus in the heart of the city made significant progress during 2014.

The construction of the new phase one campus building adjacent to the existing building is nearing completion, giving the city the first sight of the University's vision for a modern, innovative and inspiring environment for teaching, learning and research.

This building will be ready for use by staff and students in September 2015.

On the other side of York Street, the final excavation work of the basement is being completed, with the contract for the construction of the main phase of the campus to be awarded in 2015.

The importance of the project to the economic regeneration of Belfast, alongside the educational benefits it will bring, was recognised by the Northern Ireland Executive and the European Investment Bank early in the year.

The NI Executive provided a loan of £35m through the Financial Transactions Capital scheme whilst a loan facility of £150m was secured from the European Investment Bank.

Making the announcement of the agreement at the Belfast campus, Jonathan Taylor, Vice President of the European Investment Bank, emphasised that investment in education is essential to ensure Europe's competitiveness in the global arena and to enable future generations of students to innovate and benefit from new opportunities. The vision of our scheme was endorsed for its contribution to delivering educational and economic benefits across Northern Ireland, both during construction and in the years to come.

At Jordanstown, the University continued to progress our vision for the campus, working in partnership with stakeholders, including the local council, to ensure the benefits the redevelopment offers can be fully realised.

Whilst retaining a range of existing University facilities, including the Dalriada Student Village and investing £6.2m in a second sports hall, the plans propose the development of an urban village residential area.

The University believes that these plans will enhance the local community, providing opportunities for housing, community facilities and local employment, leaving a positive, lasting legacy from our 40-year association with the area.



The redevelopment of the Belfast campus



The proposed new teaching block for the Magee campus

Magee campus

In July, planning permission for a new £11m block to be built close to the existing campus library was granted. This decision means that we are a step closer to the construction of a new facility that will incorporate a large tiered lecture theatre, two smaller lecture theatres, up to 20 classrooms and a café.

The University is working with the Department for Employment and Learning to secure funding for this contemporary learning environment that will also benefit the city as a whole.



Coleraine campus

January saw work begin on a new £5.1m teaching facility on the University's Coleraine campus.

The development, due for completion in March 2015, will comprise a state-of-the-art, three-storey building, joined to the existing central building via a glazed link.

In addition to a 250 seat raked lecture theatre and a series of teaching rooms, the new facility will include hubs on each floor with soft seating areas and wi-fi access providing students with a less formal learning space.

Refurbishments to Block E were completed in 2014, providing modern corporate meeting and teaching facilities.

The new teaching block, Coleraine campus

Pioneering Research and Innovative Impact

Ulster University spends over £40m per year on research, research that is used to inform our teaching and benefit society globally.

Our investment of £3.4m per year in innovation ensures that the outcomes of our research are put to work for business and for economic development.

Our strong track record in research and innovation, our ability to apply that knowledge to solve real world issues, and support investment and business growth, has garnered global respect and a reputation for world-leading research excellence.

Our commitment to research and innovation makes this institution a key economic driver and a crucial part of Northern Ireland's overall investment proposition.

Research in Action

Research teams across Ulster University were awarded 224 grants totalling almost £24m during 2014, whilst recurrent research income totalled almost £17m. This represents a 12% increase in the total research income we received in 2013. Such grants and the wider research funding that we access are critical to business growth and prosperity, regardless of sector.

Mental Health

In February, Ulster University's Professor Gerard Leavey was appointed to lead the new Clinical Research Network for Northern Ireland. The network means mental health patients from Northern Ireland can now be involved in major national and international research trials. It will also ensure that researchers and health professionals have a better understanding of mental health services.

Clinicians and academics from across the Health and Social Care Trusts, Ulster University and Queen's University support the work of the network, recognised as an important development for users of mental health services.

Significant Ulster University research was published in March, demonstrating the direct link between suicidal behaviour in Northern Ireland and having experienced traumatic, conflict related events for the first time.

The findings will help to shape and enhance the support available to vulnerable people, ensure healthcare providers are aware of new risk patterns, can recognise behaviour patterns and identify those at highest risk.

Physical Activity

In February, the University was selected by Student Sport Ireland to lead a pioneering €120,000 cross-border research partnership project exploring the participation of third level students in sport and physical activity.

The Student Activity and Sport study is the first of its kind in Ireland and will examine how the policies and programmes of individual colleges compare with others and how levels of participation vary. We are working with Dublin City University (DCU), University of Limerick, Waterford IT and the University of Wolverhampton to address this knowledge gap, with the findings due to be published in 2015.





Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt is joined by Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body and Professor Brandon Hamber, Director of Incore at the launch of the Accounts of the Conflict Archive.



Energy

Our innovative new research project in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology to examine how wind energy is stored and managed was launched in April.

As part of the SPIRE energy project, supported by £2.9m of financial assistance from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, the research will consider the likely market scales of different capacities of wind energy storage and has the potential to make major progress in the evolving all-island energy market, delivering technological advances which could have international impact.

The Past

In November, our Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt launched the Accounts of the Conflict Archive. Developed by Incore, the International Conflict Research Institute at the University, this is a permanent digital archiving project that will preserve personal accounts of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Supported by funding of £948,000 from the European Union's PEACE III programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, it provides a publicly accessible resource of personal recollections so that

future generations may better understand the complexity of the conflict here and continue on the path to a full and sustainable peace.

Health and Wellbeing

Ulster University and DCU announced in December the development of pioneering new technology as part of a €5m research project that aims to significantly increase survival rates of patients with cardiovascular disease – the world's leading cause of death and disability.

With treatment for cardiovascular disease costing the EU almost €200m annually, the revolutionary PATHway project aims to reduce recovery times and increase survival rates by changing lifestyle-focused behaviours and empowering patients to take control of their treatment at home. The world-first technology is being developed by this University and DCU in conjunction with European medical and industry partners and is funded by the European Horizon 2020 programme.

Innovative Ulster University research undertaken in 2014 is revolutionising the care of stroke patients worldwide by improving recovery and quality of life as well as delivering cost savings to the health service.

Our researchers looked at data relating to 10,000 patients and found that increasing the use of thrombolysis (clot-busting) drugs ultimately reduces long-term costs, improves overall patient quality of life and also improves recovery. They also found that the use of larger care facilities to centralise care in expert centres offers the best opportunity to improve survival rates, particularly as patients traditionally take numerous pathways through the healthcare system depending on the severity of their stroke.

The findings have already informed healthcare policy and treatment decisions in Belfast and in London. Our researchers are now sharing their unique approach to data analysis to international healthcare providers to deliver cost saving strategies, significantly improve stroke patient recovery and reduce the likelihood of long-term disability or reliance on institutional care.

In 2014, our researchers also developed ground-breaking video technology that is revolutionising medication management for people with dementia. The mobile phone-based care model delivers video reminders to guide people with dementia on medication scheduling, administration and dosage. The user-friendly technology allows those living with the disease to take responsibility for their own wellbeing and live more independently.

World Leading Research – International Impact

2014 culminated in a resounding endorsement of Ulster University's world-leading research impact.

Through the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, international experts independently judged the University as one of the top institutions in the UK for delivering world-leading research that has a positive and long-term impact on societies and economies globally.

In a significant change from the previous research assessment exercise in 2008, REF2014 focused on the actual impact of university research and how it informs or shapes the world around us. This denoted a step change towards recognising the importance and significance of applied research and the need for research to have a real and tangible effect on life and society.

Top Institution



REF 2014 assessed research from 154 universities and confirmed Ulster University's position as a top UK academic institution with world-leading research identified in all research areas.

Specifically, we almost doubled our level of 4-star rated world-leading research since the 2008 assessment – with 4-star being the highest possible accolade.

REF 2014 rated Ulster University to be in the top 25 per cent of all UK universities for overall research and the top third for research impact. We are one of the top five universities in the UK for outstanding research impacts in law, art and design and music. Significantly, we are top overall in the UK for outstanding impacts in law and first in the UK for outstanding and very considerable impacts in education.

Areas including nursing, engineering, business and management, social policy, education, Celtic studies, music, media studies and the built environment were found to deliver 100 per cent outstanding and very considerable impacts. Social policy enjoyed an outstanding 160% increase in 4-star research since the 2008 assessment.

Biomedical Science at Ulster University came first in the UK overall for our world-leading research environment whilst nursing, computer science, art and design and music also had 100% world-leading and internationally excellent research environments.

Our crucial, pivotal and ultimately influential role around the world was recognised by REF 2014 for revolutionising treatment for diabetes and heart disease; creating cutting-edge technology to solve health or business problems; informing health policy for foetal health and nutrition; shaping the dynamic arts and creative industries sector; advising global governments on victim and human rights; supporting business and economic growth; and enhancing nursing skills and care.

Ground-breaking

This positive result for Ulster University is evidence of how the applied nature of its research is changing lives globally, delivering pioneering, technological advances, supporting and celebrating language development and cultural awareness and, informing policy or legislation for future generations.

REF 2014 not only delivered a positive assessment of our research capability, it highlighted this institution's unwavering focus on outcomes and applying research findings to improve teaching, society, healthcare, the economy and beyond. REF 2014 showcased what makes Ulster University a truly ground-breaking, forward-looking university of which staff, students and the people of Northern Ireland can be exceptionally proud.

Innovative Impact

Ulster University is synonymous with innovation, helping businesses develop and thrive in their industries.

With an overall income from innovation similar to that received last year (£3.4m), the University delivered more than 50,000 days of management training and provided

over 1,000 innovative solutions to companies during 2014, working to help them reach their full economic potential.

Transferring Knowledge

The University cemented its reputation as a key knowledge provider in 2014 with over 5,000 companies accessing our industry relevant research and expertise.

In April, we brought together over 150 business leaders, academic based researchers and spin out companies to celebrate the importance of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP). KTPs are three way partnerships between a business, an academic institution and a recently qualified graduate, offering organisations the opportunity to access research, development and expertise that they may not have available internally.

A partnership between Ulster University and Cookstown-based window manufacturers, Keylite, has helped the company to compete in international markets and increase sales by over 25 per cent year on year.

We worked closely with the company to develop new products, enhance existing designs and improve business processes as part of a KTP. Keylite is now exporting its

range of products to major builders merchant stores in Europe, Russia and New Zealand.

Ulster University has provided over 150 KTPs and businesses which access knowledge based support from us show an annual growth rate of 12 per cent, demonstrating the power of such partnerships to generate significant economic benefits.

Well Connected

The University's Knowledge Transfer provision was further strengthened in October with commencement of the third phase of the Department of Employment and Learning's 'Connected Programme'.

Connected is the only Knowledge Transfer programme in the UK to be delivered across both Higher and Further Education, providing businesses with a central location to access a broad range of innovative knowledge and support services.

The programme complements our ongoing knowledge transfer activities and, ensures that even more SMEs are encouraged and supported to collaborate with the University for the first time.

Spin-out Success

Over the past five years, 18 new spin-out companies have been established with support from Ulster University, with an estimated turnover of £26.5m and currently employing 229 staff.

In 2014 alone, four new companies were created. Get Invited provides an online event registration service, allowing organisers to sell tickets, manage, and promote their event, whilst providing insights about their attendees so they can maximise success. Launched in February, the company has already been shortlisted for the 500 Startups Accelerator programme in Silicon Valley

One Square Design is a print and accessories design business specialising in innovative products that feature digital print and lasercutting. Founder, Ulster University student Karishma Kusurkar, won the inaugural NI Science Park CONNECT INVENT Student Award for the invention of the most commercial potential from a field of more than 20 entrants.

Solaform is bringing innovation to the domestic energy market by rethinking the design of an old home heating solution, creating a new type of water tank for providing low cost, eco-friendly water heating. The company was recognised by The Guardian as one of the top ten tech companies from Belfast in 2014.

Vifkon was established to commercialise an innovative Fire and Blast Protection System (FBPS), developed within the University. The FBPS is the world's first dual function system that provides superior protection for personnel and buildings against blasts and fires at a tenth of the cost of conventional, competing systems.



Driving Development

Ulster University has a uniquely important role to play in building a prosperous, inclusive, self-reliant and confident Northern Ireland with much to offer the wider world.

Investing in the Future

We work in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders to help further the development and growth of the University. Philanthropic support from alumni, donors and friends has enabled us to add immense value to the Ulster student experience, inspiring our talented people to succeed in their chosen careers.

The second annual Ulster University Fund Scholarships and Awards Ceremony took place in December to celebrate the achievements of recipients of scholarships and awards supported by alumni, staff and friends.

The Ulster University Fund makes a real difference to the lives of students, encouraging and rewarding excellence, providing much needed financial assistance and supporting activities that stimulate entrepreneurship and academic distinction.

In total, 44 students received an award, as well as additional donations being presented to the library and Student Support. Our connections with the corporate supporters of the scholarships and awards SSE Airtricity, Norbrook Laboratories, The Department of Justice and Subway Ireland – as well as our engagement with alumni, friends and donors, continue to create strong partnerships that have made a significant difference to our students and the communities the University serves.

Crossing the Pond

Coinciding with President Bill Clintons visit to Derry Londonderry in March 2014, supported by Incore and the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), the University announced that £3m of funding had been secured for the John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair in Peace, which will be established in perpetuity at the University's Magee campus.

Donations to the fund from sources such as the International Fund for Ireland and the American Ireland Fund, along with a number of additional benefactors, will leave a lasting legacy. The Chair will form part of a wider initiative, building on the work of INCORE, which applies lessons from Northern Ireland's peace process to conflict zones around the world.

Consolidating our American links, the University hosted a visit from John J Sweeney, the former President of the AFL CIO, Americas largest federation of US unions. He was presented with the inaugural INCORE Global Peace and Social Justice Award in recognition of his commitment to lobbying for fair wages and better working conditions in America. As an associate of Thomas P. O'Neill, he was also applauded for his support of peacebuilding in Northern Ireland through economic development.

In honour of these outstanding contributions to society, the AFL CIO community committed funding of \$230,000 to support a scholarship at Ulster University.

Massachusetts-based Ulster University engineering graduate Gillian McColgan, established a new scholarship which was awarded for the first time in 2014. The McColgan Engineering Scholarship is available to students joining the first year of a range of undergraduate programmes within the School of Engineering and aims to encourage excellence. Gillian has committed to supporting one student per year for five years for the duration of their degree.

Gillian also supports The McColgan Innovation Awards – now in their second year – which are awarded in support of students taking the Advanced Medical Sensors module of the BSc Hons Biomedical Engineering.

As an international business leader in Europe and North America for over 20 years with Nortel, Gillian is now Chief Technology Officer of Rockstar, a patent holding company owned by some of the biggest names in technology today, including Apple, Microsoft and Sony.

Giving Generously

SSE Airtricity, Northern Ireland's second largest energy provider, unveiled a partnership with Ulster University (and South West College), to distribute the SSE Airtricity Scholarship fund.

The new Scholarship, funded by SSE Airtricity's largest wind farm, is one of the most significant bursary schemes ever

launched in Northern Ireland. It is designed to provide funding support from wind energy to students living in the vicinity of Slieve Kirk Wind Park who are going forward to third level education.

The Scholarship will enable more than 20 students per year from counties Derry-Londonderry and Tyrone to receive 50 per cent funding support from SSE Airtricity towards the cost of their third level student



fees. Ulster University has a total of 12 SSE Airtricity Scholarships for full-time degree and full and part-time masters' level courses. Scholarships are available for a broad range of subjects with a particular emphasis on STEM courses.

Creative Connections

Some of the most creative and inspiring minds from the film, fashion, music and business worlds were part of the impressive line-up for the 2014 Ulster University Festival of Art and Design programmed by DARO. The Festival brought a packed week of talks, workshops, exhibitions and performances to the Belfast campus.

2014 was the seventh year of the Festival, which attracts internationally renowned artists and designers from around the world to demonstrate their creativity and innovation to local audiences. Highlights included David Bowie's album designer, Johnathan Barnbrook; Jane McCann, technical designer for Nike; Sandra Scott, Harry Potter's special effects producer; Chanel's fashion forecaster, Beryl Gibson; Paul Smith's shop designers, 6a, and acclaimed photographer Martin Parr.

Recognising that art and design play a much bigger part in our daily lives than we actually realise, the University is committed to providing the public and our students, with access to some of the most influential and creative minds in the world.

The Graduate Fashion Show took place in May, showcasing Northern Ireland's most exciting emerging designers. As they launched their careers, graduates from the University's Belfast School of Art displayed their diverse talents across knit, print, embroidery and pattern construction.

Honeycomb Inspiring Creative Talent

Ulster University is shaping the development of the burgeoning creative industries sector in Northern Ireland as its graduates make an impact both locally and globally.

New York based illustrator, author and Ulster University graduate, Oliver Jeffers, shared the secrets of his success with young people and creative industry leaders at the Humdinger Children's Book Festival in Derry-Londonderry in March. Honeycomb Creative Works, an EU INTERREG IVA funded programme, supported the event, aimed at maximising the economic potential of the creative industries and led by Ulster University.



Recent graduate Dominic Holmes demonstrates to Game of Thrones producer, Greg Spence, his winning project for the Creative Buzz Awards.

Oliver revealed the diversity of commercial opportunities that exist for creative talent in Northern Ireland and inspired local artists to achieve international success in the industry.

In another Honeycomb Creative Works initiative, 20 graduates from universities and institutions across the island of Ireland took part in a week long bootcamp during CultureTECH as winners of Ulster University's Creative Buzz awards initiative, part of a £3.58m skills and business development programme for the digital creative industries.

The bootcamp was designed to provide graduates with unrivalled connections to leading industry figures for networking and mentoring as well as offering participants access to potential sources of funding for their creative ideas.

Game of Thrones producer, Greg Spence, was a one of a number of speakers on the four day programme which included workshops on commercial presentations, pitching improvisation and selling techniques. Northern Ireland Screen Chief Executive Richard Williams also attended as a mentor to provide graduates with advice on how to kick start their career in the creative industries.

The graduates were chosen by a panel of industry experts as rising stars of the local creative industries scene after submitting digital projects ranging from photography, gaming and movies to websites, animation and music.

Cultural Crossings

Cultural Crossings emerged as the result of a partnership between the Provost of Ulster University's Coleraine campus and Causeway Coast Arts. They share a commitment to supporting the arts and engaging with local communities in the Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Council areas. In pursuit of this common interest they presented a wide programme of arts and cultural events reflecting the musical and cultural influence of emigrants from Ireland.

End of Year Show

Home grown creativity was in the spotlight in June when the End of Year Show by students from the Belfast School of Art and the Belfast School of Architecture took place at the Belfast campus. Exhibitions included sculpture, print, fine art, high trend fashion, jewellery, photography and communication solutions.

The End of Year Show is the highlight of the year, a culmination of three years of teaching and learning and the moment when it all comes to life.

Our graduates are the next generation of creative thinkers who are starting to export their products around the world.

They are a beacon for Northern Ireland, and as a result, Northern Ireland is starting to be seen internationally alongside places like New York and San Francisco.

End of Year Music Show

Gifted graduates performed their degree works and more at the first End of Year Show for music courses at Magee with famed Irish singer songwriter Paul Brady as the special guest.

Held at Cultúrlann Uí Chánáin in Derry Londonderry, the event included Gary Lutton (a masters level student) and Linley Hamilton, jazz trumpeter, BBC radio personality and Ulster University PhD student.





Sporting Ambitions

Ulster University offers a wide range of sport-related courses that are underpinned by our world-leading research in sport and exercise science.

We also have a proud sporting tradition boasting over 70 sports clubs ranging from golf, hockey and football to netball, rowing and rugby. Our state of the art facilities are used by both elite athletes and local communities and provide a space for sport to thrive in Northern Ireland.

Sporting Success

University teams and individual athletes enjoyed significant sporting success in 2014 across the sporting spectrum, including athletics, golf, football, swimming and rugby.

There was double celebration in October when both the men's and women's hockey teams became 2014 Irish Intervarsity champions. The men's team won the Mauritius Cup whilst the women's team for the very first time took home the coveted Chilean Cup.

The University also celebrated the success of the 12 graduates and six current students who were part of the 117 strong Team NI at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, competing in sports including athletics, badminton, hockey and netball.

The team won 12 medals, nine in boxing (two gold, two silver and five bronze) plus silver and bronze in bowls and bronze in judo.

Supporting the Special Olympics

In September, Ulster University hosted a successful education and research seminar in Antwerp to coincide with the 2014 Special Olympics European Summer Games. This marked our fifth year as the chosen Research Collaborating Centre for the Special Olympics organisation in the Europe Eurasia Region.

We brought together more than 30 representatives from universities across Europe and Eurasia with key figures from the Special Olympics to consider sport and intellectual disability research and policy development for the organisation, which will be developed over the coming year.

Sport and the Community

Ulster University is proud to bring sport to local communities through a number of grassroots initiatives. We facilitate a range of outreach programmes aimed at widening access to sport and enhancing physical activity among young people. 2014 was the sixth year of our successful Sport for Life

programme, designed to address the childhood obesity epidemic by educating young people about the importance of being active and healthy eating. University students, who teach the children on a volunteer basis, deliver the programme to schools in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.





In September, 923 children from schools across Northern Ireland began the 12 week programme that was delivered by 42 university students. The programme offers the student volunteers hands on experience working in a school environment, which helps to enhance the teaching and communication skills of these aspiring teachers and sports coaches.

Sport for Life has been recognised by the World Health Organisation as a best practice case study for promoting physical activity to underprivileged groups. We are now working in partnership with Dublin City University, University College Cork, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and Sligo Institute of Technology to deliver the programme on an all island basis.

Recognition of Sports Outreach Excellence

Sports Outreach at Ulster University was recognised in February with the award of a prestigious London 2012 Inspired by mark in recognition of our work with local community groups and schools.

The Inspired by mark is awarded for outstanding projects and events inspired by the London 2012 Games and is viewed as a sign of excellence and best practice in the sports sector.

To be awarded the 'Inspired by' mark for our work is a testament to the expertise and personal commitment of the staff and student volunteers at our Sports Outreach Unit.

Our programmes encourage young people in Northern Ireland to engage in sport with the aim of raising their confidence levels, increase aspirations and open up the world of higher education to young people who may have believed it was out of their reach.

In May, we established the Sports Outreach Volunteer Awards to reward the valuable outreach activities undertaken by students, recognising their efforts. Seven students were recognised for their commitment and contribution to Ulster University Sports Outreach programmes and the impact all student volunteers have on the local communities and schools they work with.

In 2014, we delivered sports outreach activities to over 10,000 pupils through 100 primary and secondary schools, with 250,000 opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity provided for children and young people.

Supporting Health and Wellbeing

Ulster University is committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of its staff and students. Our on-campus gyms offer a wide variety of fitness classes to suit all abilities from spin and boxercise to bodyblast and yoga. 2014 saw the introduction of a number of new classes for staff and students including Vinyasa yoga, HIIT training and Rig Blast classes. With classes held in the morning, evening and during lunch hour, staff and students get the opportunity to exercise at a time that best suits them.



Ulster Connects

Partnership working and international development are integral to Ulster University’s aim of providing excellence in higher education.

Collaborations also help us promote the economic, social and cultural development of Northern Ireland, promote the region internationally and welcome overseas students.

Student Experience

In January, the University launched a new initiative with Barnardo’s NI to help migrant and refugee children in Belfast to integrate into their new communities. Funded by the Ulster University Innovation Fund, the Big Lottery Fund and the Garfield Weston Fund, ‘Language Made Fun’ is a play-based language programme that supports children whose first language is not English. It aims to develop the children’s English whilst respecting their cultural identity by encouraging them to also value their native language. In addition the programme allows our Language and Linguistics students to use their expertise to help local communities.

In April, we teamed up with some of the most successful and high-growth companies in Northern Ireland to showcase the skills of local engineering students and boost career prospects.

Huhtamaki Ltd, Lurgan; B/E Aerospace, Kilkeel; Crossland Tankers Ltd, Swatragh; Elite Electronic Systems, Enniskillen, Terex Corporation, Omagh and Intelesens Ltd, Belfast began working with the university on the initiative which saw first year students competing in engineering challenges, including designing a chassis and aerodynamic skin for a Formula One racing car.

We believe that strong relationships with these high-growth companies will help our student engineers to develop essential, industry ready skills.

September saw us launch a new partnership with the local medical research industry that will place Northern Ireland at the forefront of research into stratified medicine.

Established at our £11.5m NI Centre for Stratified Medicine at Altnagelvin Hospital, the industry liaison committee includes representatives of international healthcare companies based in Northern Ireland which have strong research capability including Almac, Randox and Aridhia Informatics.

The committee is helping to shape the relevance of research and collaborations undertaken by the centre, as well as contribute to the development of new courses delivered by the University on stratified medicine. This collaboration is ensuring our students will graduate with the skills needed by local employers, as well as allowing the University to truly enhance health provision and realise the full economic benefits of stratified medicine research, particularly in terms of our ability to attract inward investment in this sector.





Engineering student Lauren Neilly in the driver's seat with fellow engineering students DJ O'Brien and James O'Keefe during the engineering showcase



International students from Brazil, Switzerland and China enjoying an orientation away day before beginning their studies.



Placement student Darren McElhinney at his employer B/E Aerospace, winners at our 2014 Placement Employer of the Year Awards.

Placement Employer of the Year

Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry MLA joined students, staff and business leaders to recognise Ulster University and employer partnerships at our Placement Employer of the Year awards in May.

The ceremony celebrated the partnerships that allow 2,000 of our students to undertake a work placement every year. They provide students with opportunities to develop industry relevant skills and allow businesses access to high calibre students who will be equipped with the abilities, knowledge and skills to help grow their business and support our local economy.

From over 180 nominations, 19 companies were shortlisted and six named winners, with all commended for the positive steps they are taking in partnership with the University to support our students.

CultureTECH

2014 saw the University's partnership with CultureTECH, the Derry-Londonderry based festival of digital technology, media, music and arts, continue to prosper.

In addition to numerous staff and students being involved in the festival as participants, contributors and artists, the University's International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) launched a new, global partnership to establish the Peacebuilding and Technology Laboratory (The PeaceTechLab).

Working with New York based Culture Shock, The Nerve Centre in Derry, The Young Foundation, The Agirre Lehendakaria Center for Social and Political Studies in the Basque Country and Scensei in Washington, the PeaceTechLab is bringing together peacebuilders, creative technologists, storytellers and strategists to explore how technology can be used to enhance peacebuilding.

International Affairs

Ulster University's global educational partnerships continued to flourish and develop this year, providing more students than ever the opportunity to study abroad as part of their time with us. Over 3,400 students are undertaking full-time and part-time undergraduate courses and postgraduate courses, including students from 99 countries across the EU, North America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

China

In 2014, we continued to build and reinforce linkages with academics, policy-makers and civil society in China to enhance teaching and research, share knowledge, build human capital and contribute to economic, social and cultural development here.

In March, the University took part in 2014 China International Education Exhibition Tour (CIETT) for the first time, China's premier international education recruitment event.

By participating in the CIEET, we engaged with thousands of Chinese students, encouraging them to learn about the opportunities studying at Ulster University can bring, and how we can help them achieve their educational and career goals.

Academic collaboration was strengthened by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Liaoning Shihua University to explore linkages in engineering, business and IT.

Opportunities for collaboration were also explored with universities and industry representatives from the Chongqing region. Senior delegates met with our staff to examine opportunities for strengthening many types of

co-operation, ranging from student exchange and teaching partnerships to joint research on global issues.

In November the University celebrated ten years of partnership with the National Police University of China. After two years of study in China, students come to Ulster for one year where they have the opportunity of gaining a BSc (Hons) in Criminology and Criminal Justice before they return home for their final year of study. This prepares the graduates for the ever-expanding complexity of the police role and its transition towards community policing.



Professor Richard Millar, PVC, with Xiaoping Sun, President, Liaoning Shihua University, signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

By the end of 2014, we had created 23 non-research partnerships between the University and institutions in China. These relate to either articulation arrangements, where students from the partner institution complete their studies at Ulster, or Memoranda of Understanding, establishing relationships between the parties to explore potential areas of collaboration.

The Americas

A visit to Chile and Argentina in March as part of a delegation organised by Universities UK and the British Embassy, saw the University establish a number of new partnerships including Universidad del Salvador (Buenos Aires), Universidad Nacional del Sur (Buenos Aires) and Universidad Mayor (Santiago).

In May, we undertook a high profile visit to North America to promote Study Abroad and Student Exchange opportunities. The delegation visited a number of current and potential partners including Framingham State University (Massachusetts), Kent State University (Ohio) and Warren Wilson College (North Carolina), enhancing existing relationships and fostering new ties that will benefit our students and staff.

Brazil

The third year of the 'Science Without Borders' programme saw us welcome 35 students from Brazil in 2014.

An initiative funded by the Brazilian government, 'Science Without Borders' encourages the study of STEM subjects abroad with students coming to Ulster University taking up courses in areas such as biology, biomedical & health sciences, computer science and information technology and creative industries.

In November, we played host to academics from ten Brazilian universities, as part of a UK wide visit to seek out long-term academic partnerships and find out more about our higher education sector.

The visit to Ulster University was a joint initiative to the UK by the British Council Brazil and FAUBAI, the Association of Brazilian Higher Education Institutions' Offices for International Relations.

We have already built solid partnerships with institutions in Brazil and this initiative provided a worthwhile opportunity to showcase the work going on at the University and to meet staff from Brazilian universities who are interested in developing strategic partnerships and alliances within the UK.



Africa

In June, 17 students travelled to Ethiopia as part of the University's award-winning partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Now in it's ninth year, the partnership sees students building homes and supporting communities whilst raising awareness about the need for housing in that country.

Internationalisation

Providing students with the opportunity to spend time abroad as part of their university education is a key element of the University's Internationalisation Strategy (2012-2016).

For the academic year 2014/15, 300 are registered to participate in projects in countries including China, India and the USA, as well as across mainland Europe.

Erasmus

Interest in studying in Europe continued to go from strength to strength in 2014 with the number of Ulster University students participating in the ERASMUS+ programme increasing by a third.

212 students took part in the programme, up from 159 in 2013, with 113 students

taking up employment opportunities and 99 continuing their studies at partner universities.

With a diverse range of organisations and institutions involved – from Microsoft to the Ceramic Research Centre in Denmark to schools across Spain – there is significant potential for students to enhance their education, employability and skills by taking part in the programme.

Confucius Institute

Chinese language development provided by the Confucius Institute enjoyed significant growth in 2014.

The Confucius Classrooms project, which delivers lessons in Mandarin Chinese and cultural awareness programmes, now includes 121 primary and secondary schools and regional colleges through eight central hubs.

The number of students registered with the Institute across all the programmes on offer rose from 269 in 2013 to 6,093 in 2014. The number of students who successfully passed the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) or the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) rose from 103 in 2013 to 1,362 in 2014.

Inspiring People

Innovation, relevance, creativity and dedication to excellence in teaching and research make our exceptional people our greatest strength. The diversity of the Ulster University community brings a wealth of expertise to the University.

At a local level, their contributions greatly enrich the student learning experience, but their wider influence underpins the positive impact that the University has on this region and beyond. The accomplishments of the Ulster University community during 2014 are too numerous for this short section, but some of the most notable are highlighted.

Staff Honoured

In recognition of their significant achievements, a number of University staff were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list and the New Year Honours list.

Professor Mary McColgan, Professor of Social Work and Head of the School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies received an OBE in recognition of her services to the social care sector in Northern Ireland. **Gillian Webb**, PA to the Dean of Ulster University Business School received the BEM in recognition of her services to higher education and to the community in Northern Ireland.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development) and Provost (Jordanstown and Belfast), **Professor Alastair Adair** was awarded a CBE for services to higher education in Northern Ireland; **Professor Carol Curran**, Dean, Faculty of Life and Health Sciences was awarded an OBE for services to nursing and education in Northern Ireland; and **Professor Sean Strain**, Professor of Human Nutrition and Director of NICHE received an OBE for services to nutrition research and higher education.

In a year that saw our Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Sir Richard Barnett**, announce his retirement from the University following a nine-year tenure at the helm, his significant contribution to higher education was recognised when he was awarded the honour of Knight Bachelor for services to higher education and business in the 2015 New Year Honours.



Ulster University's People Power

A number of new appointments were made to senior leadership positions in 2014. **Professor Jan Jędrzejewski** took up the post of Dean of the Faculty of Arts; **Professor Richard Millar** was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning, Partnerships and International Affairs); and **Professor Liam Maguire** was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Engineering.

Distinguished engineer **Professor Eileen Harkin-Jones** joined the University as its Bombardier-Royal Academy of Engineering Research Chair, focusing primarily on driving Ulster University's composites research capability and building on our renowned capability in this sector.

Dr Eugene McNamee, Head of School of Law, secured a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship and embarked on a four-month research project studying the operation of the extensive clinical legal education programme at Fordham University Law School in New York.

In another success for the School, **Dr Esther McGuinness** was selected as one of the final six candidates in the Oxford University Press 'Law Teacher of the Year' competition. The shortlisting comes after a rigorous selection process, and on the nomination of two students from her classes – the winner will be decided in spring 2015.

Professor Tara Moore had a remarkable year. In May, she was made an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) of the Royal College of Physicians of London. In November, HRH The Princess Royal presented Tara with a prestigious WISE (Women in to Science and Engineering) Hero Award in recognition of the influence she has had on health, well-being and safety through her contributions to forensic and legal medicine and vision science research locally, nationally and internationally. She also won the Women in Business NI Award for Advancing Diversity in the Workplace.



Professor Tara Moore

Dean of Ulster University Business School, **Professor Marie McHugh**, was awarded the CIPD Chairman's Special Achievement Award at the CIPD NI Award, in recognition of her contribution to the human resources and personnel development profession. **Dr Alan Leacock**, Reader, Engineering Research Institute, was awarded a High Value Manufacturing Catapult fellowship, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and coordinated by the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre.

The prestigious award of Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences was conferred on **Professor Owen Hargie**, Professor of Communication, in recognition of the significant contribution that his work has made to the social sciences, both in the UK and internationally. **Professor Owen Barr**, Head of the School of Nursing, was awarded a Florence Nightingale Foundation Leadership Scholarship.

Alongside businessman Colin Anderson, **Professor Deirdre Heenan**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Communications) and Provost, Coleraine and Magee, was invited to co-chair an independent commission set up by the Labour Party. The Heenan – Anderson Commission was established to examine the causes of the current levels of economic

marginalisation and deprivation in Northern Ireland and investigate how those on benefits or on low pay can be assisted.

Ulster University's Chancellor **Dr James Nesbitt** was named as one of Northern Ireland's 'National Treasures', following an online poll to celebrate 20 years of the National Lottery.

Ulster's Global Impact

Ulster University expertise was sought after in many circles. Given our world-class facilities and pioneering work in nanotechnology teaching and research **Professor Tony Byrne**, Professor of Photocatalysis in the Engineering Research Institute visited Kurdistan – at the invitation of Soran University – to explore potential linkages between the two universities.

Professor Mickey Keenan, Professor of Behaviour Analysis, was selected to receive the 2014 Michael Hemingway Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) award. The US-based BACB annually honours an individual distinguished for their contributions to advance the science of and/or champion behaviour analysis, in memory of the life and contributions of Michael Hemingway, a founding member of the Board.

At the XVI World Congress of Psychiatry, held in Madrid during September, presentations were delivered by Ulster University staff including **Professor Siobhan O'Neill** and **Dr Cherie Larmour**.

Monica McWilliams, Professor of Women's Studies in the Transitional Justice Institute was a guest speaker at the Geneva Peace Talks, where she discussed the need to include more women in peace processes.

Welcoming Friends

Ulster University hosted a number of esteemed visitors in 2014. Biomedical research came under the microscope in April when MLAs from two Assembly Committees came together to visit the University's School of Biomedical Sciences. MLAs from both the Employment and Learning Committee and the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee were briefed on research into diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, nutritional research, bioimaging and personalised medicine under way at the University.

US President **Bill Clinton** visited Derry-Londonderry in March and addressed a large public audience in the city's Guildhall Square, honouring the contribution of John Hume to peace in Northern Ireland. In a

private function, he launched *Peacemaking In The Twenty-First Century*, a new book celebrating the Tip O'Neill series of peace lectures given at the University's Magee campus and edited by **Professor Hume**, **Emeritus Professor Tom Fraser** and **Dr Leonie Murray**.

John J Sweeney – the inaugural recipient of the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) Global Peace and Justice Award – was recognised by INCORE for his commitment to lobbying for fair wages

and better working conditions in America. International peace expert **Iratxe Momoitio Astorkia**, Director of the Gernika Peace Museum also visited the University to see at first hand the valuable work being undertaken by INCORE.

Ken Hodge, Professor of Sport and Exercise Psychology at the School of Physical Education, University of Otago, delivered a guest lecture in Jordanstown on the motivational climate in elite sport with a focus on the New Zealand 'All Blacks' rugby



team. Closer to home, sporting legend **Sir Alex Ferguson** received an honorary degree from the University in recognition of his outstanding personal and professional contribution to football.

Life Stories, in partnership with Danske Bank – a series of interviews with prominent graduates who have excelled in their chosen sphere – offered audiences a rare opportunity to hear the personal account of the life and achievements of distinguished alumni. **Professor Paul Moore** shone the spotlight on the life and achievements of comedian, radio presenter and television personality, **Patrick Kielty** at our Belfast campus.

Tim Wheeler of local rock band Ash and **Sir Richard Needham**, now senior independent director of Dyson, were guest speakers at the University's Celebration of Innovation showcase event, attended by over 150 business leaders, academic-based researchers and spin-out companies.

Omid Djalili, who graduated from the University in 1988 with a degree in English and Theatre Studies, returned to the Coleraine campus to record a special programme for BBC's 'The One Show'. Speaking to an enthusiastic student audience, he spoke fondly of his time at

Ulster, commenting that he had 'returned to the place that changed his life'.

Award Winners

Ulster University alumnus **Duncan Campbell** won the 2014 Turner Prize for his contribution to Scotland's pavilion at the Venice Biennale. His film 'It for Others' reflects on African art and colonialism as well as featuring a silent choreography inspired by Karl Marx. This prestigious win underscores the artistic reputation of the University's Belfast School of Art, which boasts a previous winner and a further five Turner Prize nominees among its alumni and staff.

Local businessman **Colin Walsh** received the University's Distinguished Graduate Award at the winter ceremonies. Sponsored by First Trust Bank, the award recognised Colin's outstanding contribution to business and the local economy.

Dr Martin McCracken, senior lecturer, Ulster University Business School was awarded the Alan Moon Memorial Prize for Best Paper at the University Conference for Human Resource Development 15th Annual European conference hosted by Edinburgh Napier University.

Inspiring Excellence

Our honorary degree recipients embody the qualities that inspire our students to succeed. At our summer graduation ceremonies, we recognised the impressive achievements of 13 key personalities from the worlds of sport, the arts, public life, business and education.

Gary Anderson, the motorsport commentator, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to motorsport.

Ulster and Irish international rugby player – and Ulster alumnus – **Tommy Bowe**, received the honorary degree of Doctor

of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to sport.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to writing, **Frank Cottrell Boyce**, screenwriter and novelist, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt).

Evelyn Collins, Chief Executive of the Equality Commission, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD), for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of equality and good relations.

Derry-born actress and film producer, **Roma Downey**, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Art (DFA) for her outstanding contribution to acting and philanthropy.

Nick Hewer, the business analyst and media commentator was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to business development.

An honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) was conferred on **Lord Justice Brian Kerr** for his outstanding contribution to the legal profession.

Nicky Kinnaird, the prominent businesswoman and founder of the Space:NK chain received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for her outstanding contribution to entrepreneurship.

Champion jockey **AP McCoy**, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to sport.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to film-making, contemporary art and cinematography **Seamus McGarvey**, the Oscar-nominated cinematographer received the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Art (DFA).

Peter McNaney, former Chief Executive, Belfast City Council, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his outstanding contribution to civic leadership.

Chairman of Co-Operation Ireland, **Christopher Moran** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws for his outstanding contribution to civic leadership.

Former Director of the Women's Resource & Development Agency, **Margaret Ward** received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for her outstanding contribution to advancing women's equality.

Finally, the University community was deeply saddened to lose a number of great colleagues and friends during 2014 – Ulster University is diminished by the loss. Among them, we remember **Lord Ballyedmond**, chairman and founder of Norbrook Laboratories and honorary graduate of the University and **Professor Norman Gibson**, founding professor of economics at the New University of Ulster in 1968.



Professor Alastair Adair receiving his CBE from Her Majesty, The Queen.



Governance

Council Composition:

Ex-Officio Members

Pro-Chancellors

Mr G Mallon (Chair)
Dr J Harbison

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Sir R Barnett

Honorary Treasurer

Ms R Peters-Gallagher

President of the Students' Union

Mr M Bell

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
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

Council Sub-Committee of The Organisational Development Committee 2013-2014

Chairman of Council

Mr G Mallon (Chair)

Vice-Chancellor

Professor Sir 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/secretarysecretariat/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.

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