

# THE ULSTER GRADUATE



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*Inside*  
**PLAYING THE GAME  
OF THRONES**

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*Meet*  
The man who  
caught a star  
The woman at the  
Stadium of Light

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*Plus*  
What your money can do  
Stay in touch,  
reap the benefits

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# Hello & welcome

**We are at an exciting point in the story of your University, which this year celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the incorporation of our four campuses under the University of Ulster banner. There's quite a buzz in the air and you will find out why throughout these pages.**

Over the last eight years, under the stewardship of our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, Ulster's contribution to the economic, social and cultural development of Northern Ireland has been tremendously significant.

As Professor Barnett prepares to step down as Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of all the graduates, students and staff who have passed through under his watch I would like to thank him for his unswerving leadership and his steadfast commitment to the goals of true academic excellence and genuinely accessible university education.

He has set in motion the biggest ever capital investment in our infrastructure and the University's standing as an educational institution of excellence has never been stronger. Thanks to Professor Barnett the future is bright for Ulster, though, as ever, not without challenges.

In this *Ulster Graduate* we feature some of the many graduates who are making an impact at home and abroad in business, the arts, sport, politics and humanitarian activities. In achieving excellence in their fields, they bring great credit to the University and to our family of alumni.

Many more students will follow in their footsteps, but as financial constraints continue to bite, there is always a pressing need for today's graduates to support tomorrow's students. Through our various fundraising activities we are able to support people, places and programmes across

the University, including much needed scholarships and bursaries.

Inside you can read how your donations are driving strong academic achievement and how they are giving people the chance to study, to strive and to succeed.

Always remember the many benefits you can enjoy through the power of our 160,000-strong alumni community – from invaluable contacts to career support, staying connected and engaged with your University is very much worth it.

In today's world of 24-hour social media it's easy to stay in touch with each other and with the University. Please see below for how you can contact us and make sure we have your up-to-date details so we can keep you informed and you can tell us what you're doing.

I'd like to wish my predecessor Kate Bond, who moved on to the Australian National University, good luck in her new role.

Finally, I trust you will find this issue of your magazine informative and enjoyable.

Eddie Friel

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Search for University of Ulster alumni on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

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# Vice-Chancellor's reflections



Professor Richard Barnett

**VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER**

**T**his edition of the *Ulster Graduate* comes at an exciting time of change and opportunity for the University of Ulster, and for Northern Ireland.

The enhanced Belfast development is now rapidly changing the city's landscape, bringing the promise of a modern, dynamic teaching environment which has the potential to reshape the city centre, delivering thousands of jobs and wider economic benefits to the local construction sector.

Our wider commitment to development across all campuses was reflected in the planning approval for a new teaching block at Magee and major refurbishment works at Coleraine and Jordanstown.

In March, we reinforced and celebrated what makes the University of Ulster truly unique as we hosted former US president, and Ulster honorary graduate Bill Clinton at the Guildhall in Derry~Londonderry. With the eyes of the world upon us, Ulster's groundbreaking work in peace and conflict resolution was firmly in the spotlight, culminating in the announcement that we had raised the £3 million required to establish the John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair in Peace as a permanent endowed professorship.

Summer graduation brought inspiration, not just from honorary graduates, but significantly, from our graduating students who spoke with passion and integrity about their Ulster experience and aspirations.

It has been my privilege to lead the University of Ulster. When I retire next spring, I will be leaving a multi-campus university, poised to further cement its position as one of the UK and Ireland's most progressive higher education institutions. An institution with roots firmly in pioneering research, collaboration and teaching excellence.

I am genuinely proud of Ulster's achievements and will remain a vocal advocate of our vision for the future, and the core values that define our actions and ambitions.

But, most importantly, alongside the University staff that supported our students on their academic journey, I am exceptionally proud of the 30,000 highly talented graduates that have emerged from Ulster during my tenure as Vice-Chancellor.

These graduates have joined the Ulster network of local and international alumni, greatly increasing its influence in shaping and defining the world we live in.

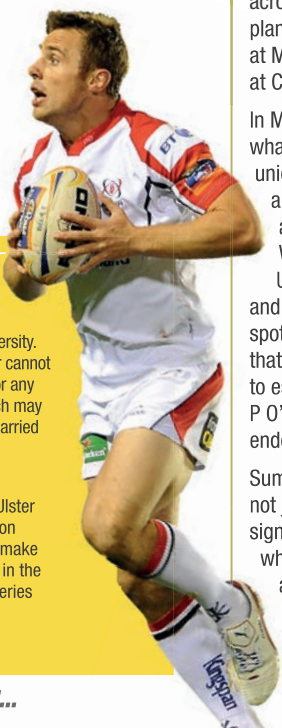
As the University's true ambassadors, I am confident the alumni body will continue to make a profound impact on business, health, public service, sport, the arts and well beyond.

I wish you all continued success, wherever your careers may take you.

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

## Cover image

By Helen Sloan HBO: Ulster 3D design graduate Don Sturgeon who helped make the iconic Iron Throne in the *Game of Thrones* TV series





## BRAIN IMAGING FIRST

The first functional brain mapping facility on the island of Ireland has been established at the Magee campus.

The specialist equipment, located at the Intelligent Systems Research Centre (ISRC), will enable researchers to use magnetoencephalography to measure brain activity and advance research into neurological disorders.

The £5.3 million multidisciplinary brain imaging research project will be carried out by the ISRC in conjunction with the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute, the Institute of Nursing and Health Research and the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC).

ISRC director Professor Liam Maguire said: "Our vision is to exploit the capabilities of functional brain mapping to perform excellent neurological research and commercialisation."

## NURTURING NEW ENTERPRISES

A growing number of Ulster students are setting up their own business and, to support them, Ulster has introduced a 'new venture creation' module in its business courses.

The University is also one of three institutions that have completed Invest Northern Ireland's Business LaunchPad programme, which helps students get the skills, knowledge, advice and support needed to commercialise their business ideas.

Fifty students took part in the programme, out of which one company has started trading and three others are preparing to launch.

## KILL SPILL TECHNOLOGY

Ulster researchers are leading a project to develop new environmentally friendly methods of cleaning up oil spills.

The researchers from the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute have secured £300,000 for their work, part of the Kill Spill project which is co-ordinated from Greece and has 32 partners and total funding of around €9 million behind it.

Professor Ibrahim Banat and Emeritus Professor Roger Marchant are spearheading the research.

The Kill Spill technology being developed by the University has already delivered impressive results using enhanced forms of marine micro-organisms that are naturally present in the environment to achieve complete clean-up.



## SILVER CELEBRATION

The Science Shop collaboration between Ulster and Queen's University Belfast is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2014.

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

Part of the wider European network of science shops, the Northern Ireland collaboration has seen students investigate everything from anti-sectarianism to how to restore a quarry in an environmentally friendly way.

Professor Richard Millar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor said: "The Science Shop is a 25-year partnership between both universities which continues to contribute solidly to valuable research expertise and to enable knowledge transfer into the community and voluntary sectors."

**IMAGE:** Dr Brian Murphy, Director of Access & Distributed Learning, Dr Shane Crothers, Head of Widening Access & Participation, Mrs Claire Mulrone, Administrative Manager (Science Shop) and University of Ulster student winner Aine McCreesh at the silver celebrations

## SPIN-OUT SUCCESSES

Ulster's ongoing support for the commercialisation of leading-edge technologies and innovative business ideas emerging from the University as well as other Northern Ireland research organisations continues to yield exciting projects.

Ulster spin-out company, HidInImage Ltd, led by CEO Dr Joan Condell, has secured significant funding to commercialise its research into digital watermarking.

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

Meanwhile, Get Invited, the next generation of online ticketing and event registration software, has secured funding to bring the product to market.

The company was developed by graduates Kyle Gawley and David Turner and senior lecturer Christopher Murphy based on the Belfast campus, as part of a masters project. In a short space of time the spin-out has gained significant traction in both the UK and international markets.



## WIND ENERGY RESEARCH

A major multi-million pound research project to examine how wind energy is stored and managed is being led by Ulster's Centre for Sustainable Technologies in association with the Centre for Renewable Energy at Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The £3.7 million SPIRE energy project, which secured £2.9 million of EU support, will contribute to the development of the renewable energy sector.

Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor, said: "The University is renowned for its research excellence and has been at the forefront of sustainable, renewable technology development for many years."



## TOP PEACE INFLUENCER RECOGNISED

Professor Brandon Hamber, director of Ulster's International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE), has been selected as one of the top 100 most influential people in armed violence reduction.

He was chosen by Action on Armed Violence, a body which works locally, nationally and globally to reduce, and ultimately prevent, armed violence.

## LAW CLINIC AWARD



In April, the Ulster Law Clinic won a national Award for its work offering free advice and representation on employment and social security issues to people who often have nowhere else to turn.

The Clinic scooped the Best New Student Pro Bono Activity Award at the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards.

Staffed by postgraduate law students on the LLM Clinical Legal Education course who work under the supervision of School of Law staff, the Clinic is unique on the island of Ireland.

Dr Gráinne McKeever, School of Law, said: "Ulster is leading the way in postgraduate law provision and is one of the only law schools across Britain and Ireland to offer hands-on training in social security law."

**IMAGE:** Ulster Law Clinic staff with Attorney General Dominic Grieve QC MP (left) at the House of Commons receiving the LawWorks & Attorney General Award for best new Student pro bono activity in the UK



## ULSTER STRONG AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Twelve Ulster graduates along with six current students were part of the 117-strong Team NI at this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Accompanying the team were 14 coaches and officials who are either graduates or current or former members of staff.

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.

Outside the medals, alumna Aileen Reid shone when she claimed sixth spot in the triathlon on the first day of competition.

Also, recent graduate and Northern Ireland 100 metres record holder, Amy Foster, made the semi-finals.

Sinead Chambers, who graduated with first-class honours this summer, and her brother and current Ulster student Ciaran, also put up a spirited display in badminton.



# One collective impact across four unique campuses

*Our work across all four campuses generates hundreds of success stories every day; collectively they make a unified, dynamic and influential University having a major impact locally and globally.*

IMAGE: Niall Press at Music End of Year Show

## BELFAST

### International creativity

David Bowie's acclaimed album designer, Johnathan Barnbrook, and Sandra Scott, Harry Potter's special effects producer, were among the top-class line-up at the 2014 Ulster Festival of Art and Design at the Belfast campus in March.

Also featuring technical designer for Nike, Jane McCann; Chanel's fashion forecaster, Beryl Gibson; Paul Smith's shop designers, 6a, and acclaimed photographer Martin Parr, the festival presented nearly 40 separate events bringing the very best of international creativity and innovation from the film, fashion, music and business worlds to local audiences.

Ulster's very own Professor Greg Maguire, who worked on Oscar-winning films, *Avatar* and *Harry Potter*, hosted an animation workshop for young people while Kano, the DIY computer kit company, demonstrated how design turned their concept into an international business success.

Festival director Tim Kerr said: "Ulster's 2014 festival gave the public, and our students, access to some of the most influential and creative minds in the world."

### The next generation of creative thinkers

Home-grown creativity was again 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 over four floors of the York Street building.

Exhibitions included sculpture, print, fine art, high-trend fashion, jewellery, photography, and communication solutions.

Professor Paul Seawright, Head of Belfast School of Art said: "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.

"The people graduating from these courses are the next generation of creative thinkers who are starting to export their products around the world. Our graduates are a beacon for Northern Ireland, and now Ulster is starting to be seen internationally alongside places like New York and San Francisco."

## COLERAINE

### Number 1 for pharmacy and pharmacology

Ulster has been named in *The Guardian* 2015 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.

The state-of-the-art learning facilities, combined with first-rate teaching and excellent links with the pharmaceutical industry and health and social care trusts across Northern Ireland, allow Ulster to provide the best learning experience possible to pharmacists of the future.

The School of Biomedical Sciences at Coleraine also consistently achieves the highest possible RAE rating of 5\*, demonstrating international excellence and placing the University as a leader in the UK.

### Confucius initiative increases China links

The University has boosted the educational and cultural links between China and Northern Ireland through the opening of eight Confucius Classroom Hubs to promote Chinese language and culture to young people.

It is part of ongoing activity by the Confucius Institute at Ulster to develop academic, cultural, economic and social ties between the two countries.

The eight classroom hubs are located in schools around Northern Ireland and will work with a network of 111 other schools.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, said:



***“The Confucius Classroom programme offers an excellent opportunity for our young people to become familiar with the language and culture of one of the world’s foremost countries.”***



In August, Ulster received the New Star of the Year award from the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Hanban, one of just 22 out of 473 institutes worldwide to receive the award as an overseas Chinese test centre.

**IMAGE:** At the launch of the Confucius Classroom Hubs initiative were Coleraine schoolchildren Rafferty McKay, Anna McHenry and Adam Black, with Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor and Mr Li Ruiyou, Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh



**IMAGE:** Professor Jim McLaughlin, Director of the Engineering Research Institute with Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster MLA

## JORDANSTOWN

### Driving high tech economic growth

Ulster's focus on research and innovation was strengthened with the opening of a £7

million Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) at Jordanstown in September 2013.

Connected health is an emerging model for healthcare delivery that uses technology to provide healthcare remotely.

“Connected health research will be the driver for high tech economic growth in Northern Ireland. It has enormous possibilities for job creation, inward investment and research and development. The Centre will be an ideal platform for showcasing the University's pioneering connected health research,” said CHIC Manager, Stephen McComb.

The Centre brings together leading academic and industry researchers to carry out multi-disciplinary research. It is part of the Nanotechnology and Integrated Bio-Engineering Centre (NIBEC) based within the Engineering Research Institute.

## MAGEE

### Gifted graduates



Gifted graduates have 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 Chánainn in Derry~Londonderry, the event included Gary Lutton (a masters level student and recent runner up at a prestigious international guitar competition held in Los Angeles) and Linley Hamilton, jazz trumpeter, BBC radio personality and University of Ulster PhD student.

Dr Cormac Newark of the School of Creative Arts and Technologies, said: “Our BMus, MMus and PhD programmes are continually producing gifted graduates, many of whom go on to rise through the ranks in the music business. This year's crop magnificently exemplified the diversity of what we offer here at Magee.”

**IMAGE:** Paul Brady and Frank Gallagher with University staff at the End of Year Show

### Extending engineering excellence

Ulster has opened a new Centre for Engineering and Renewable Energy at the Magee campus.

The new Centre, opened in July 2013, is fitted out with over £1 million worth of sophisticated engineering equipment and extends existing engineering excellence at Magee, home to the University's Intelligent Systems Research Centre.

Fifty students have completed the first year of their engineering degree programme at the Centre, which will eventually accommodate 200 students on four courses: BEng Hons and MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, and BEng Hons and MEng in Renewable Energy Engineering.

### Ulster at the cutting edge of stratified medicine



The University has opened the Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine – the only one of its kind on the island of Ireland.

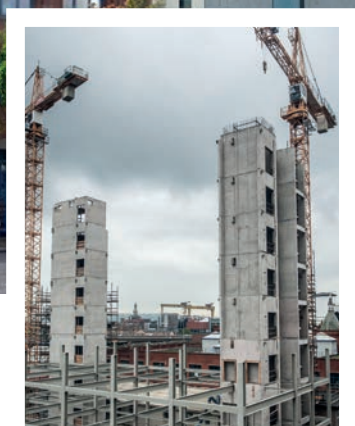
Stratified, or personalised, medicine is an emerging practice of medicine that involves the use of genetic testing to ensure that the right treatment, for the right person, at the right time is provided rather than the traditional ‘one size fits all’ approach.

The centre will focus on cutting-edge research into personalised medicine approaches to managing chronic diseases. It is also offering the first ever undergraduate degree course in stratified medicine in the UK and Ireland.

Funding for the £11.5 million facility, based at the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC) at Altnagelvin Area Hospital, came from Invest NI (£5.6 million), Health and Social Care Research & Development (£1.5 million) and £4.4 million from Ulster's Biomedical Sciences Research Institute.

**IMAGE:** Professor Tony Bjourson, Director, Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Health (centre) pictured with Health Minister Edwin Poots and Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster at the launch of the Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine

# A VISION FOR AN EXCITING NEW ERA



***In the past year the renewal and innovation across the University's four campuses continued apace as construction began on site, future plans were unveiled and the vision for the biggest investment in our history began to be realised...***

## RISING GIRDERS AT BELFAST

The skeleton of the University's new Belfast city campus is taking shape and with the rising girders comes rising excitement about what the new facilities will mean for the University and the city itself.

The first phase of the £250 million campus development, designed by internationally acclaimed architects FeildenCleggBradley Studios, is well underway, with work ongoing on both sides of York Street beside the existing campus buildings.

This phase is due for completion in 2015, when staff and students will move out of the Orpheus building allowing for construction of the main phase of the new campus.

In February, Ulster secured a £150 million loan from the European Investment Bank to support the new campus development.

The artist's impression of the new building shows that it will be a landmark structure for the city. The aim is to create an innovative educational environment that will stimulate and inspire students and staff. It will further underpin Ulster's reputation as a modern, forward-looking and inclusive university.



The new building is designed to be an open and accessible space without gates or surrounding walls so that the entire community will view it as their building and not just the preserve of academics and students. The campus will form the focus of a lively student community, which will boost the local economy, complete the transformation of the Cathedral Quarter and create opportunities for development in retail, entertainment, food, culture and tourism.

To see images and animated fly throughs of the new Belfast campus visit: [www.ulster.ac.uk/greaterbelfastdevelopment/designs-plans.html#fly](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/greaterbelfastdevelopment/designs-plans.html#fly)

**"The University believes education is critical to the economy of the city and the region as a whole. By coming into the city centre, we want to bring education closer to the business community by providing a resource on their doorstep where we can explore and develop innovative ideas and exploit global connections."**

**Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Richard Barnett**



## Belfast city campus

- Will have a 75,000m<sup>2</sup> footprint – equivalent to the size of Terminal 2 in Dublin Airport.
- There will be four interlinked buildings at York Street, Frederick Street and Donegall Street.
- There will be public access to the new building on the basement, ground and first floors, with the University reopening York Lane and facilitating public access to the library, eateries on the Frederick Street side of the building, exhibition space and meeting rooms.
- The new campus will boast two landmark lantern buildings – one at the corner of York Street and Dunbar Link and one at the corner of Donegall Street and York Street.
- On one side of the campus, the building will be red brick and glass and on the other, white brick and glass, to reflect the pattern of surrounding buildings in Royal Avenue.
- 12,450 students (6,600 full-time undergraduates and 5,850 part-time) and 1,300 staff will relocate from Jordanstown.

## RELOCATION OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The relocation of teaching and research activity from Jordanstown into Belfast city centre by 2018 means the campus will be reborn as a centre of sports excellence and an exciting urban-village.

The vision for the future of the suburban campus includes a £6.2 million second sports hall beside the existing £13 million High Performance Centre, which houses the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland.

The Dalriada Student Village, Dalriada House, the Institute of Fire Safety, Engineering Research and Technology, and the University's extensive range of sports pitches and indoor training facilities will all remain.

Beyond this, a masterplan for the site has been developed, focusing on creating an urban-village-style residential area including mixed use community facilities. This will become a lasting link between the University and the Jordanstown area.

## NEW FACILITIES AT COLERAINE

Work has begun on an ambitious £18 million investment programme to upgrade and renew facilities at the Coleraine campus.

Earlier this year, construction of a new £5.1 million teaching block on the campus got underway. The new block will be a three-storey building, linked to the existing central buildings via a glazed walkway on the first and second floor levels adjacent to the existing lecture theatres.

This new teaching block will provide a 250-seat lecture theatre as well as a variety of teaching rooms with the capacity to hold 20, 40 and 60 people. There will also be student hubs on each floor beside the teaching rooms.

The construction of new academic accommodation and specialist teaching facilities is due to begin in autumn 2014.



## MAGEE DEVELOPMENTS



In July, the University welcomed the approval of planning permission for the construction of a new learning and teaching building on the Magee campus. Located between the existing library and Aberfoyle House, the new building will provide two additional lecture theatres – one with a capacity of 340 and the other with a capacity of 120, as well as 20 new teaching rooms and a number of informal student learning spaces. It is anticipated that the project will cost in the region of £11 million.

In 2013 the refurbishment of Magee's Minor Hall and the adjacent lecture theatre was completed and a new videoconferencing suite was opened. Magee also became home to University's Centre for Engineering and Renewable Energy, bringing a new range of engineering programmes to the campus.



# Hume O'Neill Peace Chair achieves funding goal

**The University has hit its £3 million (\$4.8 million) funding target for the prestigious John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies, to be based at the Magee campus.**

**T**he final elements of the funding for the endowed Chair were secured following a significant gift from the International Fund for Ireland as well as donations from the American Ireland Fund and a number of other benefactors. The Chair will now be established in perpetuity.

Recruitment has already begun for the Chair, the most senior of academic positions, which will steer a wider peace initiative, building on the internationally renowned work of INCORE, the International Conflict Research Institute at the Magee campus.

## CLINTON VISIT



Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett announced the attainment of the funding target in March during a University-organised visit by former US President Bill Clinton to Derry~Londonderry.

During his stay President Clinton helped launch *Peacemaking in the twenty-first century*, a new book celebrating the Tip O'Neill series of peace lectures given at

**IMAGE:** Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett welcomes President Clinton

Magee, and crossed the Peace Bridge with John and Pat Hume.

Addressing the general public at Guildhall Square, President Clinton said he was thrilled at the work INCORE has done over the years and that the new Chair will symbolise the commitment of a whole new generation of peacemaking leaders.

President Clinton is an honorary graduate of the University and has a long history of engagement with Ulster. He played a pivotal role in the peace process in Northern Ireland, and has a deep friendship with both John and Pat Hume, with whom the University works very closely.

John Hume held the Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies at the University of Ulster from 2002 to 2009.

The Nobel Laureate's outstanding contribution to peace in Northern Ireland were also honoured by the former US President during his visit.

The late Thomas 'Tip' O'Neill was one of the foremost Irish-American Democratic politicians of his generation, who rose to become Speaker of the House of Representatives. His deep interest in Northern Ireland led to a partnership with John Hume in the drive for peace and he was instrumental in the creation of the International Fund for Ireland.

Set up in honour of both politicians, the new Chair will be a full-time academic position in peace and conflict resolution studies and will help train the next generation of peacemakers from around the world.



It will build on the success of the original Tip O'Neill Chair, supported by the Ireland Funds, which, under John Hume's tenure, attracted an unparalleled group of international figures to the Magee campus.

They included President Bill Clinton, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, European Commission President Romano Prodi and current US Secretary of State, John Kerry.

**IMAGE:** President Clinton, Thomas P O'Neill, III and John Hume launch *Peacemaking in the twenty-first century*

## GLOBAL PROGRAMME

The funding will provide the Chair with the scope and tools to develop the INCORE Peace Initiative, a dynamic global programme which will effect change in a tangible and practical way.

The University's centre of excellence for peace and conflict work applies lessons from Northern Ireland's peace process to conflict zones around the world and has also pioneered practice-based learning on conflict, developed a global network of peace builders and built a proud heritage of active involvement in peace making.

It is now moving onto the next phase of a £2.5 million fundraising effort to support the Peace Initiative, which includes MSc and PhD scholarships, as well as a Distinguished Global Peace Fellow and a Lesson Learning Programme.



# NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES ON STREAM

*Thanks to the fantastic generosity of many individuals, companies and organisations, a range of exciting new scholarships and bursary schemes will come on stream to benefit Ulster students in 2014/15.*



## SSE AIRTRICITY SCHOLARSHIP



Pioneering renewable energy company SSE Airtricity is generously funding 12 half-fee scholarships per year for Ulster students for the next 25 years.

Funded by the SSE Airtricity Education Fund, the scholarships will be available for a mixture of undergraduate and postgraduate students undertaking a range of STEM and business-related courses across three faculties.

Sarah Hoolahan, Community Development Manager at SSE Airtricity, said: "We are delighted to be working with the University of Ulster to provide support for their students as part of our commitment to the community. We feel confident the scholarships will significantly enhance both the academic and professional careers of the recipients."

## COONEEN GROUP SCHOLARSHIP IN TEXTILE, ART, DESIGN AND FASHION



The Cooneen Group, based in Fivemiletown in County Tyrone, is supporting a scholarship for a student on the BA Textile, Art, Design and Fashion course.

Featuring £2,000 a year for three years, the scholarship was awarded for the first time in September 2014.

The Cooneen Group operates in a range of clothing markets globally and its parent company Cooneen By Design has been in operation since the mid-1960s.

## ROTARY CLUB OF LONDONDERRY PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS



The Rotary Club of Londonderry, whose members work tirelessly to serve community projects at home and abroad, has provided its support for scholarships for students on the world-renowned MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies course at Magee.

The scholarship will be allocated to a number of international and home students, and will include the possibility of a full-fee scholarship for one international student.

## SUBWAY IRELAND MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP



Established through the generosity of Subway Ireland, this scholarship will provide financial support of £5,000 for a student on the MSc Management course within the Ulster Business School.

In addition to financial support, the scholarship includes a 12-week internship at Subway Ireland, the largest specialist sandwich chain in the UK and Ireland, where mentoring support from its leadership team will be provided.

The first Subway Ireland Management Scholarship will be awarded at the start of the 2014/15 academic year and one student will benefit each year for the next 10 years.

## CHAMPIONS FOR PHILANTHROPY

An organisation that aims to stimulate and support a culture of giving in Northern Ireland has announced that a postgraduate student from the University of Ulster, one from the Open University and one from Queen's University Belfast are each to receive a £4,000 bursary to conduct a piece of original academic work in the area of philanthropy.

The bursary scheme is one of many initiatives set up by Giving Northern Ireland (GNI) to champion and support philanthropic activity in Northern Ireland.

Sandara Kelso-Robb, Strategic Advisor to GNI said: "These bursaries will encourage people with fresh and innovative ideas to look at philanthropy through new eyes."

One of GNI's research reports revealed that most people in Northern Ireland prefer to keep their giving private, and identifies this culture as a barrier to giving. It highlighted the need for role models or champions to talk publicly about their experience of giving.

**IMAGE:** Launching the Giving Northern Ireland postgraduate bursary scheme are (left to right): Professor Donal McKillop, Professor of Financial Services in the Management School of Queen's University Belfast; Alison Snookes, Development Services Manager, University of Ulster; Janet Leckey, Giving Northern Ireland Board member and head of the selection panel; Gary Mills, Chair of Giving Northern Ireland and John D'Arcy, National Director of the Open University



## The man who caught a star

**Internationally successful Ulster alumnus Oliver Jeffers made a trip back to Northern Ireland in March to headline a children's book festival in Derry~Londonderry.**

**T**en years after the publication of his first book, *How to Catch a Star*, Oliver is now one of the world's most celebrated picture book artists.

During his homecoming Oliver inspired audiences at the Humdinger Children's Book Festival by reading from his books, drawing, explaining how he creates his characters and revealing the diversity of commercial opportunities that exist for creative talent in Northern Ireland to achieve international success.

The painter, illustrator and story teller's first venture into books grew out of a few drawings made in his sketch book during his final year in the Belfast School of Art, which then began to take shape as a story in Oliver's head.

From that serendipitous start has come more than a dozen children's books that have sold almost a million copies in 30 languages, and a portfolio of paintings that have been exhibited around the world.

A measure of Oliver's phenomenal success is his raft of awards. They include the Nestle Children's Book Prize Gold Award, the Blue Peter Book of the Year

Award, the Irish Children's Book of the Year, and the Smarties Award.

He won a NY Emmy in 2010 for his collaborative work with the artist and director Mac Premo and was recently awarded the first ever Hay Festival Medal for Illustration.

One of Oliver's children's books, *The Day the Crayons Quit* (written by Drew Daywalt), has been on the New York Times best-seller list for over a year.

Now working out of Brooklyn, New York, Oliver is busy working on a range of projects including a collaboration with Irish author Eoin Colfer on a children's picture book set to launch in late 2015 called *Imaginary Fred*.

Last year he designed the vinyl sleeve artwork for U2's *Ordinary Love*, a song written for the movie *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, as well as collaborating on a related video.

While in Derry~Londonderry Oliver gave an interview to Honeycomb – Creative Works, a trans-national Ulster initiative for the creative industries digital content

sector based at the University of Ulster, about his career path to date.

***“Oliver told us that at school he knew that he was destined for art college but was torn between doing a fine arts degree or visual communication,”***

says Fiona McElroy, Honeycomb – Creative Works programme manager. “Fortunately for children all over the world, it turned out to be a first class honours in Illustration and Visual Communication.

“Many Ulster graduates are making an impact both locally and globally, but Oliver is an amazing home-grown talent who has achieved outstanding international success by employing business acumen to commercialise creative talent. He inspires anyone aspiring to a career in the creative industries, to exploit the diverse range of opportunities that exist.”





## UNLOCKING OUR ENTREPRENEURIAL POTENTIAL

The University and the Bank believe in boosting entrepreneurship at every level, supporting new enterprise, getting new products to market, adopting new technologies and exporting innovative products and services.

Budding entrepreneurs at Ulster are supported through business awards, start-up funding and other initiatives.

## SANTANDER UNIVERSITIES' SUPPORT FELT ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

*Ulster's ongoing partnership with Santander, through its Santander Universities Global Division, continues to provide life-changing funding across the University.*

Since we signed an agreement in 2011, Santander Universities has invested in a wide range of philanthropic support, including funding for student and staff study, travel and development, as well as international student recruitment and retention, internships and entrepreneurship.

The University is extremely grateful for the generous support from Santander Universities. The impact has been felt on all four campuses, with many outstanding projects and individuals benefitting from this excellent partnership.

**IMAGE:** Andrew Fraser and Laura McDonald from Santander (centre), with Head of Investment and Enterprise at Ulster, Caroline McGoran (left), and recipients of Santander Universities awards

## PRIZE WIN ORDERS UP MORE SUCCESS FOR LITTLE DELI

After winning a £500 Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Award in an internal competition organised by the University of Ulster in 2013, multi-disciplinary design student Alexandra Milne went on to grab the £8,000 top prize and title of College Entrepreneur of the Year 2014 in this year's Enterprise Ireland Student Entrepreneur Awards.

Alexandra won both prizes for her innovative project Little Deli, an app that lets customers easily and efficiently pre-order and pre-pay for their lunch from local delis and cafes.

Together with undergraduates Matthew Kyle and Richard Miller who entered RMK Security, a company specialising in the field of security products, Alexandra also

represented Ulster as a postgraduate entrant in Santander's UK-wide entrepreneurship competition in 2013.

The awards – with a prize fund of £44,000 in 2013 – encourage innovative business ideas and concepts from undergraduate, postgraduate and research students and alumni across the UK.

Laura McDonald, University Relationship Branch Manager at the Santander branches at the Belfast and Jordanstown campuses said: "We were delighted to hear about Alexandra's success - a fantastic result for entrepreneurship, for Alexandra and Little Deli. It clearly demonstrates how the cash boost of a Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Award can help students to develop their business ventures."

## NURTURING NEW ENTERPRISE

*Three more young businesses that have come through the Business LaunchPad Ulster incubation project run by the University's Office of Innovation are being supported by Santander Universities.*

With a generous start-up fund, the Santander Universities Business Incubator supports marketing, and technical, prototype or IP development in the businesses, as well as providing the assistance of a Santander manager in introducing companies to SMEs in similar fields and support through workshops. Some of the companies that have benefitted from this support are:

- Pingster – marketing student Patrick Catterall and animation design student Fiona McLaughlin are creating a new concept app designed to bring like-minded people together.
- Geardrop Games – a games development start-up set up by Noel Watters, Ryan Wilson and Niall Kinghan who are currently studying Interactive Media Arts.
- One Square – the first collection of innovative fashion accessories by MFA Multi-Disciplinary Design graduate Karishma Kusrkar, founder and designer for the project. Karishma is planning on taking the product range worldwide due to inquiries and interest from several major fashion retailers.

# ULSTER CREATIVES PLAY THE GAME OF THRONES

Throwing the spotlight on the University's support for Northern Ireland's burgeoning creative industries, our graduates are taking a starring role in the HBO blockbuster *Game of Thrones*...

In the five years since *Game of Thrones* began filming in Northern Ireland, it has become the biggest TV production in Europe and the most-watched show in HBO's four-decade history, even beating *The Sopranos*.

Ulster's association with the series is strong, with a considerable number of young graduates, current students on placement, academics and technicians all contributing to the production.

HBO has confirmed that a Series 6 will be made, and with Series 5 currently in the making, 'Thrones' looks set to continue to enthrall and to provide a creative career opportunity for Ulster alumni for a good while to come.



## SHAPING CREATIVE EDUCATION

The TV series has been a boon to Northern Ireland. It has generated over £80 million for the economy, numerous jobs, has encouraged tourism and has increased exposure around the world for Northern Ireland's burgeoning creative industries sector.

The development of that sector is being strongly shaped by the creative education available at Ulster. Our graduates not only have the talent and enthusiasm to make a positive contribution to society and the economy, but the creativity and skill to help drive high-end productions like *Game of Thrones* – and many others – to global success.

Highlighting the growing importance of the creative industries to the economy, Queen Elizabeth II visited the production set of the series in Belfast during her visit to Northern Ireland in June 2014.



Joined by Prince Philip, the Queen toured the Paint Hall Studios at Titanic Quarter and met with many of the show's cast and crew, including Ulster alumni who are playing their part in ensuring that Northern Ireland's creative industries lead the way on the world stage.



Don Sturgeon, who graduated in 2009 from a 3D design course at the Belfast campus, was selected by HBO as one of the team showing the royal couple a range of props, designed in the Belfast studios and handmade by a small team of local people, including Don.

The modeller majored in product design. With his high level of problem-solving and technical skill – sculpting, casting, painting, welding and computer-aided design can all be involved – and minutely focused on detail, he has worked on every series of *Game of Thrones* and several big TV and film productions.

Don began his *Game of Thrones* career in the green department for the pilot show, and later was invited to become part of the prop team for Series 1. He helped to make the iconic Iron Throne, a central feature of the show. He now runs his own business, Propskills, in Belfast, making all kinds of hero and action props.

Says Don: “*Game of Thrones* is probably the biggest job in the Northern Ireland film-making industry right now, so spending five years working on it has been a privilege and is certainly a great calling card for my Propskills business.

“My degree gave me a wide range of skills and experiences that have stood me in good stead as the creative industries here begin to flourish.”



## YOUNG INNOVATORS

Ulster's young innovators are also involved in other areas in the fantasy epic.

Hazel Bruce, Course Director Textile, Art, Design and Fashion at Belfast School of Art, says: “A number of recent graduates are working in key roles in the costume and art departments, and member of staff Mo Morrow has been contributing to the series for several years, currently printing fabric for key cast members. We also had a number of current students working on Series 5 over the summer and last year we had students in the chainmail department.”

Ulster's role in *Game of Thrones* goes beyond young graduates and students. Alumni Bill and Christina Steenson, founders of the well-known Steensons Jewellers, have been something of a Northern Irish design institution for more than 30 years.

The Glenarm workshop they set up, now directed by their Ulster graduate daughter Bronagh and her husband Dan Spencer, a fellow graduate, as well as other Ulster alumni in the team, oversees the crafting of the show's eye-catching jewellery. The likes of Joffrey Baratheon's crown, Margaery Tyell's wedding tiara, Daenerys' dragon brooches and Lanister lion pendants have all graced the screen.

“While playing a major role in educating Northern Ireland's creative talent, the University is also striving to maximise the economic potential of the creative industries sector through a range of courses, programmes and initiatives, says Professor Ian Montgomery, Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment.



“Two of our research centres are regarded as being in the top five in the UK as regards creative industries, for instance, while last September we were a major partner in the CultureTECH initiative in Derry~Londonderry and also became the lead institute in Honeycomb – Creative Works, a £3.5 million EU Union trans-national three-year support programme within the sector with the aim of making Northern Ireland one of the new creative hubs of the world.”

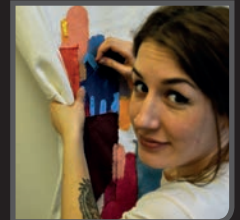
In January 2014 Ulster also began a new MBA Creative Technologies programme at the Magee campus aimed at developing the management and leadership skills of professionals in the creative industries.

Professor Montgomery adds: “We are proud that Ulster is developing outstanding international-level talent. This is feeding a fast-growing creative economy, which, emerging as an important employment sector, continues to be very significant to Northern Ireland. That so many of our graduates are now advancing their careers in what is a global success story within the industry strengthens our international reputation for excellence.”

## GAME ON

One of the latest Ulster graduates to join the *Game of Thrones* is Holly Nedeljkovic, who graduated with first

class honours in Textile Art, Design and Fashion in July and immediately began working on the series as a Trainee Breakdown Artist at the Titanic Studios.



Says Holly: “I am delighted with my first class honours degree; the hard work has paid off and I'm very excited to be moving onto the exciting land of *Game of Thrones*.”

**Europe**

Sean McGuire

**BA Hons, European Business Studies**

As director of the CBI's Brussels Office, at the very heart of the EU's headquarters, Sean's work impacts on more than 240,000 UK companies of every size, including many in the FTSE 100 and FTSE 350, mid-caps, SMEs, micro businesses, private and family owned businesses, start-ups, and trade associations. He is in regular contact with European Commissioners and their cabinets, MEPs, EU officials at all levels as well as sister federations from across EU, promoting the interests of British business.

**North America**

Lee Munroe

**BSc Hons, Interactive Multimedia Design; MA, Multi-Disciplinary Design**

Based in San Francisco's Silicon Valley, Lee is the lead UX designer at Mailgun, a large web firm providing an email automation service and owned by global IT leader Rackspace. Lee has made an impact in several start-ups and vibrant young companies in the Valley, and a number of his web and mobile products have been featured in *Wired* magazine and have been on the front page of *Mashable*, *The Next Web* and *Huffington Post* among others.

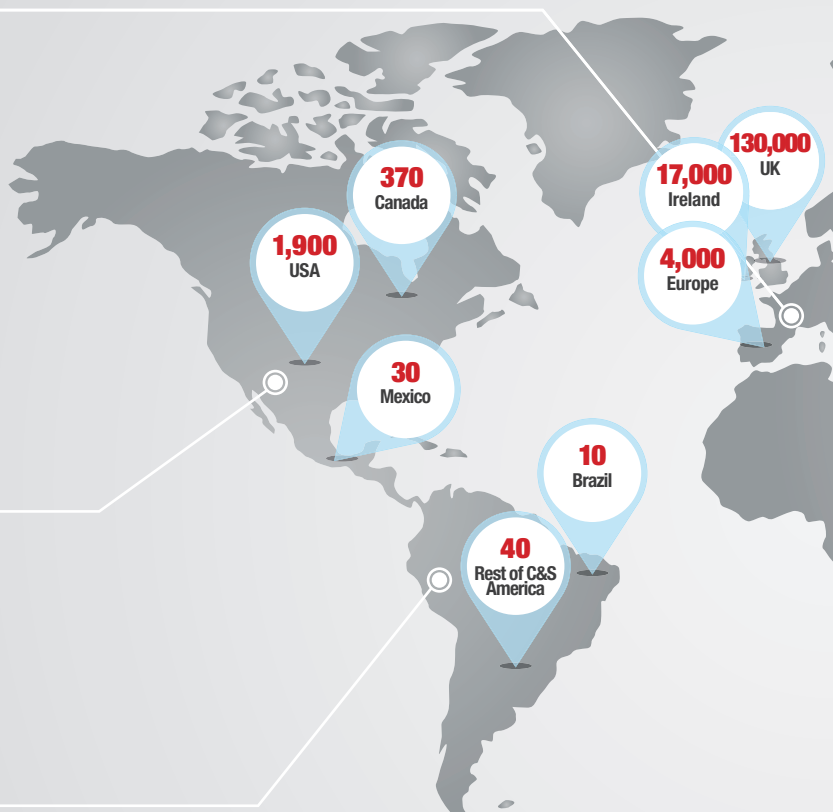
Stephen Cleary

**BSc Hons, Interactive Multimedia Design; MSc in Sport Management**

On his masters course in 2011 Stephen was required to secure work experience. He made an impact with a global search to find an internship, which stimulated the creation of an innovative self-marketing social media campaign he called #StevesJob. The award-winning campaign turned heads in The Netherlands where he was offered work as an intern, before getting a job in the adidas global brand headquarters in Herzogenaurach, Germany. Stephen spent the summer working in Brazil at the World Cup in his new role as global social media community manager for the sports giant.

# EDUCATED L

# IMPACTING



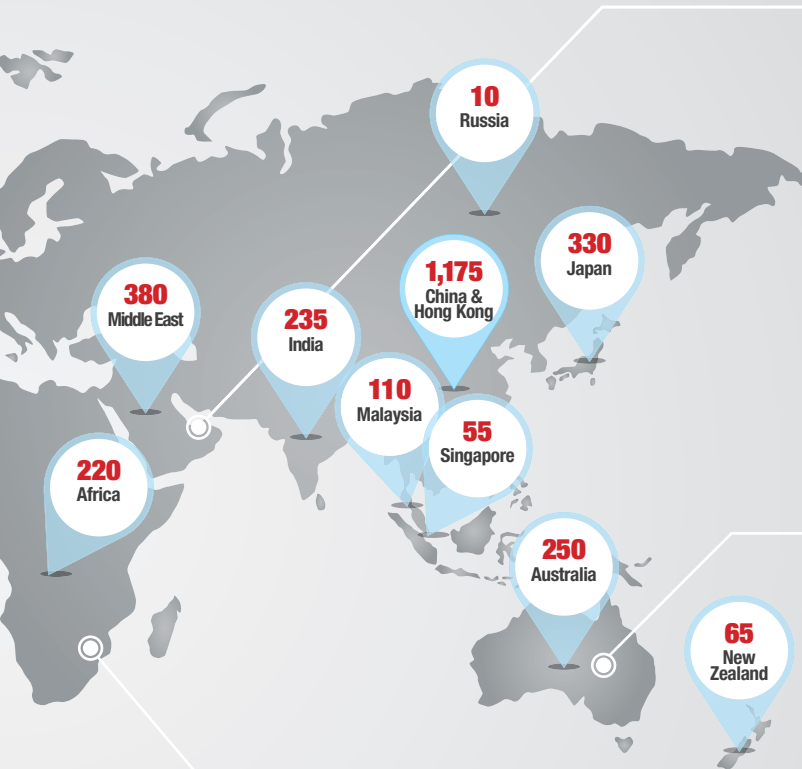
**A**s an Ulster graduate you are part of a 160,000-strong network making a massive impact around the globe.

Our alumni are leaders and role models, people who make a real contribution and a material difference in a wide range of disciplines, companies and societies around the world.

Wherever you are in the world, you are always part of this network.



# LOCALLY, GLOBALLY



## UAE

### Kyle Wright BSc Hons, Quantity Surveying

Having worked on mega projects up to the value of US\$46 billion, Kyle is making an impact in an exceptional career. He is now senior contracts advisor managing the Eastern hemisphere for Enso, the world's second largest oil drilling company. Kyle has used his skills as a quantity surveyor to catapult himself into the top level of his industry. In addition, Kyle spends time volunteering in Africa, providing homes and educating young children.

### Francis Loughran BA Catering Administration

Francis is making an impact in the world of food and beverage as the managing director of Future Food, based in Melbourne. The international food, restaurant and hospitality consultancy operates throughout Australia, the Middle East and Asia. Francis has been involved in the planning and development of major food destinations such as restaurants, cafés, food courts, fresh food markets, waterfront precincts, mixed use developments, airports and numerous leisure and entertainment precincts.

## Africa

### Francine Woods BSc Hons, Geography

Francine is one of a number of alumni and current students who have made an impact in African education through teaching citizenship in two secondary schools in the Malawi city of Zomba. It's part of the Lessons Today for Change Tomorrow project, led by Professor Linda Clarke in the School of Education. Patrick Scullion of Time Bar and Venue, Cookstown, recently provided new sponsorship of £3,500 for the project, previously funded by the Garfield Weston Trust. Like her colleagues, Francine funded her own accommodation in Malawi and raised money for the Zomba schools.

### Ulster today

- Our 160,000 alumni come from 121 countries.
- Nearly 90% of our graduates are in work or further study six months after graduation.
- We are one of the top universities for work placement and were highlighted in the 2012 Wilson Review.
- We currently have more than 26,000 students, including 2,000 international students from over 80 countries.
- 86% of our research is rated as being of international quality, with 21 of our 25 research areas assessed as world leading.
- We are in the top 10 of UK universities in providing access to students from all economic backgrounds.

# What your money can do...

***Your donations and support mean we can continue to deliver a range of awards, bursaries and scholarships that not only enhance the student experience, but target need and stimulate academic distinction.***

***Here is a taste of what your money has done and can do for Ulster...***

*Get involved...*



## **AN EDUCATION THAT CAN'T BE TAKEN AWAY**

When Lisa-Marie Sweeney turned 30, her mum, an active, loving lone parent who worked hard to raise her five children, was diagnosed with a major depressive disorder.



The family eventually found help from their community mental health team who understood completely and helped manage the illness. But for Lisa-Marie, the experience rekindled an interest, triggering a decision to go back to college to study psychology.

After gaining maths and English GCSE, she progressed to an access course and then secured a place on a part-time honours degree course. Lisa-Marie loves every minute of it, is heading for her goal of first class honours, and plans to go for a Masters degree in Applied Psychology.

It has all meant considerable sacrifice and hard work, managing caring responsibilities at home and switching to a low paid job as a care worker for people with dementia to gain experience of working with vulnerable people.

When Lisa-Marie heard about the University of Ulster Fund's Gateway Scholarships providing support for students on low incomes, she jumped at the chance to apply. She sees winning the scholarship as "transformational".

She says: ***"It's given me a chance to continue at third level education to***

***better myself and make a difference. It was the enabler I needed and it's given me something that can never be taken away – an education."***

## **3D PRINTING TRAINING OPENS UP WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY**

A Broadening Horizons award to fund a trip to the Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Centre in Denmark has been "life-changing" for Multi-Disciplinary Design masters student Wendy Ward.

Guldagergaard is the only place in Europe offering a two-day 3D printing workshop, and there Wendy learnt to create and print ceramic designs using digital design software. She also had the opportunity to network and share ideas with 15 ceramic artists from places as far afield as Lithuania and the USA.

***"I would never have been able to go to Denmark without the award," she says. "The trip took me way outside my comfort zone and made me realise that the world's my oyster."***



# Scholarship giving makes a real difference

Scholarship gifts add immense value to the Ulster student experience, as well as raising aspirations and unlocking the potential of talented people from all kinds of backgrounds, and from anywhere in the world.

We thank all of the alumni and friends who are supporting a wide variety of scholarships across our campuses. Postgraduate scholarships are prized and your giving in this area is making a real difference....

Says Maya: "I am incredibly thankful and humbled for being chosen for the Barnett Pharmaceutical Sciences Scholarship. It has been essential in helping me realise my goals."



## FEEDING SOCIAL JUSTICE

During 2013/14 law graduate Conor McCormick was the first recipient of an Access to Justice Scholarship of £5,000 provided by Northern Ireland's Department of Justice for the LLM Clinical Legal Education, an internationally recognised Master of Laws postgraduate programme.

"My legal background made me ambitious to follow a career where social justice would underpin my work," says Conor. "But with all the will in the world, I could not have taken part in this fascinating and fulfilling programme without being made the recipient of the Access to Justice Scholarship. I am sincerely grateful for the direction this award has given my career."

**IMAGE:** Conor McCormick (centre) with Mr Mark McGuicken, Department of Justice and Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor



## LIGHTING UP CERAMICS

An MFA Multi-Disciplinary Design student is developing an exclusive ceramic interior lighting range for high end commercial and domestic users thanks to the international scholarships awarded annually in memory of the late Richard Kennedy Degenhardt.

Wendy Ward is developing her range using laser cutting processes, and with the help of the Richard K Degenhardt Belleek Collectors' Scholarship has secured a placement with the internationally recognised porcelain

lighting company, Boatswain Lighting. The experience will be invaluable in the future development of the range.

Through the tireless fundraising activities of Dr Linda Beard, Chair of the Degenhardt Scholarship, up to three of these awards have been given out annually since 2001 to Ulster students who have excelled in the fields of Ceramics and Celtic Studies.

The late Richard Kennedy Degenhardt was instrumental in establishing the Belleek Collectors' International Society and the scholarships pay tribute to his definitive knowledge of Belleek Parian China, renowned among collectors worldwide.

**IMAGE:** Wendy Ward and Dr Linda Beard, Chair of the Richard K Degenhardt Scholarship pictured with Wendy's prototype lighting design

## STUDYING UNDER NEW YORK MASTERS

Artist Julie Douglas was the first recipient of the Beard Scholar Award, inaugurated in 2013 through the generosity of husband and wife team Dr Linda and Professor Larry Beard.

The scholarship offers £1,500 to a postgraduate student who is about to enter the final (second) year of a Master of Fine Art programme at the Belfast School of Art.

The award gave Julie, a classical realist painter and drawing tutor from Bangor, County Down, the chance to fulfil an ambition to study under two Master Painters at the Grand Central Academy in New York and the opportunity to expand her painting skills.

A delighted Julie says: "I was honoured to be the first Beard Scholar. I loved learning new skills and meeting the tutors at the Grand Central Academy in New York. I feel very blessed."

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK

*Please consider investing in our talent. Your gift to the University will create opportunities for the students of today and tomorrow. You'll be stimulating academic excellence and helping to form the next generation of leaders.*



## REALISING GOALS

A major scholarship gift has allowed mature student Maya Frost to complete the first year of masters' research focused on a non-invasive way to detect electrolytes in blood with a sensor device – research which could be very useful for emergency services and front-line medical staff in hospitals.

Maya's work is as a result of leading Northern Ireland pharmaceuticals firm Norbrook Laboratories donating £100,000 to the University to fund a scholarship of £10,000 each year for 10 years.

Available to students taking the MSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Barnett Pharmaceutical Sciences Scholarship was named in honour of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett, at the personal request of the late Norbrook Chairman and University of Ulster honorary graduate Lord Ballyedmond.

**IMAGE:** Maya Frost (centre) pictured with Professor Richard Barnett, Vice-Chancellor and Christine Crawford, Norbrook Laboratories

# SETTING THE PACE

**OUR ALUMNI ARE LEADING THE FIELD ACROSS ALL WALKS OF LIFE. FROM ARTS AND SPORTS, TO BUSINESS AND PUBLIC POLICY, WE'RE PROUD TO SAY THE GRADUATE IN FRONT IS FROM ULSTER.**

## IMPACTING IN SPORT

The Giro d'Italia, one of the world's great professional cycle races, descended on Northern Ireland in May and was embraced by a celebration of pink, the official colour of the race. It couldn't have been organised without an army of over 1,000 volunteers – among them many staff and students. They were all recruited and trained by Volunteer Now, whose CEO is Ulster alumna, **Wendy Osborne OBE**.

One of our graduates flies down the wing for the Ulster, Ireland and the British and Irish Lions teams and is one of Ireland's top rugby players. **Tommy Bowe** certainly makes an impact on the field as well as off. Tommy graduated from Ulster with a Construction Engineering degree, but it's his inspirational achievements on the rugby pitch that have earned him a raft of awards. To 'cap' it all Tommy received the honorary degree of doctor of science (DSc) for his contribution to sport at Ulster's 2014 summer graduations.

*Get involved...*

IMAGE: Tommy Bowe

Another alumna who is quite literally on the crest of a wave in her sporting career is **Easkey Britton**, Ireland's top female surfer. Easkey managed to combine years of study with her passion for surfing and in 2013 received a PhD in Environment and Society as well as co-founding Waves of Freedom, which helps empower vulnerable people through surfing. Easkey has a number of 'firsts' to her name including being the first Irish person to surf the infamous hell-wave Teahupoo in Tahiti, and the first woman to pioneer surfing in Iran. She's also an Oxfam Hero, a motivational speaker, writer and researcher.

## BUILDING BRILLIANT BUSINESSES

Hundreds of Ulster graduates go on to establish or head up successful businesses that are making a significant contribution to the local economy. Among these is **Patricia O'Hagan**, who this year is celebrating the 20th anniversary of her software development company, Core Systems, the UK's leading expert in identity management solutions for high security facilities. The company's innovative biometric solutions play a vital role in maintaining control within the highest security establishments in Europe. Patricia, an Engineering graduate, won the Women in Business NI 2013 Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year Award.



**A**nother graduate making her mark is **Alyson Hogg** who set up self-tanning company Vita Liberata in 2003. From its Ballyclare base, the company now exports to 20 countries worldwide and its products have been used by celebrities including Gwyneth Paltrow and Ellie Goulding. This year Vita Liberata won the Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade, the UK's highest accolade for business success.

Building his business and helping others build theirs is **Colin Walsh**, an MBA graduate of the Ulster Business School and founder of Crescent Capital, one of Northern Ireland's leading venture capital companies. Colin's extensive business and venture capital experience is being put to good use not only in his own company but also through a number of directorships he holds in local companies. In January 2014 Colin was appointed chairman of the CBI Northern Ireland, which provides a voice for business people and their businesses on a national and international level.





IMAGE: Top surfer Easkey Britton  
© Laurence J Photography



## SHAPING PUBLIC SERVICES

With Northern Ireland moving towards a completely new local government landscape, it's good to know that several of the nine 'super councils' are being led by Ulster graduates. Among the new local government leaders are **Roger Wilson**, who takes up a chief executive role in the new Armagh-Banbridge-Craigavon Council. Roger holds both a BA and an MBA from Ulster, so is doubly prepared for the role. In the new Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council, **Dr Theresa Donaldson** (BA Hons Social Work) has been named as the chief executive designate. Alumna **Jacqui Dixon** will head up the new Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council, while Belfast City Council is to be led by **Suzanne Wylie**. The Environmental Health graduate will be the first ever female chief executive of Belfast City Council.

## UNLEASHING CREATIVITY

In countries across the world, children are glued to their TVs enthralled by *Lily's Driftwood Bay*, *Pajanimals* and *Sesame Tree*, just three of the highly successful kids programmes made by Belfast company Sixteen South. At the helm of the television production company is **Colin Williams**, an Ulster graduate in graphic design. Colin set up Sixteen South 'to make children's television worth watching'. The award-winning company has already



produced five children's shows, working across live action, puppetry and animation, with a further six shows in development.

Pictures of a different kind have brought photographer **Kenneth O Halloran** international acclaim. Kenneth, who holds a masters in Fine Art Photography, is in demand by many of the world's top picture editors. The multi-award-winning photographer is a regular contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*, and his work has also appeared in *Time*, *Stern*, *GEO*, *Le Monde*, *Bloomberg Business Week*, *The Financial Times Magazine* and *The Sunday Times Magazine*. Kenneth's work often consists of a number of photographs on a theme, such as his Life After

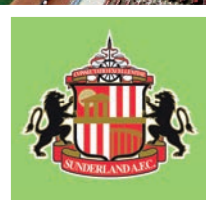
Death series. Some of his award-winning portrait photos have been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Another man with his eyes on the prize is Belfast School of Art graduate, **Duncan Campbell**, who is in the running for this year's prestigious Turner Prize for his work, *It For Others*. The piece features his response to a 1953 film, *Statues Also Die*, and examines the commercialisation of African art. Now based in Glasgow, the 41-year-old video artist uses a unique blend of archive footage and original imagery in his work, which includes *Make It New John*, about John De Lorean's famous car. Duncan is not the first person from Ulster to be nominated for the Turner Prize. Previous nominees include **Professor Willie Doherty** (nominated twice), **Professor Declan McGonagle**, **Cathy Wilkes**, **Phil Collins** and **Christine Borland**. Duncan will be hoping to follow in the footsteps of Ulster graduate **Susan Philipsz**, who won the 2010 Turner Prize for her sound installation, *Lowlands*.



IMAGE: Pajanimals characters created by Colin Williams' company Sixteen South

# SHINING BRIGHT AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT



**W**e always believe our alumni are in the premier league, and in the case of Margaret Byrne that's quite literal.

The Consumer Studies graduate catapulted through the ranks of English Premier League team Sunderland Association Football Club – nicknamed the 'Black Cats' – to become chief executive at the age of just 31 in July 2011.

Her appointment as the 'Top Cat' at Sunderland's Stadium of Light made her one of the youngest ever chief executives of a Premier League club.

Another major achievement soon followed, when later that year she was voted on to the Council of the Football Association as the first woman Premier League representative. The FA Council is a prestigious and hugely important position; it decides the major policies of the governing body of English football.

## INNOVATIVE APPROACH

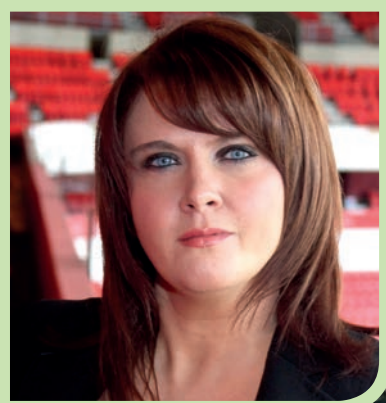
Margaret tells Ulster Graduate she got started at Sunderland AFC in 2007 by responding to a job advertisement in the *Sunday Times*. As company secretary and in-house lawyer she initially worked alongside then manager and chairman Roy Keane and Niall Quinn and was instrumental in building up a strong in-house legal team at the club.

The approach was innovative in football. It led the way for other teams and saw Margaret shortlisted for the UK In-house Lawyer of the Year in 2010.

Following her degree in Consumer Studies Margaret took a conversion course in law in London. She trained at eminent London solicitors firm Galbraith Branley and after specialising in criminal law, divorce cases and financial settlements, moved to Goodman Ray, one of the UK's top family law solicitors.

Her training, experiences and background, she believes, have equipped her well for making an indelible mark on one of the oldest football clubs in England and the high pressure world of the Premier League.





## AN ULSTER EDUCATION HAS PREPARED MARGARET BYRNE FOR GETTING RESULTS IN THE HIGHEST ECHELONS OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL...

“My job is to oversee the running of the club as a whole on a strategic level, across all of its divisions. We are effectively a number of businesses rolled into one – with marketing, ticketing, retail, communications, hospitality, events and of course football and it is my job to grow and develop the club across all of these areas to make us stronger and better equipped to compete with teams at the highest level,” says Margaret.

“It’s a very busy job, as you would expect. Of course I can’t control what happens on the pitch but the team’s performance impacts on every area of the club and as such it can be stressful and frustrating when performances and results don’t go well, but it’s a part of the job you learn to deal with.”

### CATCHING ATTENTION

Still in her early 30s, the Ulster alumna’s stellar career trajectory has caught attention not just within the beautiful game. In 2013 Margaret was voted in *Management Today*’s line-up of “brilliant young women under 35” and earlier this year *The Guardian* listed her as one of the 50 most influential Women in Sport in England.

Apart from the ‘day job’ the Sunderland CEO holds a number of prominent positions across the sport’s governing bodies. She’s a member of the Premier League Legal Advisory Board, the Professional Football Negotiating and Consultation Committee, the Football Regulatory Authority and the FA’s International Committee. She is also a non-executive director of the Amateur Boxing Association of England.

And the Ulster graduate’s influence also goes well beyond the cauldron of the Stadium of Light and the heights of the English game. The club’s registered charity, the Foundation of Light, of which Margaret is company secretary, delivers a wide range of activities and programmes to address social issues in the Sunderland region.

“It runs everything from a little dribbler’s club for three year-olds right up to adult education and health programmes and is widely recognised as the best community scheme in British football.”

That’s something I am really proud of,” says Margaret, “it makes a big difference on Wearside.”

Sunderland AFC also has strong links with the African continent and is one of the most recognised and respected Premier League clubs across Africa. While leading a club delegation in Tanzania last year, the Ulster alumna was one of only 30 people invited to attend an audience with President Barack Obama, who was in the country to launch an initiative to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.

“Meeting Obama was an incredible experience and certainly not something I ever expected to be part of my role as a football CEO,” says Margaret. “But it was a fantastic highlight of my career. He told me to keep up the good work in Africa.”

As the twenty-third Premier League season begins to hot up, the Sunderland players will be trying their utmost to make a big impact on the field of play.

Perhaps they can feel the example of their determined “proud Ulster graduate” and boss. She is certainly playing a blinder.



# Spotlight on Ulster in America

***Our alumni and friends have built a wide range of highly successful careers and are making their mark in America. Many are deeply committed to making meaningful contributions to the University through donations, mentoring, fundraising, attending social and business events and reaching out to inspire and recruit new participants in their networks.***

***Here's just a taste of what is happening with alumni stateside...***

## Reinforcing connections

In the past year the Development and Alumni Relations Office has been working hard to reinvigorate the US network and strengthen alumni ties even further – and it's working.

A whistle-stop tour of the US in May bolstered older relationships and made many new connections with graduates living and working stateside. The focus was on launching local activities, supporting current students, fundraising and encouraging US students to consider Ulster as a place to study.

Roisin McNamara, Alumni Relations Manager, says: "It was great to catch up with our connections in the US and to bring alumni and friends up to date on the exciting developments within the University, and to network.

***"Our alumni are telling us that they have a strong affinity to the University and that they want to engage, give back and make an impact. So this is just the start of our plans to develop and strengthen our connections in the States."***



## In Boston

Ulster's alumni community in the greater Boston area is one of our most active and growing branches.

Founded in 1995, the University of Ulster New England Alumni Association (UUNEAA) organises a number of events each year to give great opportunities for Ulster alumni to come together.

One of its key philanthropic actions in supporting the alma mater is fundraising for the Boston Step-Up Scholarship, which gives a grant to a student who has progressed through Ulster's school-based Step-Up programme to undertake a science-based degree at the University.

To date the UUNEAA has supported five Boston Step-Up Scholarships for people who have come through the programme.

## ***Boston Step-Up Scholarship nurses a dream***

The latest Boston Step-Up Scholarship winner had wanted to be a nurse for as long as she can remember, an ambition

that blossomed when, as a 17 year-old, Sarah Ward took part in the Step-Up Science programme at St Mary's College in Derry~Londonderry.

Life became complicated for Sarah when, in her last year at school, she discovered she was pregnant. Still determined to fulfil her lifetime ambition, she worked hard for her A-levels and was thrilled to win an offer for the Magee campus nursing degree course.

In August 2012 Sarah gave birth to a son, Callam. The next month she began her degree – she is the first in her family to go to university.

Winning the Boston Step-Up Scholarship makes a massive difference to Sarah. The \$1,500 annual grant has eased her financial burdens, especially in travelling to childcare, books and replacing an ancient laptop. Vitally, it's helping Sarah to balance her responsibilities as a mother with academic study without having to take a part-time job.

"I am extremely grateful for this scholarship," she tells the Boston fundraisers. "Thank you! It has helped me put all my energies into becoming a competent and caring nurse."

## In Washington DC

**John J Sweeney  
event raises  
\$230,000**

A major event in DC honouring the life and work of Irish American labour leader John J Sweeney raised \$230,000 towards supporting a scholarship at our world-renowned International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at the Magee campus.

The July event was organised by the AFL-CIO, the largest federation of labour unions in the United States, representing 12.5 million working people, and took place in the organisation's headquarters opposite the White House.

The John J Sweeney Scholarship will enable American students with a personal or family connection to a union to study the MSc in Applied Peace and Conflict Studies at INCORE.

AFL-CIO President Emeritus John J Sweeney, the son of Irish immigrants, has dedicated his life to advancing the wellbeing of working people.

At the DC event the University recognised his commitment and contributions to the wellbeing of working people worldwide, and to the cause of peace in Northern Ireland, with the distinction of the inaugural INCORE Global Peace and Social Justice Award.

James Boland, President of the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts Union, Thomas P O'Neill, III, former Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and son of the late Speaker Tip O'Neill, and Stephen Coyle, Chief Executive Officer of the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, served as members of a coordinating committee for the event.

The O'Neill Family has been working very closely with the University over the past three years to support our successful efforts to raise the £3 million to establish the John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair in Peace.

**IMAGE:** Professor Hugh McKenna (second left) presents the INCORE Global Peace and Social Justice Award to AFL-CIO President Emeritus John J Sweeney in Washington DC; also pictured are Professor Brandon Hamber (left) and Eddie Friel



**IMAGE:** Development and Alumni Relations Office staff and alumni catch up in New York

## In New York

**New York-based  
alumnus pledges  
support for  
Fermanagh students**

An Ulster graduate who co-founded a successful construction business in New York is now founding a scholarship for students back in his home county of Fermanagh.

Derrygonnelly man Marty Meehan and his wife Mary Ellen have pledged £1,000 per year of study to an Ulster student throughout their degree programme, beginning in the current academic year.

Their Meehan Family Scholarship will be open to first year students undertaking specific science and engineering programmes across the University.

Marty graduated from Ulster in 2002 in Building Surveying and, still in his 30s, is now managing director of Stratus Construction Group, which works in and around New York City and New Jersey.

Says Marty: "My degree and experience at the University of Ulster have been invaluable in my career to date. By providing this support to students from my home county, we want to ensure that financial need is no barrier to their academic and career aspirations."

**American  
Ireland Fund**

Several alumni and University staff were among the 1,200-strong gathering at the American Ireland Fund 39th Annual Dinner Gala in New York in May – including members of our New York Advisory Group.

The American Ireland Fund represents some of the most significant philanthropic leadership in the US and the University continues to work closely with its New York and Boston offices in particular to galvanise support for the INCORE Peace Initiative which will be steered by the John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair in Peace.

The annual dinner, held at the Hyatt on 42nd Street, raised \$2.75 million for Irish causes.



# ULSTER CELEBRATES HIGH ACHIE



**IMAGE:** Sir Brian Kerr, former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland

## Outstanding man of law

Our honorary degree recipients embody the qualities that inspire our students to aim high and realise the power they have to make a positive difference in their future lives and careers.

These are people who embody Ulster's core values of excellence, innovation and regional engagement and who contribute to our reputation as a world-class institution.

Among them was former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Sir Brian Kerr, who received a Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his outstanding contribution to the legal profession.

Lord Kerr, who was Northern Ireland's most senior judge for five years, was elevated to the House of Lords on 29 June 2009.

He was appointed a High Court Judge in Northern Ireland in 1993, the same year he was knighted, and in 2004 he was appointed Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

Lord Kerr is a former pupil of St Colman's College in Newry. He later studied law at Queen's University Belfast before being called to the bar. He is married with two sons.

## Honorary graduates 2014



**Sir Alex Ferguson:** former Manchester United manager and sporting legend, awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to sport.



**Mr A P McCoy:** champion jockey awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to sport.



**Mr Brendan Rodgers:** Northern Irish football coach, former player and the current manager of Premier League club Liverpool awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to sport.



**Mr Gary Anderson:** motorsport commentator awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to motorsport.



**Mr Tommy Bowe:** Ulster and Irish international rugby player – and Ulster alumnus – awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to sport.



**Mr Nick Hewer:** business analyst and media commentator awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for his outstanding contribution to business development.



**Dr Margaret Ward:** former director of the Women's Resource and Development Agency awarded Doctor of Laws (LLD) for her outstanding contribution to advancing women's equality.



**Mrs Evelyn Collins:** chief executive of the Equality Commission awarded Doctor of Laws (LLD), for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of equality and good relations.



**Mr Christopher Moran:** chairman of Co-Operation Ireland awarded Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his outstanding contribution to civic leadership.



**Mr Peter McNaney:** former chief executive, Belfast City Council, awarded Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his outstanding contribution to civic leadership.



**Ms Nicky Kinnaird:** prominent businesswoman and founder of the Space:NK chain awarded Doctor of Science (DSc) for her outstanding contribution to entrepreneurship.



**Sir Brian Kerr:** awarded Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his outstanding contribution to the legal profession.



**Ms Roma Downey:** actress and film producer awarded Doctor of Fine Art (DFA) for her outstanding contribution to acting and philanthropy.



**Mr Fergal Keane:** award-winning journalist awarded Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in recognition of his distinguished work as a writer and broadcaster.



**Mr Frank Cottrell-Boyce:** screenwriter and novelist awarded Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for his outstanding contribution to writing.



# VEMENTS

## First Trust Bank awards distinguish the best



### A STUDENT WITH REAL PUNCH

Mark O'Hara packs quite a punch, academically and in his amateur boxing career. In recognition of his excellent academic achievements while balancing a successful sports career, Mark was awarded the First Trust Bank Convocation Student of the Year Award for 2014.

Mark received the Dean's List Award in his first year of study and graduated with a first class honours degree in Business Studies.

As an amateur boxer he represented Northern Ireland, Ireland and the University at various boxing championships. He has been awarded half and full colours by the University for his sporting achievements.



### A GRADUATE FLYING HIGH

The prestigious First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award recipient for 2013 was Gavin Campbell – director of design engineering and technology development at Bombardier Aerospace Belfast.

The award recognises his outstanding achievements in his field. Since graduating from Ulster, Gavin has held a string of high-profile roles in the aerospace industry and is a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Computing and Engineering at the University. He is also a Fellow of the Institution of

Mechanical Engineers and a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering.

Mark McKeown from First Trust Bank said: *"The contribution that Ulster students and graduates make to the lives of others and to society as a whole is quite remarkable, so we are delighted to be able to mark these achievements through our ongoing sponsorship."*

**IMAGE:** Gavin Campbell (centre) receives the First Trust Bank/University of Ulster Distinguished Graduate Award from Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Barnett (left) and Mr Jeff Webb, Relationship Manager, First Trust Bank

## Queen's Birthday Honours 2014

Every year many graduates, staff, associates and people connected to the University are honoured for their achievements. Here is a selection of those honoured in the most recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

### CBE

- **Professor Alastair Adair:** for services to higher education in Northern Ireland
- **William Cayton:** for services to healthcare and regulatory reform
- **Judith Gillespie:** for services to policing and the community in Northern Ireland
- **Dr Glynis Henry:** for services to healthcare in Northern Ireland

Stay connected...

### OBE

- **Professor Carol Curran:** for services to nursing and education in Northern Ireland
- **Dr Howard Hastings:** for services to tourism and hospitality
- **Professor Sean Strain:** for services to nutrition research and higher education
- **Nisha Tandon:** for services to minority ethnic communities in Northern Ireland
- **Dr Bill Wolsey:** for services to business and the hospitality industry in Northern Ireland

### MBE

- **Ann Marie Blanking:** for services to education and the community in Northern Ireland
- **Jenny Bristow:** for services to broadcasting and the food industry in Northern Ireland
- **Dr John Devaney:** for services to social work in Northern Ireland

- **Rev Campbell Dixon:** for services to the community in Northern Ireland
- **Florence Graham:** for services to young people in Northern Ireland
- **Dr Elaine Madden:** for services to maternity care in Northern Ireland
- **Bernadette McCrory:** for services to healthcare in Northern Ireland
- **Irene Megaw:** for services to further education in Northern Ireland
- **William Osborne:** for services to the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland
- **Patricia Pepper:** for voluntary services to the community in Northern Ireland
- **John Rainey:** for services to economic development in Northern Ireland
- **Kenneth Vennard:** for services to young people in Northern Ireland

# GET INVOLVED, REAP THE BENEFITS

*The benefits of a University of Ulster education don't end when you walk across that graduation stage.*

Connect with the power of our alumni community and it could pay lifelong dividends, more than you ever knew.

Our Development and Alumni Relations Office is committed to supporting your personal and professional development well after your studies are complete.

## ENDURING BENEFITS AND SERVICES

**Just some of the benefits of keeping in touch with Ulster**

- Reconnect with classmates / fellow graduates
- Share your expertise by getting involved
- Develop your skills through further study
- Network through our events
- Career support
- Access student / graduate talent
- Access University services
- Receive discounts
- Support for reunions
- Give something back

## CONTACTS THAT WORK FOR YOU

**Being part of the Ulster community means you have 160,000 contacts standing by you 24-7 – just ask Martha Campbell.**

The Ulster Law graduate was in New York in February urgently seeking an internship opportunity with a legal firm in the city.

The University's School of Law contacted the Alumni Relations Office, which swung into action and put a request out to the New York alumni branch.

The Chair of the branch committee, Ulster graduate and director at a commercial real estate company, Larry Carroll, got on the case.

Larry used his connections, set up a meeting, and within a day Martha had secured an internship with Murphy and Associates New York. Result!

## CONNECTIONS TO THE INSIDE

**Our alumni networking events provide great opportunities to meet high-profile people and honorary graduates.**

They also give you the chance to strike up collaborations, pursue new jobs and share information, introductions and services with other individuals, companies, academics, volunteers and more.

That's why the Alumni Relations Office kicked off its new engagement strategy last October with a business networking event at the Belfast campus.

Attended by almost 60 guests, it connected fellow graduates and current and former academic staff to hear about some of the exciting developments within the University. Followed by a Life Stories event – Sir Gerry Robinson in Conversation with Paul Moore – it gave alumni, staff and friends the chance to build valuable contacts and relationships.

The Alumni Relations Office runs various types of networking events throughout the year, some of general interest, some arts and culture, some educational and informational and others just pure fun.



Watch out too for the chance to meet high-profile speakers and guests, including sporting figures. There was a phenomenal demand from alumni, some from as far away as America to see Sir Alex Ferguson receive his honorary degree at the Chancellor's Lecture and hear him speak. Nearly 600 entered the competition for tickets.

**IMAGE:** Sir Alex Ferguson with Dr James Nesbitt, Chancellor of the University of Ulster

# STAY CONNECTED

***You got a great education,  
met great people and had  
fun while at the University of  
Ulster – let's keep it going!***

The Alumni Relations Office is here to help you maintain and strengthen your relationships with one another and with your alma mater.

Your involvement at every level helps to ensure Ulster's success both now and for the future.



## KEEPING ULSTER IN THE FAMILY

**Celebrations and get-togethers are a regular feature of our worldwide alumni family, but the Walkers from Coleraine hold their own mini Ulster reunion on a more frequent basis.**

Douglas and Ann Walker and their three sons have all been educated at Ulster over a period of 40 years.

Ann Walker (née Thom) graduated from Coleraine in Geography in 1976. Douglas graduated from Magee 15 years ago with an Advanced Diploma in Education (FE). The couple's eldest son Peter then graduated from Jordanstown in 2005 in Electronics with Software, and the youngest son, Stephen, from Coleraine in Business Studies in 2010, followed by a masters in Software at Jordanstown in 2011.

To complete the family tradition middle son Mark graduated in July 2014 from Jordanstown in Environmental Health.

Says Douglas Walker: "We all found our time at the University of Ulster to be very worthwhile, the courses were relevant to our future employment. Indeed the whole environment was one of nurturing, combined with a high standard of teaching."

Huge congratulations from the Alumni Relations Office to the Walkers for keeping Ulster in the family.

Now, is this the record for most family members to graduate from Ulster? We want to know. Ask your friends, ask your family and please get in touch to let us know...

## REGISTER YOUR ULSTER CONNECTION

It's easy to keep in touch with your alma mater and reap the benefits – all you need to do is register online.

Registering will give you the key into a 160,000-strong network and communications such as our bi-monthly newsletter, one-off email announcements or this annual magazine.

If you're not already registered, go online and update your details.

## LISTENING OUT FOR YOUR IDEAS

***As an Ulster graduate you are part of our past, but  
we want you to be part of our future.***

We have exciting plans for the future and we also want to give you reasons to get involved by providing a range of activities to suit both you and us.

The Alumni Relations Office would like to hear from our graduates, staff and friends on how we can best serve your needs and expectations. It could be career or business events, dinners, guest speakers. You name it. We're listening.

**GET IN TOUCH  
HERE'S HOW**

**Tel:** +44 28 9536 7486 **Email:** [alumni@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ulster.ac.uk)  
**Web:** [www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/alumni)

***Stay connected...***

## CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We're harnessing the power of social media to continuously build our alumni connections.

In the past year we've increased our Facebook likes by 30%, our LinkedIn Group membership by 60%.

If you use social media and are a member of our alumni community it's time to get in on the action – join us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.





# Lord Ballyedmond

Lord Ballyedmond OBE, owner and founder, in 1968, of Norbrook Laboratories Limited, now one of the largest privately owned veterinary pharmaceutical companies in the world, died tragically on 13 March 2014.

**H**e was an entrepreneur, politician and philanthropist, and was also variously reported to be either the first or second person ever to have sat in the upper houses of both the Irish Republic and the United Kingdom.

Born Edward Enda Haughey on 5 January 1944, his father having died weeks earlier, he grew up on the family smallholding in Kilcurry, north of Dundalk. He emigrated immediately after leaving school to New York where he became a salesman with a pharmaceutical company.

In the late 1960s, correctly reckoning that Britain and the EEC were about to follow American practice and introduce tougher rules on veterinary pharmaceuticals, he returned to Ireland to begin an operation based on these new American norms.

Over the next 40 years Norbrook Laboratories Ltd prospered, building a range of products which, he always explained, covered "everything from ladies' poodles to the lion". The company won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement four times and the Queen's Award for Enterprise twice. The largest employer in Newry and South Down, it is one of the few veterinary companies worldwide to have FDA manufacturing approval outside the US.

Lord Ballyedmond was awarded the OBE in 1987, and in 2008 an honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The late Albert Reynolds appointed him the first chairman of the Irish Aviation Authority in 1993. The following year he was appointed to the Seanad where he was a front bench spokesman on Northern Ireland. He remained a member of the House until 2002.

In the late 1990s he played an important behind-the-scenes role in the run-up to the



signing of the 1998 Belfast Agreement and in 2004 the Ulster Unionists under David Trimble nominated him to the House of Lords. He took the title of Baron Ballyedmond of Mourne in the County of Down and was subsequently appointed to several notable committees and boards.

Through the international elements of his business, Lord Ballyedmond developed a close relationship with Chile, and in 1995 was awarded the highest honour available in the country, namely Gran Oficial of the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins. He also held two honorary consulships to Chile.

A proactive supporter of education, Lord Ballyedmond recognised the need for Northern Ireland and Norbrook to retain the brightest minds. He also delighted in the heritage of Ireland and Northern Ireland, supporting initiatives not only in veterinary science and associated areas, but across the arts. His interests were as varied as could be imagined. He became involved in aviation and brewing businesses, and other interests included the refurbishment of historic houses. He was also a noted collector of antiquities.

Lord Ballyedmond obtained an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the National University of Ireland in 1997. The following year he became an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He was also an Honorary Fellow of the Irish Management Institute. In 2008 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society

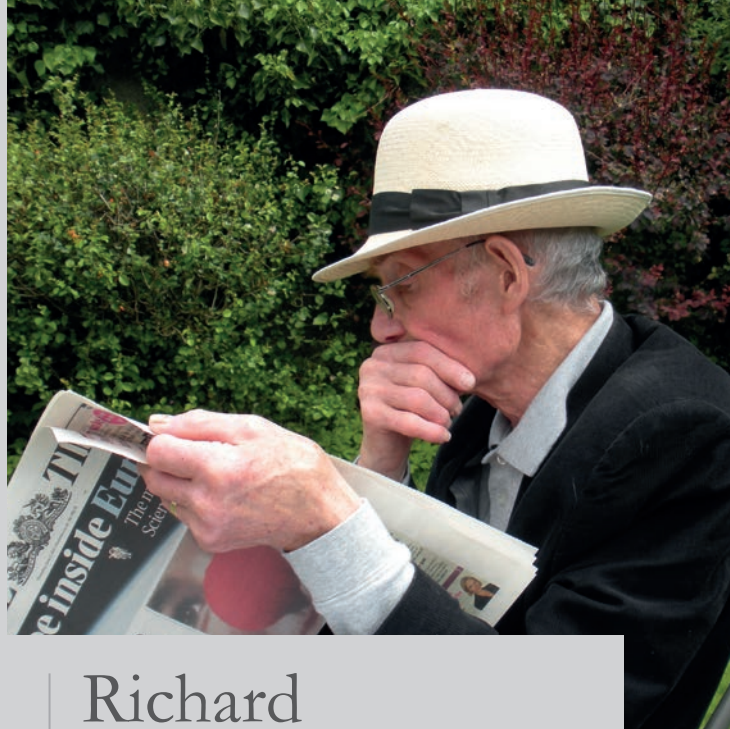
of Chemistry and of the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. In the same year the University of Ulster made him an Honorary Doctor of Science, in recognition of his contribution to the development of the international pharmaceutical industry.

His company made a £1 million pledge to the University of Ulster in 2011 to fund the Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science and in 2013 the commitment increased with the funding of an annual scholarship of £10,000 for the following 10 years. It was named after the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard Barnett. Lord Ballyedmond's son, Professor The Hon. James Haughey, a director of Norbrook, is a Visiting Professor to the University. His eldest son, The Hon. Edward Haughey LLB BL, is a director and chief executive of the GB business, and also works for the company, having practised for a number of years as a barrister in London.

The recipient of numerous other academic awards and appointments, Lord Ballyedmond was granted the Freemanship of the City of London shortly before his death.

Lord Ballyedmond will be remembered as a pioneer, a renaissance man, a man ahead of his time, a man who helped put Northern Ireland on the global stage, and as an employer who both espoused and rewarded hard work and diligence.

He is succeeded by his wife, daughter and two sons.



## Richard York

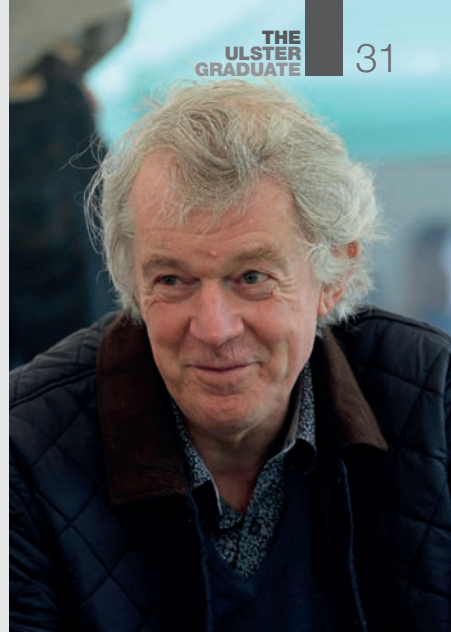
Richard York, who died in March 2013, had a 37-year career in the University of Ulster, from his appointment to teach French in 1969 until his retirement as Professor of European Literature in 2006. He was educated at Kettering Grammar School, Emmanuel College Cambridge and University College London.

Richard's standards, both personal and academic, were of the very highest, a fact reflected in his teaching and research. Acutely aware of the danger of being narrowed by a lifetime of research into one topic, he published books and articles on a wide range of subjects, moving from research in French literature to publishing on both English and American fiction.

Following his retirement Richard, a very private man, made a brief contribution to part-time teaching, then gave his attention to establishing a rose garden at our farmhouse in Liswatty, regularly reading in seven languages and studying mathematics.

During almost 40 years of marriage, I had the privilege of benefitting more than any of his students or colleagues from Richard's great erudition.

**Dr Rosemary York**



## Alan Robinson

Alan was a valued colleague. Not just a lecturer, he was an "educator" and one, furthermore, with values and principles. His career covered a broad time span from 1963 when he began teaching at Harrogate High School, to 2006 when he retired from the University of Ulster.

In Derry, he was a major force in the Foundation Studies for Mature Students. He was also a pioneer in distance education, especially video-conferencing. He became Director of the Schools Cultural Studies Project and worked on Education for Mutual Understanding. In the latter stages of his career, he shifted emphasis away from social sciences and towards research methods for the PGD/MA in TESOL. His final 'bequest' to the University was the promotion of a PG programme in Library Management, which now has a full-time lecturer and has developed up to PhD level.

Alan combined gentleness with strength. He was not just a gentle man but a gentleman, a scholar and a consummate professional.

**Professor Rosalind Pritchard**





## Transforming children's healthcare

**Eilish Hardiman**

**BSc NURSING STUDIES;  
POSTGRADUATE  
ADVANCED  
NURSING  
DIPLOMA**



**A**s the CEO of the new Children's Hospital Group in Dublin, Eilish is leading a project that will ensure that children and young people get the best possible healthcare in the best possible environment.

The project involves the merger of three children's hospitals in Dublin into one new children's hospital on the site of St James's Hospital. It's the largest, most complex and significant change management and capital investment project ever undertaken in healthcare in Ireland. The hospital group includes Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Temple Street Children's University Hospital and paediatric services at Tallaght Hospital, in partnership with several of the academic institutions on the island.

Eilish now has over 25 years' experience in acute hospital healthcare. She won the Sunday Times MBA Scholarship in 2005 and in 2007 was awarded an executive MBA at the Smurfit School of Business.

**Get involved...**

**Patricia Corbett**

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
MANAGEMENT  
MSc BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT**



**Patricia has been appointed as Head of Hillsborough Castle by Historic Royal Palaces.**

Previously she enjoyed a long and varied career in the Northern Ireland Civil Service most recently serving as HR Director in the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. In 2012 Patricia was seconded to the Northern Ireland Office as Hillsborough Castle Project Director. The objective of the project was to transfer the responsibility for the care, conservation and presentation of the Castle from government to a charity.



**Damien Coyle**

**BEng COMPUTING AND ELECTRONICS  
PhD INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS  
ENGINEERING**

**Damien is now a Reader at the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems and a member of the Intelligent Systems Research Centre at Ulster.**

He is developing brain-computer interface technology to enable movement-free communication for the physically impaired. Since graduating, Damien has won a raft of awards and distinctions including the 2008 IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, the 2011 International Neural Network Society's Young Investigator of the Year Award and a Royal Academy of Engineering/The Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship in 2013.



# THE ROCKSTAR RETURNING THE REWARDS

*Ulster Graduate meets alumna  
Gillian McColgan, the CTO of  
Rockstar Consortium Inc., and  
active philanthropic supporter  
of the University...*



**E**ngineering graduate Gillian McColgan is the Chief Technology Officer of Rockstar, a patent holding company owned by some of the biggest names in technology today, including Apple, Microsoft and Sony. The company holds and manages a portfolio of more than 4,000 patents developed by the former Canadian telecoms pioneer Nortel Networks.

As an international business leader in Europe and North America for over 20 years with Nortel, Gillian was CTO of its IP Business when its patents sold for \$4.5 billion in 2011 in New York. Gillian then joined the winning bidders Rockstar Consortium Inc., with responsibility for all technology matters.

Describing her role as “interesting and challenging,” Gillian manages a team of senior technologists, spending a lot of time flying between Rockstar’s offices in Texas and Ottawa, with regular ventures back home to Northern Ireland.

The Methody old girl’s impetus to succeed came from her upbringing and education-aware family, particularly the wise and travelled influence of her late father, and what she remembers as her University of Ulster “door to the future” education.

“It has stood me in good stead for my working life, taught me discipline, how

to analyse, how to deal with stress, and set me on the path to where I am now,” she says. “So I feel very connected to the University and to Northern Ireland and I fondly remember my days there.”

Gillian began giving back to her alma mater some 10 years ago, initially through the Boston alumni network and the Boston Step-Up programme and later through supporting the John Hume and Thomas P. O’Neill Chair in Peace.

What she elucidates as a “developing relationship” with Ulster has now resulted in the establishment of the McColgan Engineering Fund. Gillian has been keen to assess where her support can make the greatest impact on students.

“Over time,” she says, “I reached the conclusion that my goals were to support innovation, technology and excellence, and that’s why I’ve set up my fund.”

The Fund has so far supported a biomedical engineering innovation competition and the McColgan Engineering Scholarship. Both promote innovation and encourage students to excel in their field.

The winner of the innovation award, Ciara Haren, graduated this year with a first class honours degree and has accepted an excellent job with Boston Scientific. She cites the innovation award as “an

influential factor for employers” and is hugely grateful for the experience of taking part in the award.

***“There is always an example in giving,” says Gillian, “and with education costs mounting it is very meaningful to give a helping hand, especially to those who face challenges.”***

Gillian realises that an initial commitment of five years will allow the time required to fully understand the impact of her support: “I have been at the forefront of innovation most of my life, and five to seven years is a timescale I am well used to for getting results. It will take time to fully judge the outcomes but I am content to let it evolve.”

Gillian’s support offers a thorough and dynamic model for how alumni can make a real difference to Ulster students. We will watch and admire as her star continues to rise.



# Now's the time to give something back

*What did you get from your time at Ulster?*

*Was it a great education and a new way of seeing the world? A job? The chance to study overseas? A partner or best friend? The chance to help others?*

*Now, what can you give for your time at Ulster?*

## How you can give back to Ulster

**GIVE THE  
GIFT** ▶

- **One-off donation**
- **Regular giving**
- **Make a corporate gift**
- **Leave a legacy**
- **Give shares and assets**
- **Mentor a current student**
- **Provide placements**
- **Support a spin out company**

It's never too soon to think about giving back. You don't have to wait until you make lots of money before you make a contribution to the next generation of Ulster students.

You can make a difference with your own philanthropy right now. Don't wait until you've reached the height of your career.

Gifts of all sizes add up – 30 people giving £25 can fund a scholarship. A few alumni giving regularly can support a student in hardship.

Last year, your gifts supported students across all the University's faculties. But this is only the tip of the iceberg – further gifts will ensure that even more students who need support will benefit.

## GIVE FOR FREE – and there's an app for that...

**Liverpool-based alumnus Christopher Johnston donates to Ulster through Give as You Live without it costing him a penny.**

With the Give as You Live online giving platform every time you buy from thousands of top retailers they donate a percentage of your spend to your nominated charity – that's the University please – at no extra cost to you. You get emails to confirm what you've raised.

And now there's a Give as You Live app for people who increasingly live their lives through portable, connected devices. Download for mobiles and tablets from the App Store for IOS or the Play Store for Android devices.

"My affinity with Ulster is still strong so this is a very easy way to give back," says Christopher, a History graduate and teacher. "It's a breeze. All you do is sign up, shop and the University gets a cut. Why wouldn't you do it, it's so simple."

## GIVING SOMETHING BACK

There's a special place in your heart for the University of Ulster. You know you are part of something much bigger than yourself. What better way to honour the place you used to call home than to make a donation to support current and future students?

# IT ALL ADDS UP



## GIVING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER'S PEOPLE, PLACES AND PROGRAMMES...

As a graduate from a world-class university, your degree becomes stronger and you benefit all the more as Ulster succeeds in leading the way through teaching, learning, research, business connectivity and international development.

So your stock rises as the University's stock rises; together we can build a future where everyone benefits.

Not just that. When you give you encourage others to do the same. Every gift to Ulster has impact and every gift is important. Please consider making a gift today. The future of the University and the educational experiences of our students rely on your generosity.

People – give to people and invest in and empower current students. They will be the leaders, role models, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs and decision-makers of tomorrow.

Places – give to places, campuses and buildings; named lecture halls and rooms will carry your mark and enhance the status of the University.

Programmes – give to new programmes and you can be associated with life-saving, innovative and ground-breaking initiatives. You will be ensuring that Ulster continues to compete at the highest level internationally.

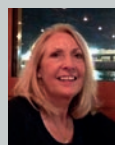
## I GAVE BACK BECAUSE...

**Martin Meehan**



“I support students from my home county who might not otherwise be able to afford to go to University.”

**Geraldine Scott-Heyes**



“As an alumna who greatly benefitted from my time at Ulster, I want to make sure that others have the opportunity to have the same experience.”

**Peter Hope**



“I want to ensure that our students have immediate access to the best electronic and printed resources possible.”

# Target your support

**You may be interested in a cutting-edge research project.**

You might want to assist financially with the latest building fund to ensure students can learn in a state-of-the-art facility. You might want to support academic excellence in students.

You can. Target your support any way you wish to and join us as we shape the future of your University.

Just some of the ways your donation can help:

- The INCORE Peace Initiative – training a new generation of peace builders
- Biomedical sciences – providing support for cutting-edge and life-saving research
- Scholarships – initiatives to support students
- Student hardship – financial help for students when they hit a barrier to progress
- Sport – getting behind talented students

## WAYS TO GIVE

- **Online**
- **Credit card**
- **Direct debit**
- **Cheque**
- **Anonymously**

To find out more about supporting our work call the Development and Alumni Relations Office for a donation form on: +44 (0)28 7012 3208 or email: [giving@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:giving@ulster.ac.uk)

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