**€46 MILLION SOFTWARE RESEARCH CENTRE LAUNCHED AT LERO**

Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan TD, formally launched an expanded Lero, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funded research centre at University of Limerick (UL) in 2015. This expansion is funded by a €46.4 million investment, which will support the development of a national software research centre on the University campus and will create 90 PhD and 46 post-doctoral research positions over the next six years.

€32.6 million of the investment is being funded by SFI with support from the EU Structural Funds. The remaining contributions worth €13.8 million have been invested by industry players such as IBM, Fidelity Investments and Microsoft.

The Lero expansion now incorporates software researchers from UCC and NUI Maynooth, which means that all Irish universities as well as Dundalk IT are represented in the national centre.

Under the new programme, Lero has also broadened its research scope from purely software engineering to a wider range of software disciplines. Research areas will combine core research with targeted projects in hot sectors including cyber security, Internet of Things, cloud computing, medical devices and smart cities.

Lero already works with multinational industry partners such as IBM, Fidelity Investments and Microsoft. Indigenous research projects are being implemented with local companies including S3 Group, Statsports and Tullow Oil. Local and multinational technology companies will be able to access and work with the expertise of the researchers at Lero.

It is hoped that Lero will help to bridge the skills gap in the software industry, by training and upskilling experts in the area, who may one day go on to set up their own companies.

**INTRODUCTION**

We publish this year’s annual report in the midst of a vibrant and flourishing period for the University of Limerick. Our five year strategic plan, launched last year, is in full swing and the benefits are already being felt across our campus.

Vigorous growth is evident everywhere - this year the new Analog Devices Building was named Irish building project of the year and the commencement of the expansion of the Glucksman Library has added further architectural richness to our built environment. Our student community this year voted to support a major expansion of our Student Centre and sports facilities. We are all tremendously energised by these physical developments – they provide a visible manifestation of the growth that is also going on in our research labs, in our lecture theatres and among our students, staff and alumni across so many fields.

Across these pages you will see the diversity of projects, innovations and awards we have achieved this year. Our community networks are deepening and our international standing is growing. Flagship initiatives like Lero advance and promote our research mission and this is just one of many fascinating research nodes in our network. This network connects UL to the widest possible community of industry, global R&D, international development and of course, with the people of Limerick city and county.

We are proud of our record on diversity, as the leading university in Ireland for female representation at professorial level. However, this only is the beginning of a journey. We have much more to do and, as you will see in this report, we are applying energy and creativity to the goal of achieving meaningful representation at all levels of University, with all the attending benefits and growth that true diversity promises.

Inside our walls and beyond, University of Limerick is thriving.

Office of the President
University of Limerick

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Lero’s Centre HQ is in the Tierney Building at the University of Limerick.
**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS**

Analog Devices Building Wins Irish Building Project of the Year

The Analog Devices Building at UL was named as the Irish Building Project of the Year at the Irish Building and Design Awards 2016. Designed by architects RKD, the research building was constructed as part of the Bernal Project, to facilitate the work of ten world-leading professors in their teaching and research. The €54 million Bernal Project was part funded by State contributions with the majority of funding (70%) secured from philanthropic sources. This included a significant donation from Analog Devices.

Expansion of the Glucksman Library

Construction on the Glucksman Library is underway. The aim is to create an outstanding facility, which will provide for the needs of the University long into the future and distinguish UL as an innovative and pioneering institution. Some 6,000sqm of space will be added to the library and existing facilities will be upgraded. The extension will create an additional 1,000 seats. A revitalised and expanded Special Collections area will include exhibition, reading, presentation and digitisation spaces to support the use of the library's resources both in research and in the curriculum. The dedicated innovative digital, media and data spaces will provide facilities for media creation, practice presentations and high-end computing. Other new or redeveloped areas will include a graduate reading room, smart classrooms and group study rooms, a Health Science library and a Law library.

SU Pass Referendum on New Student Centre

In April 2016, UL students voted by over 78% in favour of introducing a staggered levy towards the building of a new student centre and improved sporting facilities.

- The total cost of the projects is estimated to be €28,590,000. The levy will cover 55% and the University will fund the remaining 45%. UL will cover 100% of the maintenance costs estimated to be around €12 million over 20 years.
- The proposed developments include the construction of a new student centre, the redevelopment of Maguire’s training pitches, two new multi-purpose all weather pitches, a climbing wall, a handball alley, a 25m diving pool and the refurbishment of the second floor of the UL Sport Arena.
FURTHER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS
2015 / 2016

Career Development Toolkit

The First Leanings Career Development Toolkit was launched by the Vice President Academic and Registrar, Professor Paul McCutcheon, at the Institute of Guidance Counsellors’ conference in February. The toolkit was developed by the Cooperative Education and Careers Division (CECD) with SIDF funding. CECD designed the toolkit to support transition year (TY) students in making a successful transition from secondary to higher-level education. First Leanings will be used by guidance counsellors and TY co-ordinators to support students in identifying their interests, abilities and preferences and in developing knowledge of subject choice and higher education course offerings.

Aiming Higher

Another resource, Aiming Higher a Guide for Parents and Guardians, was launched by Minister for Education Jan O’Sullivan TD.

• The purpose of the guide is to give parents a practical understanding of the Higher Education sector and to help them to support their child in making informed decisions around course and career choices.
• In particular, it offers information and guidance in decision-making, researching courses, the application process and access routes.

Visitor Centre Launch

UL’s Visitor Centre, Ionad Cuairteoirí, was officially opened in October 2015. This was developed by Plassey Campus Centre, who collaborated with key departments including, Corporate Secretary, Corporate Affairs, UL Alumni, UL Sport and Building and Estates. The Visitor Centre will act as a ‘Front Door’ to the University. It aims to establish a professional visitor information point and enhance the visitor experience by providing interactive information and visual exhibits showcasing the University. The Centre’s primary funding will be generated from the operation of a UL-branded merchandise shop which also showcases the work of local craft producers.
AWARDS

Two UL STEMM Departments Achieve Athena Swan Bronze Awards
Building on the University’s Bronze Athena SWAN Award achieved last year, UL’s Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Department of Life Sciences were granted Bronze Athena SWAN Departmental Awards in November 2015. UL has the highest number of women at Professorial level in the country and the percentage of female Associate Professors has increased from 19% to 33% (the national average is 20%). UL has also committed to a further initiative within the University Athena SWAN Action Plan, to ensure that all Selection and Promotions Boards have a minimum of 30% female representation on panels.

Green Flag Award
In October 2015, the Foundation for Environmental Education awarded the University with the internationally-recognised Green Flag by An Taisce’s Green-Campus programme. The Green-Campus Programme is an environmental education and award scheme which promotes the importance of including the entire campus community in the management and enhancement of its environment. Significant initiatives in the areas of Energy Conservation, Biodiversity and Travel and Transport have been incorporated into campus life over the past two years, with combined efforts by UL’s Buildings and Estates Division and the UL Green-Campus Committee demonstrating a long-term commitment to continuous improvement.

Annual Road Safety Awards
UL Smarter Travel was one of the winners at the 2015 Road Safety Authority Leading Lights in Road Safety Awards, held in December 2015. The UL Smarter Travel initiative received the Education – Third Level Award for their work to promote sustainable travel behaviour such as walking, cycling, taking the bus and car sharing. During Orientation Week in UL this year, 4,500 students visited the Smarter Travel stall to learn more about sustainable travel. Through other activities such as free bike checks and cycle training, the team helps to ensure there is a constant awareness of road safety throughout the campus.

Pharma Industry awards
• Synthesis and Solid Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC), at UL, was announced as Pharma Research Centre of the Year and R&D Achievement Award winner at the Pharma Industry Awards, held in October. These prestigious awards recognise the achievements of the SSPC’s world-leading researchers and industry partners, which are leading the way for next-generation medicine manufacture. Individual SSPC industry and research partners were also honoured at the Awards.
• The Biopharma Industry Technical Group won the Partnership Alliance of the Year Award. This group is a unique collaboration between SSPC, NIBRT and the biopharma industry represented by MSD, Allergan, Pfizer, Janssen Biologics, Amgen, Lilly, BioMart, Sanoﬁ Genzyme, and Regeneron.
• SSPC was also shortlisted for the 2016 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards. Dr Patrick Frawley, Dr Giuseppe Cognoni, Dr Brian de Souza and Dr Denise Croker collaborated with the Pfizer Global Process Development Centre to improve the manufacturing process for world-leading medicines. The major process re-design utilised the skills of a team of chemists, analysts and engineers and resulted in improved efficiency and increased productivity.

Kemmy Business School - The Only Irish School on a New List of UN PRME Champions
• This year, the Kemmy Business School (KBS) was recognised by the United Nations (UN) for responsible education. KBS was included on the UN’s list of PRME Champions, and was the only Irish School to be included on this prestigious list.
• PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education) is a UN initiative to foster and develop responsible management education, and more than 600 Business Schools worldwide are signatories. KBS is one of only 29 PRME Champion schools globally. The Champion schools have been identified as designated leaders in this area with a mission to contribute to thought and action leadership on responsible management education in the context of the UN sustainable development agenda.

Intertrade Ireland Seedcorn Competition
Start-up company, Ocean Survivor, based in the Nexus Innovation Centre at UL, won this year’s Intertrade Ireland Seedcorn Competition. Owner, UL Product Design and Technology Graduate Kieran Normoyle, developed a simple-to-use technology which mitigates the effects of hypothermia, while promoting comfort and mental well-being in a survival situation. In a cold environment 20-30 minutes of exposure can result in a drop of core body temperature to below 35 degrees Celsius. Ocean Survivor technology reduces this core heat loss and transfers heat to vital organs. The Intertrade Ireland Seedcorn Competition is the largest business competition for early-stage/high-growth companies with a prize fund of €280,000.

Academic Contribution to Medtech Award
The Irish Medical Devices Association presented UL with its Academic Contribution to Medtech Award at the Irish Medical Technology Industry Awards. The award was presented to Dr Eamonn de Barra, Department of Mechanical, Aeronautical and Biomedical Engineering (MABE) for UL’s research collaboration with leading medical devices company Stryker. The research was undertaken by academics at the Health Research Institute (HRI) at UL and was funded by the IRC under their Enterprise Partnership Scheme.
HONORARY DOCTORATES

The Honorary Doctorate is the highest honour which UL can bestow upon any individual and is specifically awarded to those who inspire and make great contributions to their fields of endeavour. This year, UL was delighted to award honorary awards to eight exceptional individuals.

Paul O’Connell
UL awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science to former Ireland Rugby Captain Paul O’Connell, in November.

Dr Paul O’Connell was the 100th recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from UL since 1990.

Dr James McCarron
The University awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science to UL Foundation’s longest-serving director, Dr James McCarron Jr. Dr McCarron is a distinguished urologist with a medical practice in New York City and is Clinical Assistant Professor at the Weill Cornell Medical College at Cornell University and Assistant Attending Surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Prof John Cleland Watson Wylie
Professor of law and primary draftsman of the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009 was awarded a Doctor of Laws.

Josephine Feehily
Chairperson of the Police Authority, first female Chairperson of the Revenue Commissioners, Chair of the World Customs Organisation and Chair of the OECD Forum for Tax Administration was awarded a Doctor of Economic Science.

Michael Flatley
Internationally-renowned dancer, choreographer and musician, was conferred with a Doctor of Letters.

Ali Hewson
Activist, humanitarian and previous recipient of the Princess Grace Humanitarian Award, was conferred with a Doctor of Letters.

Peter Malone
Former Chairman of the National Roads Authority, Aviva, CBRE Gunne Property Group and the Business Tourism Forum and Former Chancellor of UL was conferred with a Doctor of Economic Science.

Adi Roche
Founder of the Chernobyl Children’s Project International was awarded a Doctor of Letters.
Alumni Honoured at Annual Awards Event

UL Alumni Association (ULAA) bestowed its highest honour on three of the University’s outstanding graduates at the 10th Annual UL Alumni Awards Gala Dinner. Acclaimed Irish artist Alice Maher, successful entrepreneur Kieran Curran and Cork camogie star Anna Geary were honoured at the ceremony. Bank of Ireland, Analog Devices Ireland, GE Capital Aviation Services, Hays Recruitment, Hogan Dowling McNamara Solicitors and Stryker Ireland sponsored the event.

Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin Conferred with the Freedom of Clonmel

Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin Emeritus Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, in January at Clonmel Town Hall. Past Freedom of Clonmel recipients include Charles Stewart Parnell (1855), William Gladstone (1886), Constance Markievicz (1917), President Eamon DeValera (1960), President Mary Robinson (1993) and President Mary McAleese (1999).

Society of Chemical Industry Distinguished Service Award for Dr Gordon Armstrong

In July, Dr Gordon Armstrong, Scientific Support Officer at MSSI, was presented with the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) Distinguished Service Award at its 135th Annual General Meeting which was held in London. The award celebrates the work and commitment of longer-serving members of all component parts of SCI, where they give their time as volunteers to organise conferences, edit or peer review material published in SCI journals, share their enthusiasm, or lend their leadership and vision to sustain regional or technical group activities.

Professor Kieran Hodnett Awarded Boyle Higgins Gold Medal

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Chemistry, Professor Kieran Hodnett was awarded the 2016 Institute of Chemistry of Ireland’s Boyle Higgins Gold Medal. Professor Hodnett is a member of the Chemical and Environmental Sciences department at UL and Scientific Director of SFI. The Boyle Higgins Medal is presented annually for research in the fields of pure, applied or industrial chemistry for work which is outstanding and internationally recognised as a significant contribution to the advancement of Chemistry.

FURTHER AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS 2015 / 2016

Dr Michelle O’Sullivan, of the Department of Personnel and Employment Relations, was appointed by Minister Richard Bruton to the new Workplace Relations Commission. The new body, launched in October, will incorporate the functions of the machinery of employment rights including the Labour Relations Commission, the National Employment Rights Authority and the Equality Tribunal. Dr O’Sullivan was appointed as one of three independent members of the Board.

Dr Patrick Buckley and Dr Elaine Doyle were awarded a Wharton/QS Stars Bronze Award at the Reimagine Education Award ceremony held at the Wharton Business School in Philadelphia. This year, competition received submissions from 520 universities and enterprises from over 50 countries. Dr Buckley and Dr Doyle received their award in the European Regional category, which recognises the best entries from across Europe. Their work centres on the use of prediction markets as teaching tools.

Peter Reilly, Librarian for KBS, won the 2015 National CONUL (Consortium of National and University Libraries) Teaching and Learning Award, for excellence/innovation in the field of information literacy and teaching in Ireland. Reilly received funding for professional development or project-related activity and will present at the UK Librarian’s Information Literacy Annual Conference which will be held in UCD in March 2016.

Dr Patrick O’Donnell won the Montegut Global Scholar Award of the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation at the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) Europe Conference in Istanbul. He held three workshops and gave an oral presentation related to his work on the Partnership for Health Equity project.

Orla Lenihan, of KBS, was presented with the Irish Accounting and Finance Association (IAFA) Scholar award. This national award supports early career scholars in the Irish accounting and finance community. Lenihan received the award for her innovative research which investigated how U.S. firms evaluate CEO performance for compensation purposes by examining the benchmarks and targets included in bonus contracts.

Researchers Carriona Dowling and Sylvia Murphy, who work with GEMS Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology Dr Patrick Kiely, were awarded first and second place, respectively, in the internal FameLab science communication competition.

The GEMS’ Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology, Dr Patrick Kiely, was elected Secretary of the Irish Association for Cancer Research (IACR). He organised the annual conference held in Cork in February, attended by cancer researchers from across Ireland. One postdoctoral researcher and five PhD students from GEMS presented posters at the conference. Carriona Dowling won a prize for her poster entitled ‘Protein Kinase C Beta II Suppresses Colorectal Cancer by Regulating GTF1-Mediated Cell Survival’. Dr Kiely was also re-appointed as External Examiner for Foundation Medicine at Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) Dublin, Bahrain and Penang Medical Colleges.
Bríd Davis, PhD candidate and GEMS Psychiatry Cognitive Impairment Research Group member, was awarded a funded place on the European Network for the Joint Evaluation of Connected Health Technologies training school, which took place in University College Dublin in December. The training school focused on routine translation of data into knowledge and methodological perspectives.

Dr Ken Byrne of UL’s Department of Life Sciences, was appointed as the International Expert for the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Dr Byrne will be the lead author for the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration.

Professor Michael Larvin, Head of GEMS, was invited to become an external examiner for the Faculty of Medicine, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. He also joined the HSE National Consultant Advisory Appointment Committee in August 2016, representing the Council of Deans of Faculties with Medical Schools in Ireland (CDFMSI) as current chair.

Laura Murphy, Course Director, MA Dance Performance, received the Dancer-in-Residence award from The Arts Council of Ireland for 2015-16, her fourth time doing so. She will work with community dancers and professional dancers on various projects throughout the residency and premier a new choreographic work for an ensemble of eight dancers at Cork Midsummer Festival 2016.

Professor Ursel Bangert
Bernal Chair in Microscopy and Imaging, gave her inaugural address entitled ‘Is there “plenty of room at the bottom”? - seeing and manipulating atoms in the electron microscope’ in October 2015.

Professor Fiona Murphy
Professor of Clinical Nursing in UL and UL Hospitals Group delivered ‘Bedpans, babies and bathwater: the rise and fall (and possible rise again) of nursing theory’ as her inaugural lecture in November 2015.

Professor Cathal Walsh
Chair of Statistics in the Faculty of Science and Engineering gave his inaugural address in November 2015. The title of his address was ‘The Mathematics of Decision: Healthy Bayesian Statistics’.

Professor Edmond Magner
Professor of Electrochemistry, gave his inaugural address in January 2016. The title of this Inaugural Address was “Proteins on Surfaces”.

Professor John Forbes
Professor of Health Economics at the Graduate Entry Medical School delivered the first inaugural lecture of 2016 in January, entitled ‘Economists can be good for your Health’.

Professor Shane Kilcommins
Professor of Law, delivered his inaugural lecture in February 2016. His address was entitled, ‘The Victim in the Irish Criminal Process’.

Professor Paul Conway
Professor of Teacher Education at the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences gave an inaugural lecture entitled ‘The Good Teaching Quest(ion)’ in March 2016.

Professor Bernadette Andreosso
Professor of Economics at UL, gave her inaugural address in March 2016, entitled “Economics: A Dismal Science in search of a metamorphosis?”

Professor Gary Walsh
Chair of Industrial Biochemistry in the Department of Chemical & Environmental Science, gave his inaugural address in April 2016. The title of his lecture was ‘Proteins and their applications: from biopharmaceuticals to biofuels.’
STUDENT SUCCESSES

President’s Volunteer Awards

This year, over 270 UL students were honoured at the annual President’s Volunteer Awards (PVA) ceremony, for completing 17,000 hours of voluntary work across a range of charitable organisations. They worked on projects such as Pieta House, the Reserve Defence Forces and homework clubs and raised funds for a wide variety of charities and developed initiatives to help, for example, sick children overcome their fear of medics and hospitals. This year’s PVA ceremony also marked the launch of the new higher education student volunteering website, StudentVolunteer.ie. This is a national online platform which connects students wishing to volunteer with organisations offering voluntary positions.

Students’ Union Celebratory Event

In June, UL Students’ Union hosted an event in the Student Centre which included the launch of their strategic plan and cheque presentations to four local charities totalling €16,000.

- The plan, ‘Taking Giant Steps’, will run from 2016 to 2020. It focuses on four key areas; Student Engagement, Student Facilities and Services, Student Government and Union Management.
- The strategy includes plans to build a student centre and new and enhanced sports facilities, to develop the University’s clubs and societies and to provide information and initiate awareness campaigns to support students, particularly in the areas of mental health and wellbeing.
- Cheques of proceeds from this year’s Charity Week were presented to Corbett Suicide Prevention Patrol, BUMBLEance, the SVP Drop-In Centre and Blood Bikes Mid-West & Blood Bikes West.

- Colin Clarke, ULSU President, Ciara Corcoran, Deputy President/Welfare Officer and Marian O’Donnell, Vice President/Academic Officer had an excellent year in office which included passing a referendum for a new student centre and sports facilities worth €28 million, successfully lobbying the University to hire a new full-time Deputy Head of Counselling, rejuvenating the campus newspaper ‘An Focal’ and launching the new Student Choice Awards.

- In November, GEMS hosted the 2nd annual Atlantic Corridor Student Research Conference, organised by Professor Deirdre McGrath, GEMS Director of Education. Medical students and staff from the Faculty of Education & Health Sciences in UL, Professor Colum Dunne, GEMS Director of Research, delivered the keynote Plenary Lecture. UL Medical Student David Lynch won a prize for Best Oral Presentation for Clinical Research for his study of ‘Sentinel Node Biopsy in Breast Carcinoma’.

- Maurice O’Connell, UL GEMS PhD student, received a 2015 Health Research Board (HRB) Trials Research Methodology Network Conference Scholarship. He attended the ‘REWARDEQUATOR’ conference to discuss increasing value and reducing waste in biomedical research.

- Two International Business graduates, Mark Barrow and Catriona Ryan, were awarded prizes in the Accenture/UL Business Case Writing competition for their case research. Mark won best case study in for his work on ‘FATCA – The End of Tax Evasion’. Catriona Ryan’s ‘The Abolishment of the Milk Quota’ was runner-up.
- International Business students, Fionan Coughlan, Aleksandr Zibzibadze and Imededdine Abnoun, were finalists in this year’s Altech Innovation Awards. The team developed a methane capture system for the agricultural industry and won €1,000 for their business innovation proposal.

- Applied Languages student Paul Finn, was awarded a scholarship by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the Mirai Programme where 70 students from over 30 countries in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus met in Japan to study politics, history and the economy.
- Applied Languages students Rosemary Hynes and Rachel McCoart were presented with awards by the French Ambassador, during the French/Irish Symposium, for achieving outstanding results while on Erasmus in France.

- UL student, Jonathan Salin, was the successful winner at the 2015/2016 International Concrete Design Competition, the theme of which was Metamorphosis. The winners shared a €3000 prize fund and attended an International masterclass in Concrete Design in Berlin in September. The competition is funded by Cement Manufacturers Ireland.

- UL Journalism graduate Hilary McGann won two major journalism awards – The Sunday Times Young Journalist of the Year Award and Limerick’s Live 95 FM Broadcast Journalism Award. McGann won The Sunday Times Young Journalist Award 2015.
- UL Journalism student, James Nolan, won the Irish Examiner Young Sports Journalist of the Year 2015 Award.

- The Bachelor of Arts (Human Resource Management) Dermot Foley Memorial Prize sponsored by the HR Department, UL went to Annette Clancy and the Bachelor of Business Studies (HRM) John Lovett Memorial Prize, sponsored by the Lovett family, was presented to David Watters.
• Clinical Therapies PhD student Eva Barrett was awarded the James M Flaherty Research Scholarship by the Ireland Canada University Foundation. The award supports a six-week visit to University Laval in Quebec with Professor Jean Sebastien Roy, with the aim of developing international shoulder pain research collaboration across the two institutes. She is supervised by Drs Karen McCreesh and Kieran O’Sullivan.

• History PhD student Rita McCarthy was awarded the Anna Parnell Travel Grant by the Women’s History Association of Ireland.

• Law Plus student Alan McCabe secured an externship on the Los Angeles Summer Externship Program 2016.

• SAUL graduate Darren Monahan was the winner of a competition to design and build a chair for the Irish Modern Museum of Art as part of their new exhibition entitled; ‘What We Call Love’. The exhibition featured works from international artists including Picasso, Damien Hurst, Andy Warhol and Yoko Ono. Monahan designed a Victorian love-seat made with birch plywood, bungee cord and patent leather-pig skin.

• KBS student Katie Whelan, who came up with an innovative way to highlight positive mental health after losing her first cousin to suicide, was named Limerick’s Person of the Year 2015. Katie’s project, Lisa’s Lights, placed life-affirming messages along Thomond Bridge.

• UL Business and Management students were honoured with a KBS/Northern Trust Outstanding Scholar Award at a ceremony in April. The awards recognise the highest standards of academic achievement across 37 Certificate, Diploma, Degree, Graduate Diploma and Masters Programmes. 56 students were presented with Certificates by Dr Philip O’Regan, Dean of the KBS and Clive Bellows, Ireland MD, Northern Trust. The Louise Newman Memorial Prize for highest achieving UL Insurance graduate, was presented to Mark O’Callaghan.

• MSSI researcher and PhD student, Department of Physics and Energy, Matthew Gleeson was the winner of SFI’s Research Image of the Year competition for his picture ‘Lightning Wires’. The winning image was selected from over 40 submissions at the SFI Science Summit. Gleeson’s winning entry is of hydrothermally synthesised sodium niobate micro-wires.

• A team of UL students took first prize at the 2016 National Robocode Programming competition which was held on March 10th as part of the 2016 Games Fleadh at Limerick Institute of Technology Tipperary. This year’s winning team, known as ULRainbowWarrior, included Computer Games Development students David Ryan, David Ryley and Christopher Brady.

• Atlantic Projects Company (APC), Power Generation Company, has established a bursary with the Mechanical Aeronautical and Biomedical Engineering Department at the University. The award consists of €5,000 plus a position on their graduate engineering two-year programme. Mechanical Engineering student Laurence Fennell won.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

2016 Rio Olympics

Two UL students competed in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Thomas Barr and Michelle Finn competed in the 400m hurdles and the 3,000m steeplechase respectively. Over 700 people gathered in the UL Arena to see them compete for Ireland. This audience included; staff, students, local running clubs, training partners, Vice President Academic and Registrar Professor Paul McCartney, Director of Sport Dave Maherly and Barr’s coaches Drew and Hayley Harrison to watch the Olympian. Barr came 4th in the 400m Olympic Hurdles.

UL’s Olympic involvement was not confined to competitors. Dr Giles Warrington visited Rio in March as part of Team Ireland’s final preparations for the Rio 2016 Olympics. Dr Warrington is the Lead Sports Science Advisor to the Olympic Council of Ireland and he was also Team Manager at the Pre-Games Olympic training camp in Uberlandia, Brazil.
Launch of UL Beo

UL Beo is an initiative that aims to make UL a world-leading environment for the practice and research of Sport and Physical Activity. Led by Gary Ryan of the Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences (PESS), UL Beo will support the development of new projects in physical activity and health, lifestyle and performance sport. UL Beo was launched with the first annual Pat Duffy Lecture, delivered by Dr. Keith Wood and Baroness Sue Campbell, former Chair of UK Sport.

Sports Scholarships launched

In May, UL launched a new suite of Sports Scholarships designed to support elite athletes in pursuing and excelling in their sport while also undertaking study at the University. There are three levels of award, Gold, Silver and Bronze with a value of up to €10,000 at Gold level. The scholarships scheme is open to all current UL students, all current Leaving Certificate students or those applying to study at UL for the first time either through CAO or transfer at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Rob Mortell becomes youngest Irish person to reach summit of Mount Everest

Law and Accounting graduate Rob Mortell became the youngest Irish person to reach the summit of Mount Everest on May 25th summiting at 6.00am Irish time.
03 RESEARCH, ENTERPRISE & ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH

In January, UL’s research strategy ‘Excellence and Impact 2020’ was launched by Damian English TD, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation. The new strategy focuses on research excellence and leveraging the university’s position as a leader in translational research and partner of choice for industry while extending our global reach. It incorporates four goals: Research Excellence, Research Impact, Investing in People and International Reach.

Key targets for the five-year strategy include:

- 20% increase in the number of doctoral enrolments.
- 100% increase in the number of employment-based and part-time doctoral enrolments.
- 30% increase in the number of publications in top 10 percentile journals.
- A doubling of income from European funding sources relative to that achieved under FP7.
- Establishing commercialisation and entrepreneurship training for all staff and students and expanded enterprise boot camp activities for second and third level students.
- A 25% increase in new spin-out companies
- A 20% increase in research income from industry.

Research at UL addresses areas of importance to Irish society, such as education, languages, healthcare and social inclusion. It also has significant impact on sectors which are vital to the Irish economy, such as pharmaceuticals, med-tech, software, food communications and energy.

The strategy is fully aligned with the Government’s ambition as outlined in Innovation 2020 – the new strategy for Research and Development, Science and Technology.
100 Years of Anatomy Corrected

New research led by Professor of Surgery, J. Calvin Coffey, Graduate Entry Medical School, UL and Colorectal Surgeon, University Hospital Limerick (UHL) has refuted a century of mistaken abdominal anatomy by remapping the human mesentery. Professor Coffey’s research found that abdominal anatomy is a simpler structure than previously thought. In a review published in the November issue of one of the top medical journals, The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Professor Coffey outlined the evidence for categorising the mesentery as an organ.

In collaboration with Professor Peter Dochery and Dr Fabio Qunadematteo (NUIG), and Professor Colum Dunne (GEMS/UL), the team combined multiple investigatory tools including 3D imaging to fully map the correct anatomical structure of the mesentery. Their findings have recently been published in Annals of Surgery, the premier surgical journal worldwide, as well as in the Journal of Anatomy, The Surgeon, Colorectal Disease and many other journals. The research also prompted an update in the latest edition of one of the world’s best-known medical textbooks, Gray’s Anatomy.

UL & Stryker Develop Bone Repair Material

UL researchers, in collaboration with research & development staff at Stryker, have developed the world’s first FDA cleared injectable Hydroxyapatite forming bone repair material used in neurosurgical procedures. DirectInject™ is a Calcium Phosphate Cement which is used to fill bone defects caused by surgical procedures, for example in brain tumour excision surgery, or as a result of trauma. Traditional products on the market in this area are all based on powder and liquid format, where the surgeon mixes the powder and liquid and transfers the mixed cement into a delivery syringe prior to usage. This mixing process has to be performed in the operating room as the mixture rapidly sets and is unusable after just a short period. The new product transforms that timeline. DirectInject™ is currently undergoing regulatory approvals for a variety of other global jurisdictions. This research was undertaken by researchers involved in the Bernal Project and the HRI at UL and is funded by the IRC under their Enterprise Partnership Scheme.

Breakthrough in Colon Cancer

Research by Catríona Dowling, a final year UL PhD student, has advanced our ability to predict the survival outcome for colon cancer patients. The research was supervised by UL’s Dr Pat Kiely whose cancer research laboratory is based in the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) and was done in collaboration with Professor Calvin Coffey at GEMS and the University Hospital Limerick. Dowling’s research is focused on how a group of proteins called Protein Kinase Cα become dysregulated in colon cancer patients and the work has revealed how we may be able to use normal tissue from the same patient to predict how the disease will progress.

Funded by the Irish Cancer Society, the research has also revealed a new way to target colon cancer which may influence the design of treatments in the future. These exciting findings were published in Oncotarget, a leading cancer research journal.

Kemmy Business School Zero Contract Hours Research

In November, Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, published a new report ‘A Study on the Prevalence of Zero Hours Contracts among Irish Employers and the Impact on Employees’ by KBS faculty. The study was conducted by KBS academics, Dr Michelle O’Sullivan, Dr Tom Turner, Dr Juliet McMahon, Dr Lorraine Ryan, Dr Jonathan Lavelle, Dr Caroline Murphy, Mr Mike O’Brien and Professor Patrick Gunnigle. It found that employees who work on an ‘If and When’ basis are vulnerable because they may not be defined as employees in employment law and therefore may not have many employment rights.

Health Research Board Shoulder Pain Research Project

Dr Karen McCreesh, developed a Community of Practice, particularly for physiotherapists, who have a special interest in the management of shoulder pain. The HRB funded Shoulder Community of Practice facilitates the dissemination and translation of research findings directly to clinicians, through teleconference and face-to-face meetings, journal clubs and a jointly-developed website.

A study by 4th year PhD student, Eva Barrett, supervised by Dr McCreesh, collaborated with the Community of Practice and demonstrated significant improvements in shoulder pain and disability after six weeks, which was maintained at the six-month follow-up.
Novel New Material Offers Better Way To Purify Ethylene

Scientists at UL, along with an international research team, helped to develop a new material which offers a more environmentally-friendly, cost-effective way to purify ethylene, the most intensively produced organic chemical in the world. The UL team, led by Professor Michael Zaworotko, SFI Research Professor and Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering and Dr Kai-Jie Chen, post-doctoral researcher, found that a sieve-like structure, SIFSIX-2-Cu-i, can act like a sponge, mopping up acetylene - a colourless gas made of carbon and hydrogen. This research, supported by SFI, is a prime example of how knowledge and expertise developed at UL has presented a solution to a very real challenge in a traditional industry which has global impact. The research was published in Science.

Accountability Research Cluster Hosts Seminar On Tax And Poverty

A high-profile panel of experts in international tax met in March to address a seminar on Tax and Poverty, hosted by the Accountability Research Cluster (ARC). Speakers included Michael Lennard, Chief International Tax Cooperation and Trade at the UN, as well as leaders in the field from the OECD, Christian Aid, Oxfam Ireland and Copenhagen Business School. KBS faculty presented their tax policy research to an audience of academics from Ireland and the UK, international and national policy-makers and PhD candidates. The seminar was set in the context of the newly-launched UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on Goal One: No Poverty. The seminar was part of a series funded by the ESRC in direct response to the UN Global Compact’s call for businesses and business schools to support sustainable development.

MA Festive Arts Programme Hosts Day Of Research

In March, the MA Festive Arts programme held a day of research in collaboration with ISACS, (Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network) and Annette Nugent, focusing on developing new approaches to researching audience engagement in street arts and spectacle.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the largest EU Research and Innovation programme to date. With a budget of approximately €80 million, available over seven years (2014 – 2020), UL has received significant funding to engage in breakthrough research.

- Professor Colum Dunne, GEMS’s Director of Research, was selected to join H2020-funded European Cooperation in Science and Technology COST Action (CA15114) 2015-2020: Anti-Microbial Coating Innovations to Prevent Infectious Disease. Professor Dunne was appointed to the steering committee and will lead a work package within the consortium.

- KBS faculty: Dr Sheila Killian, Dr Philip O’Regan, Kieran Gallery and Anne Tynan secured EU Horizon 2020 funding under the Societal Challenges pillar: ‘Addressing Europe in a Changing World, Moving Towards Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies’. The consortium, which includes partners spanning academia and civil society from Ireland, the Netherlands, the UK, Denmark, Germany, the Czech Republic and Turkey will conduct research centring on tackling tax evasion, which is leading to increased inequality in Europe and in developing countries. The overall budget for the consortium is just under €5 million: the UL element was awarded over €560,000.

- VI-DAS AND CLOUD-LSVA Dr Finbarr Murphy and Dr Martin Mullins, in collaboration with the Prof Ray Fried School of Law, secured two EU Horizon 2020 awards, which will facilitate joint industry-academic research in the area of autonomous vehicles. These two H2020 consortia, VI-DAS and Cloud-LSVA, will receive €11 million (€435,000 to UL) between them and are comprised of 17 academic and industrial partners across seven EU countries. These projects, VI-DAS and Cloud-LSVA, will not only progress the design of next generation autonomous vehicle technology, but will also address legal, liability and emerging ethical aspects. This research will contribute to reducing accidents, increasing economic growth, and stimulating more innovation in the autonomous vehicle area.

- The Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering and the Mobile & Marine Robotics Research Centre (MMRRC) hosted the first AWESCO Summer School in June. AWESCO is an Innovative Training Network (ITN) project funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA). AWESCO Early Stage Researchers and Research Associates discussed and reviewed their active projects, participated in demonstrations and tutorials and listened to expert talks in topics concerning Airborne Wind Energy (AWE) and Technical Writing.

- Dr Leonard O’Sullivan and Dr Adam de Eyto, Joint Directors of the Design Factors Research Group, School of Design, secured a grant worth €548,000 under H2020 to develop a user-centred design of a soft lower limb exoskeleton to assist people with low to moderate levels of mobility impairments. The Xosoft project brings together nine partners from seven countries.
**FURTHER RESEARCH AWARDS**

**2015 / 2016**

UL is a partner in a €3.5m EU-funded project, entitled 'Teaching Enquiry Mysteries Incorporated' (TEMI). TEMI’s aim is to help transform science teaching practice across Europe. Dr Peter Childs, Department of Chemical and Environmental Sciences, will work with a team of international research partners on this project.

Dr Stephen Kirnella was awarded funding from MISTRA, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research. The project, entitled ‘Putting Financial Systems to Work for Sustainability’, is a collaboration with colleagues from the Stockholm School of Economics, the Swedish Academy of Sciences, Harvard Business School, ICHEC Brussels Management School, the London School of Economics, Kingston University and ReFine Research. The total value of the award was €3.2m.

A new software application, designed to help break the glass ceiling in academia globally, was formally launched at UL in May. The application was developed by Lero, the Irish Software Research Centre, as part of an EU-funded gender equality project. FESTA (Female Empowerment in Science & Technology Academia) received EU funding of €4.3m of which €730,000 is allocated to UL. The software application – The FESTA Strategic Career Manager - was developed at UL in collaboration with six international universities.

An international team of academics including Dr Susan Leahy, School of Law, was awarded an Erasmus+ funded project (Sport, Youth & EU Aid Volunteers) entitled ‘Fix the Fixing: Proactive Quelling of Sports Events Manipulation’. The research funding amounts to €452,460.

Dr Deirdre O’Shea (KBS) and Dr Tadhg MacIntyre (PESS) were invited to be work package leaders on an Erasmus+ funded project (Sport, Youth & EU Aid Volunteers) entitled ‘Fix the Fixing: Investigating Match Fixing in Sports’. The research funding amounts to €450,000 for their project ‘Fix the Fixing: Proactive Quelling of Sports Events Manipulation’. The team includes members from Greece, Northern Ireland, England, Austria, France and Cyprus.

The ‘TeCoMFrame – A Joint European Academic Competence Framework and Curricula for the Training of Technical Communicators’ project was awarded funding of over €200,000 under the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Programme. Dr Yvonne Cleary is a partner in the project, which is led by the European Association for Technical Communication.

UL’s Centre for Teaching and Learning and School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics has secured national funding for a digitally-focused language learning and teaching project. €200,080 was awarded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. The project is led by Dr Fiona Farr and Dr Liam Murray, UL and partners from MIC, LIT, NUIG, DCU and DIT, as well as a number of international collaborators.

Deirdre Hogan and Dr Joanne O’Flaherty received over €100,000 funding for the Ubuntu Network from Irish Aid until March 2017. This funding will be used to effectively integrate Development Education into Initial Teacher Education in the year ahead.

Marti Lotter was appointed Head of Governance at UL Hospital Group. The new role will involve the implementation of a Hospital Quality Performance Measurement System aimed at improving the quality of patient services and strengthening governance structures around all processes. Ms Lotter will be using research conducted in association with Lero, the Irish Software Research Centre, as part of her PhD programme. The programme is supported by the HSE and an IRC grant of €96,000.

A ‘Big Data’ Research agreement was signed between Wan Zhang Ying Ke Technology Co Ltd, an IT company in Beijing, China, and UL’s Telecommunications Research Centre, with Dr Máirtín Ó Droma as principal investigator. The value of the contract is €90,000.

Dr Owen Worth was awarded €85,000 by the National Research Foundation of Korea, along with Professor Kwang-Yeong Shin, Chung-Ang University (Seoul) for a project researching the political sociology of the European far right.

Over €70,000 in funding, from the HSE was awarded to Fiona Murphy, Owen Rooney and Rosemary Lyons to investigate Nursing & Midwifery Quality, Care-Metrics in Older Persons and Intellectual Disability services.

Dr Lee Monaghan, Department of Sociology, led a team of academics from UL, DCU and NUIG, in a project entitled ‘Teaming the Financial Crisis and Protest: Northwest and Southeast Europe’. A Leverhulme International Networking Grant worth over €120,000, facilitated the project. Over a two-year period, workshops will take place in Cyprus, the UK, Ireland, Greece and Bulgaria.

The School of Culture and Communication, in conjunction with the University of Economics and Business in Vienna, participated in an international study on the representation of inequality in the Irish, British, Austrian and German press. The project was granted funding of €100,000 from the Anniversary Funds of the National Austrian Bank. It is an interdisciplinary project involving the Institute of Heterodox Economics led by Professor Andrea Grisold in Austria, alongside Emeritus Professor in Communications Pascal Preston Dublin City University (DCU) and UL Lecturer in Journalism Dr Henry Silke.

Dr Mark Campbell, Dr Ian Kenny and Professor Liz Bressan (Stellenbosch University) received an Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility award of over €9,000 for their work on ‘Golf Performance Adapted Physical Activity’ at UL and the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

An award of €187,000 went to the Irish Rugby Football Union for a study entitled ‘Irish Rugby Injury Surveillance’. Ian Kenny and Tom Comyns are Principal Investigators and the team includes Giles Warrington, Keenan O’Sullivan, Drew Harrison, Mark Lyons, Mark Campbell, Michael Griffin and Kevin Hayes.

Over €100,000 of funding went to the Institute of Heterodox Economics to fund research on the political sociology of the far-right with the Institute of Heterodox Economics and the University of Economy, Vienna, under the leadership of Andrea Grisold. The project was supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea and the Austrian Bank Anniversary Funds.
The Irish Heart Foundation awarded Dr Eibhlís O'Connor, Department of Life Sciences, the Daiichi Sankyo Research Award. This award will fund Dr O'Connor in leading a research project entitled ‘Can Matrix Gla Protein (MGP) Determine Arterial Plaque Phenotype in ‘At Risk’ Cardiovascular Patients? An Investigation into the Relationship Between MGP and Arterial Plaque Composition in Endarterectomy Patients.’

Dr Eibhlís O’Connor and the ULI Health Research Institute is also leading the Malnutrition in the Elderly Knowledge Hub, a ULI/UCC consortium. She was appointed as the National Coordinator for the Irish consortia to Europe with partners in UCD. Researchers from Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Spain will contribute to the Knowledge Hub with financial support from respective national funding agencies providing a budget of €1 million. The Irish partners (UL, UCC and UCD) are supported by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine and the HRB.

Dr Amanda Haynes and Jennifer Schweppe were awarded IRC funding to complete a research report entitled ‘Inclusive Policing for Gender Variant Persons: Informing Practice, Policy and Training Developments, in Partnership with Transgender Equality Network Ireland’.

The following AHSS staff were awarded funding for projects they worked on as part of the T1Step innovation fund: Dr Cinta Ramblado, Head, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, ‘Flipping Modern Languages Culture and Society Education’; Dr Darina Slattery, School of Culture and Communication, ‘Tools and Technologies for Teaching and Learning Online’; Máire Ní Ghráda, School of Culture and Communication, ‘Video Resource for UL-RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta Ar Bhrusach na Sionainne Collaboration’; Robert Hutchinson, Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, ‘Improve Staff Capabilities in Various Facets of Technology-Enhanced Learning’.

MSSI received funding from Starting Investigator Research Grants (SIRG) and Career Development Awards (CDA) from SFI. Dr Michael Walsh received a CDA in the area of ‘Targeting the Temporal Gradient of Wall Shear Stress as the Key Mediator of Vascular Tissue Response to Implanted Medical Devices Using In Silico, In Vitro and In Vivo Approaches’. Dr Matteo Lusi received a SIRG in the area of ‘Crystal Engineering of Solid-Solutions for Tunable Drugs’. Dr Ahmad Albadarin received a SIRG in the area of ‘Natural Materials for Advanced Therapeutics (NEAT): Biomaterial Derived Excipients for Improved Bioavailability’.

Dr Carol-Anne Murphy was approved for a Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) funded through COST Action IS1406, entitled ‘Enhancing Children’s Oral Language Skills Across Europe and Beyond: A Collaboration Focusing on Interventions for Children with Difficulties Learning Their First Language’.

Dr Aileen Dillane was awarded the 2016 O’Donnell Research Fellowship in Irish Studies by Newman College, University of Melbourne. Aileen’s proposed research is entitled ‘Exploring Cecilia Curtin’s Role as Irish Australian Entertainer, Vocal Pedagogue and Catholic Chorister, (Performances, Texts, Contexts)’. Dillane will deliver a seminar in the Melbourne Irish Studies Seminar series, hosted at Newman College by the Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand.

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SOLA

SOLA, a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Quality in the Community and Voluntary Sector, was launched by Senator Martin Conway in November. Based at the University, SOLA is committed to improving service provision with appropriate governance and sustainable quality systems. The launch coincided with a Symposium on Quality which was held by the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), UL and Johnson & Johnson.

Lero and Nexus Innovation Centre at UL recently announced a collaboration that will bring world-class research to start-ups and SMEs in the Mid-West region. The development is funded under SFI’s Research Centres Programme. Companies recently signed up include Salaso Health Services, which provides a connected health technology platform for the engagement of patients in self-management of exercise programmes to increase physiotherapy services and Horizon Globex, which develops carrier-grade VoIP solutions for mobile providers and smartphones.

Eamonn McQuade, Emeritus Professor, UL, is leading a new project which will develop the capacity of Limerick’s Rural and Agricultural Policy and Development Institute (RAPDI). This project aims to provide all enterprises in agriculture and food production (including small farmers and operators) with relevant information and advice through outreach activities including a range of education and training programmes. The Project Manager is Dr Andro Rurua, Electronic and Computer Engineering, UL. Partners include the Department of Life Sciences, UL, Regional Development Partners (RDP), National Technological Park, Limerick Rural and Agricultural Policy and Development Institute (RAPDI), Tbilisi, Georgia and the Agricultural University of Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia.

BRAVO, a UL-led European consortium of research organisations and enterprise, will work with Aughinish Alumina and over €1.3m in total funding for the Added Value Alumina Refining (AVAR) project, a process and feasibility examination to look at the potential for a pilot build of technology ‘on site’ for critical metal recovery from Bauxite Residue. The manufacture of aluminium, used in many everyday products, creates various waste streams on its journey from raw material to final product. In Ireland, the part of the value chain that is most familiar is Bauxite Residue known as red mud which results from alumina refining. Landfill residue facilities are used in Western Europe to dispose of the residue with minimal environmental risks. BRAVO is investigating how this ‘waste material’ can be re-used on-site for commercial purpose.

RTÉ Leaders Debate

Ahead of the General Election, UL played host to the RTÉ Live Leaders’ Debate in the University Concert Hall. It was the first time such a debate was held outside Dublin. The event was broadcast live as an edition of RTÉ’s Claire Byrne Live programme. The University also hosted a live post-debate analysis Spin Room Show capturing commentator’s reactions to the two-hour programme. RTÉ invited UL students of journalism to collaborate on the broadcast of the TV debate, and to provide coverage from the many election count centres nationwide. The event was successfully organised and carried out by the University’s Marketing and Communications team.
The Shannon Consortium (SC) partners; UL, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology; launched a sector-wide initiative to stimulate staff and students to ‘Take One Step’ in engaging with digital literacy. The campaign is built on ‘All Aboard National Framework for Digital Skills’ and embeds its skills framework and resources systematically across the Consortium.

The initiative is funded by the National Forum under the Teaching Enhancement Fund 2015. UL's Technology Enhanced Learning Unit, which incorporates the Library, ITD, CTL and CPD, delivered a series of workshops encouraging people to ‘Take One Step’ towards learning a new digital skill. Staff and students from across the Shannon Consortium had an opportunity to learn about blogging, mind-mapping, designing blended/online courses, presentation technologies and creating podcasts.

Science Week

November 2015 marked 20 years of Science Week; a national, annual event that celebrates the worlds of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Faculty of Science and Engineering in collaboration with the science faculties in Limerick Institute of Technology and Mary Immaculate College put on an extensive programme of events for the Limerick Festival of Science.

The theme this year was ‘Design Your Future’ and for the first time a number of regional festivals were organised to mark the event. Some 3000 young visitors from primary and secondary schools attended over 40 workshops and shows organised during the week in UL. All events were free of charge.

Ar-Kid-Tecture

SAUL graduate Sean Collins hosted Ar-Kid-Tecture for children aged five or more at the Hunt Museum. The innovative kids workshop sought to encourage children to explore and participate in the built environment by using their creativity, imagination and unusual materials.

In May, post primary students who presented/received awards for their projects at the annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition were invited to attend an event in the Physical Education and Sports Sciences department. PESS invites students whose projects relate to a sport science or PE-related discipline. Pupils and teachers attended talks from guest speakers on application of sport and exercise, coaching in sport, sports biomechanics, sport psychology, careers in sport and exercise science. There were 22 presentations from 19 schools in Limerick, Clare, Dublin, Waterford, Tipperary, Galway, Cork and Kilkenny. The overall winner of the PE Expo, Connor Cantwell (CBS Kilkenny) was in attendance for the second year running.

In January the Department of Physics and Energy, in conjunction with the Institute of Physics, hosted the Tyndall School’s Lecture ‘Defying Gravity: The Physics of Spaceflight’. Over 580 students and teachers from local schools attended the event, held in the Concert Hall, to promote the study of physics. The guest speaker was Laura Thomas, an astrophysicist and graduate from the University of Edinburgh, a professional communicator on Scientific Theory and a European Space Education Resource Office ambassador. The event was organised by Carol Ryan, Department of Physics & Energy.

‘Sonas is Sláinte’, a joint initiative between the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and University Hospital Limerick (UHL), was launched in September. The programme explored ways to improve people’s experiences and change their impressions of a hospital environment. Following a pilot phase, the Irish World Academy curated a series of student performances in UHL, which brought music to a healthcare setting with the aim of providing care and restoration to patients, staff and visitors. ‘Sonas is Sláinte’ is overseen by Dr Hilary Moss (Course Director, MA Music Therapy), Kathleen Turner (Course Director, MA Community Music) and Dr Paul Finucane (University Hospital Limerick).

A collaborative initiative between Intel Ireland, Lero and Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) was announced in January, to provide 19 post-primary schools with hardware and online support services. The project is designed to support schools and teachers in exploring the coding short course now available under the Framework for Junior Cycle 2015. Intel Ireland donated 900 Galileo Gen 2 Boards and teacher kits and students will engage in technology and design-related activities with the use of these resources during the 12-month project. Tailored training and online support will be provided to teachers by the JCT Support Service, with the support of Lero and Intel.
To mark Autism Awareness Day in April, UL joined more than 8,000 landmarks worldwide, including the International Space Station and the Empire State Building, by bringing blue light to buildings across campus. The initiative aims to highlight autism as a growing global health priority. The UL event was instigated by Dr Jennifer McMahon, founder and co-director of the i-TEACH lab (Lab for Inclusive Teaching) and Psychology of Education lecturer at UL.

In recognition of World Mental Health Day, UL Beo staff presented three one-hour workshops; ‘Five Steps to Student Resilience: Research to Practice’ by Dr Tadhg MacIntyre, Dr Alan Ringland, Chris Bryan, Jessie Barr and Clodagh Butler; ‘Using your Head in Sport: Concussion Awareness’ by Dr Mark Campbell and Dr Matthew Herring and ‘Breaking Through: Athlete Panel Discussion on the Resilient Athlete’ by Dr Tadhg MacIntyre, Chris Bryan, Jessie Barr, Cathal Sheridan and Felix Jones.

Ten staff members from the faculty of Science and Engineering were among those who attended the ‘Women in Science’ event hosted by President Michael D Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin. The event highlighted the achievements and the leading role women play in scientific research and industry. President Higgins honoured Dr Jakki Cooney, Department of Life Sciences, Dr Teresa Curtin, Department of Chemical and Environmental Sciences, Dr Ning Liu, Department of Physics, Dr Claire Robinson, Department of Civil Engineering and Materials Science, Professor Tiziana Margaria, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, Ms Louise Kiernan, Department of Design and Manufacturing Technology, Dr Sarah Mitchell, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Dr Anna Ryan, School of Architecture and Dr Shalini Singh, Materials and Surface Science Institute.

UL and global healthcare company Johnson & Johnson recently developed a collaborative education programme to support and encourage women to pursue educational opportunities in STEM2D; Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths, Manufacturing and Design. Johnson & Johnson has entered into ten global partnerships to further this aim and UL is the only Irish university chosen to participate. The programme will build on UL’s ongoing work to expand the reach and quality of STEM2D education, attracting more women to careers traditionally dominated by men and accelerating the development of female leaders.

The University marked International Women’s Day by hosting a conference, entitled ‘Embracing Gender Equality and Diversity’, chaired by UTV Ireland broadcaster Alison Comyn. The conference included presentations from broadcaster Baz Ashmawy; Dr Lisa O’Donoghue, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Design and Manufacturing Technology at UL and Innovation Excellence Strategist Northern Co-Location Centre, Sweden; Professor Tara Moore, Director Biomedical Research Institute & Group Leader for Vision Science Research, School of Biomedical Science, at University of Ulster. UL continues to have the highest percentage of women at professorial level in the country and this year saw an increase in the number of women at Associate Professor Level (now standing at 33% compared to a national average of 26%).

Professor Sibel Erduran negotiated a new partnership with Johnson & Johnson to promote women’s participation in STEM subjects, resulting in a US$100,000 award for STEM Education at UL.

In October, Limerick City celebrated International Day of the Girl, a UN-designated date to recognise girls’ rights and highlight the unique challenges girls face globally. The event supported Plan International’s ‘Because I am a Girl’ campaign and raised over €500 for the cause. It was organised by Irish World Academy faculty member Kathleen Turner, course director of MA Community Music and featured a number of Irish World Academy staff, students and graduates including 4th year BA Voice and Dance students, dance lecturer Lisa McLoughlin and current MA Contemporary Dance Performance students Rachel Sheil and Bianca Paige Smith. The IWA worked in partnership with local organisations such as Limerick Milk Market, Music Generation Limerick City and Limerick City and County Council.

In March, to mark Proclamation Day as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, UL held a flag-raising ceremony at noon. A group of representatives of the student body, Governing Authority and UL staff participated in a ceremony at the flag-poles beside Plassey House, where the tricolour was raised. The national anthem was played by musicians from the Irish World Academy and the on-campus traditional music group Cruinniú, followed by an impromptu poetry-reading by a member of the campus community.

An exhibition featuring items from UL’s Special Collections opened at the Hunt Museum in March. ‘Limerick and the 1916 Rising’ drew from the archives of the Daly family of Limerick. The exhibition commemorates and communicates the story of Limerick and the 1916 Easter Rising. It featured unique documents including correspondence from key figures such as Thomas Clarke, Padraig Pearse and Roger Casement and historic photographs and postcards.

‘Signatories’ is a collaborative piece of theatre written by eight major Irish authors, each of whom will present a monologue from one of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. UL’s Joseph O’Connor was commissioned to write ‘Joseph Mary Plunkett’, which will be presented at Kilmainham Jail and filmed by RTÉ.

‘Ar Bhruach na Sionnaine’

The Irish World Academy Radio series, ‘Ar Bhruach na Sionnaine’, was launched in February. This series of six programmes for Raidió na Gaeltachta (RnG) was presented and produced by UL undergraduate students. Director of RnG Seán Ó hÉanaigh welcomed the initiative, which is the culmination of a collaboration between Scoil an Chultúir agus na Cumarsáide, UL and RnG. Irish Music and Dance students will work with RnG broadcaster Áine Hensey to perform, present and produce the entire series showcasing aspects of musical life in UL.

‘Atrocity Exhibition’

An international symposium, ‘Atrocity Exhibition’, on the influential Manchester band Joy Division was organised by UL’s Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster (Martin Power, Eoin Devereux and Aileen Dillane) in November. Presenters travelled Ireland, the UK, China, the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Spain and Portugal. Over 150 people attended a public interview with original member of the band, Peter Hook. The conference included a performance by Peter Hook and the Light in Dolans Warehouse.

The inaugural Irish World Academy Artist was awarded to Clare fiddler, Martin Hayes. Hayes has been internationally acclaimed for bringing his traditional fiddle style to a global audience.
‘The Limerick Fling’ took place in October in UCH. Over 100 performers from five continents came together to perform a mix of music and dance at the cutting edge of the Irish tradition. The concert featured noted musicians, singers and dancers including Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, the Meitheal Orchestra, students of the BA Irish Music and Dance, MA Irish Traditional Music Performance and MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance.

The travelling exhibition; ‘SYMBOLS Culture of Death and Cultural Life: New Audiences and Creations around European Cemeteries’; opened in the Limerick School of Art and Design Gallery in March. Irish World Academy artists Hannah Fahey and Jennifer de Brún worked collaboratively with European partners to create a joint multidisciplinary exhibition around symbols of death with print, music and dance. The exhibition will travel to Avilés, Dundee, Corsica, Maribor and Verona throughout 2016. SYMBOLS is an international cultural cooperation project co-financed by the European Commission under the Creative Europe programme.

LA-based, international composer and alumnus Patrick Cassidy gave a masterclass on ‘Music Composition for Film’ to Music Technology students. Cassidy also delivered a seminar to a wider audience, including fellow-alumni, which included clips of his film work. Among his recent works was the score for RTE’s ‘1916: The Irish Rebellion’ and a contribution to the GAA’s ‘Loaorch’ spectacle at Croke Park, which was held in April to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

‘The Darkest Midnight’; an evening of song, poetry and carols; was held in November in support of Rape Crisis Midwest. A number of artists and ensembles performed on the evening including: Kathleen Turner of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance; the Bavad Gospel Choir; Denise Chaila; Cantoral Chant Ensemble; Róisín Ni Ghalláigh; Sandra Joyce; Stionnna Vocal Ensemble; Diane Daly; Yonit Kosovske and the Irish World Academy Choir. Students from UL’s Irish World Academy of Music and Dance performed and helped produce the event.

A collaboration between Dance Limerick, the Digital Media and Arts Research Centre (DCMAS) and the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS), the ‘Light Moves’ festival of screen dance took place at Dance Limerick in November after the highly successful Limerick City of Culture event last year. The festival is supported by The Arts Council and Limerick City and County Council with additional support and collaboration provided by AIB, The Hunt Museum, LSAD, Irish Chamber Orchestra and The Limerick Chamber Orchestra.

The School of Law and the Glucksman Library announced a special initiative to encourage local solicitors and barristers to make use of the University’s Law Library facilities. Mr Justice Donald Binchy delivered a paper entitled ‘Current Challenges Facing the Legal Profession’ to guests at the launch event in October. This initiative extends the Library’s fee-based membership and delivers a unique service to the region’s legal professionals.

The Bolton Library, a collection of 12,000 early printed books, manuscripts and pamphlets of exceptional academic and bibliographical significance, was placed in the care of the University this year. The collection is to be housed in the optimal environmental conditions of the Glucksman Library under the stewardship of the Head of Special Collections, Ken Bergin. The Bolton Library reflects an important period of European intellectual history and contains invaluable manuscripts including one of only three examples of handwritten missals in Ireland before 1500 and early editions of Dante’s Divine Comedy (Venice, 1512) and the 16th century Sarum Missal. Protecting and preserving the Bolton Library is a priority for the University, which has signed an agreement to care for and manage the collection.

During the inaugural conference of the International Yeats Society (IYS), held at UL in October, the Glucksman Library introduced a new collection of rare first edition books by William Butler Yeats. The collection was donated by Professor Michael Gilsenan with the aid of the American Ireland Fund and is a complete anthology of Yeats’ work. Senator Susan O’Keeffe, Leader of Yeats 2015 (a government project sponsor) and Ambassador István SPálffy of Hungary, whose government co-sponsored the dance play with Limerick 2020, were both in attendance. UL is now home to one of the finest Yeats collections in Ireland, available for consultation by appointment with the Special Collections department.
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

• In April, UL hosted the Selection Committee of the Erasmus Mundus LEADERS (Leading Mobility between Europe and Asia in Developing Engineering Education and Research) and INTACT (Interactive Teaching Materials across Culture and Technology) programmes. A panel of 26 academics from the fields of electronic and computer engineering from Europe and Asia selected the participants for the project, which has attracted almost €6 million from the EU to fund student and staff scholarships in further education. To date, 95 overseas students and staff have come to UL as part of the project, which is co-ordinated by Professor Elfed Lewis of the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, UL.

• The Department of Politics and Public Administration in association with the British Embassy and Communicating Europe held a public discussion event entitled ‘The UK, Ireland and the EU: Reform, Renegotiation and Referendum’ in February. Britain’s ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Mr Dominic Chilcott was the keynote speaker and he outlined the UK’s strategy to renegotiate its relationship with the EU. The debate highlighted the political, legal and economic issues at stake in the UK’s forthcoming EU referendum and the implications of a possible Brexit for Ireland.

• 2016 marked the 20th anniversary of Frank McCourt’s seminal work ‘Angela’s Ashes’, a book that shed light on the unique relationship between Ireland and the United States and specifically between Limerick and New York. This year also marked the first UL/Frank McCourt Summer School in Creative Writing, to be held in New York. The school was led by novelist and Frank McCourt Chair of Creative Writing Professor, Joseph O’Connor with the aid of tutors including UL faculty members Donal Ryan, Giles Foden, Mary O’Malley, Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald and Eoin Devereux. The Summer School featured a performance by the Irish World Academy Artist Martin Hayes. UL and the Irish Arts Centre in New York also hosted ‘An Evening for Frank McCourt’ at the Irish Arts Centre in New York. It featured Gabriel Byrne, Jean Butler, Paul Muldoon, Maeve Higgins, Pierce Turner and Joseph O’Connor. The event was sponsored by the Shannon Airport Authority.

• Ireland’s Consul General to New York and UL graduate Barbara Jones officially launched a New York UL Alumni Chapter in Manhattan. The Chapter will serve over 300 UL alumni living in New York and will support the strategic goals of the University by hosting cultural, social, community service and educational events, facilitating networking and keeping members updated on developments at UL.

• The School of Law hosted the Vice President of the Irish American Bar Association of Northern California, Mr Jim Weixel in February. Mr Weixel met with members of the faculty to discuss plans for future cooperation between the legal community in California and UL.

• KBS recently signed a dual degree agreement with KEDGE Business School, Marseille, France. The agreement involves the BA in International Business (BAIB) degree offered by the KBS and the International Bachelor of Business Administration (IBBA) offered by KEDGE. Under the agreement, BAIB students from KBS will spend their first two years studying UL and their last two years studying at KEDGE in Marseille. Upon successful completion of their four years of study students will receive both UL’s BAIB degree and KEDGE’s IBBA degree.

• A delegation from Physical Education and Sports Sciences (PESS) travelled to Beijing Sport University (BSU) in April. A MoU was signed in 2015 between the two universities, with a focus on promoting and supporting student and staff exchanges, particularly to develop collaborative research opportunities between the two universities. BSU has a similar number of students to UL (approximately 13,000) and all students who attend BSU are registered overseas students and staff at UL. BSU undergraduate and postgraduate students and discussed potential research collaborations.

• A senior delegation from Tianjin University in China, led by Vice President Professor Shu Gequn, visited UL in April and signed an agreement to allow Chinese students to undertake their PhD studies at UL. The agreement was signed by Professor Paul McCarthy, UL Vice President Academic and Registrar, and is funded by the China Scholarship Council. Faculty exchanges are in development to allow for cross collaboration on teaching and research. The delegation also launched a funded Study Abroad programme for both undergraduate and postgraduate UL students wishing to travel to China to study or take a company/lab-based internship in Tianjin. The programme is open to students in STEM, humanities, management and law and studies will be undertaken in English.

• The University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT) in November. Dr Mary Shire, Vice President of Research, completed the signing with BUCT’s Vice President, Professor Dongsheng Chen in the Irish Embassy in Beijing. Vice President Chen hosted a UL visit to BUCT where Dr Shire was introduced to research staff and their work at the Centre of Advanced Elastomer Materials, State Key Laboratory of Organic-Inorganic Composites and the National Carbon Fibre Engineering Technology Research Centre. The MoU focuses on research collaboration around these areas along with the development of joint programmes and staff and student exchange.
**FURTHER GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

**2015 / 2016**

• The link between the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) and Wyoming Medical Centre, USA has been renewed with respect to GEMS student elective placements. Student electives in the USA are essential for ensuring non-EU GEMS graduates gain the requisite experience to compete with local and other international medical graduates and gain medical employment immediately after graduation.

• In an MoU with the Management and Science University (MSU), Malaysia, the UL BSc in Aircraft Maintenance & Airworthiness Engineering at UL has partnered with MSU’s Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance. Graduates from MSU’s Diploma will complete their Degree studies at UL via the two-year advanced entry route in the BSc in Aircraft Maintenance and Airworthiness Engineering. The MSU, based in Selangor, is a large, Malaysian Government-approved private university, committed to providing world-class educational programmes and technical training.

• An MoU was signed to facilitate collaboration between UL and the University of Ghana, to develop models of cooperation in a number of areas including education and academic research. The signing ceremony took place during the visit to Ghana by the Irish Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD, and Ireland’s Ambassador to Nigeria, Ghana & Senegal, H.E. Sean Hoy. This marks the first agreement between an Irish university and a university in Ghana. It was attended by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Ernest Aryeetey and Vice President Academic and Registrar of UL, Professor Paul McCutcheon.

**Study Abroad Developments**

• UL continues to stand as the largest Erasmus programme in Ireland, once Erasmus work placements are taken into account.

• The Study Abroad Programme continues to perform well. Student numbers remained the same as 2014/15 excluding Brazil. Income from Study Abroad students also rose from €2,101K in 2014/15 to €2,111K in 2015/16.

• Study Abroad welcomed students from 22 states in 2015/2016, Nebraska (Creighton) is the top US state with 32 students last year followed by Wisconsin (UWSP, UWEC, UWS) and Minnesota (UMN) with 29 from both. The statistics highlight how important building strong partnerships with individual universities is to programme growth.

• The Science without Borders (SWB) programme was major boon to the Study Abroad programme for the 2014/15 academic year. The fully funded Brazilian mobility programme, which allows undergraduate science and engineering students to spend a full academic year overseas, grew from 33 in September 2013 to 148 in 2014 and 114 for 2015.

• Summer Schools in 2015/16 witnessed a dramatic increase in enrolments from 62 in 2014/15 to 102 this year, a 64.5% increase.

• The appointment of the EU Partnerships Officer has greatly increased the numbers of UL staff benefiting from Erasmus Mundus scholarships for teacher mobility outside Europe and the awareness amongst UL faculty and researchers of the opportunities for funding available within the umbrella programmes of Erasmus+.
UL takes great pride in its role as an integral part of the Mid-West region. The University plays a significant economic role in the region, both as an employer and as a client and customer of goods and services.

### FACTS & FIGURES

| 3.8% | Increase in student numbers from 2014/15 to 2015/16 |
| 11,846 | Number of Undergraduate Students 2015/16 |
| 3,011 | Number of Postgraduate Students 2015/16 |
| 24% | Increase in international full-degree student numbers and a 21% increase in international full-degree taught Postgraduate enrolments |
| 1,800+ | Students placed each year in the Cooperative Education Programme, one of the largest work-integrated learning programmes in Europe. UL students undertook placements across a network of 35 countries |
| 73% | Graduate employment rate, 20% above the national average for the University sector |
| 198m | Research investment in 6 partnership led by UL: Lero (the Irish Software Research Centre); SSPC (Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre); Dairy Processing Technology Centre; Irish Centre for Composites Research; MACSI (Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry) and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre |
| 200 | Research collaborations with industry |
| 16th | In the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking for efforts to promote campus sustainability and environmentally friendly university management |

### UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

#### First Destinations Report
The UL First Destinations Report 2015 was published in September. The report focuses on the employment and further study patterns of UL graduates. A total of 2,933 graduates were surveyed with a response rate of 87%. It found that 93% of graduates are either in employment or in further study. UL's graduate employment rate of 73% is well above the national average.

#### President’s Volunteer Awards
President’s Volunteer Award (PVA) applications increased by 42% this past academic year and the range of student community-led initiatives and collaborations continues to grow annually. The recipients represented the entire student body; access, undergraduate, postgraduate, international, Erasmus and Study Abroad.

#### Environmental Initiatives
The University hosts an ongoing series of environmental initiatives, including a weekly Farmers Market and bike repair clinic, nature walks, WEEE recycling, invasive species workshops, high-profile lectures and an annual riverbank cleanup. In 2015, beekeeping commenced on campus when the UL apiary was founded. UL was also awarded the Green Flag by the An Taisce Green Campus programme. UL hosted Environ 2016, the 26th Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium.

#### Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Projects
The University was awarded over €260,000 for two Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Projects. This represents 25% of the total funding was made available to Universities in Ireland by the EU. These grants will facilitate 64 mobility programmes with 24 institutions in 16 partner countries across Australasia, Africa and America. UL was also placed in the top 200 most international universities in the world in the Times Higher Education’s rankings, which measures international outlook by means of the diversity of both the student and staff body and success in international research collaborations. The awarding of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility projects, coinciding with the Times Higher Education Top 200 Ranking, is an endorsement of UL’s global ambition.

#### Academic Scholarships
- UL40 – 40 first year entrant scholarships based on achievements in the Leaving Certificate and CAO points.
- Mature student scholarships 10 recipients.
- Elaine Fagan Scholarship one recipient. Disability Support Services Office.
- President’s Access Scholars Award six recipients. Access Office.
- American Ireland Scholarship five recipients. Access Office.
- Paul O’Connell Scholarship five recipients. Access Office.
- Alumni Circle Scholarship one recipient. Access Office.
- Tom and Mary McCauley Scholarship one recipient. Access Office.
- Plassey Campus Centre Scholarship two recipients. Access Office.
**Student and Staff Mobility**

With over 300 EU partner universities and over 40 internationally to choose from, UL students undertake study placements in 24 different European countries, whilst UL receives students from 29 different countries in Europe. Internationally, UL students travel to six different countries, whilst students from 11 countries outside Europe study at UL on exchange; including South Korea, China, Japan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The number of UL staff participating in Erasmus Teacher and Staff Mobility has also increased slightly in 2015/16 with 34 teacher and eight administrative and technical staff mobility visits.

The numbers participating in the outgoing Erasmus programme and international exchanges remains stable. There has been an increase in the number of incoming students, due to new strategic partnerships in the US, Canada and China, as well as additional numbers through Erasmus Mundus.

The University has been awarded an Erasmus University Charter by the EU Commission for the new Erasmus+ mobility period, from 2014 to 2020. Total funding for the seven-year period is €14.8bn, with €7bn allocated to mobility. In 2015/16 UL received a total of €878,655 towards Erasmus and Exchanges study and teacher/staff mobility.

**FURTHER UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS**

**2015 / 2016**

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**GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

List of Governing Authority members, 01st October 2015 - 30th September 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Professor Don Barry</td>
<td>Ms Michelle Breen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Helen O'Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancellor:</td>
<td>Judge John L. Murray</td>
<td>Ms Neasa Fahy O'Donnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Judith Woodworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPA&amp;R: Professor Paul McCutcheon</td>
<td>Mr Pat Rockett</td>
<td>Mr Tish Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Field</td>
<td>Mr Colin Clarke</td>
<td>Mr Fintan Breen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Sean Arkins</td>
<td>’Ms Sarah Dunphy</td>
<td>Mr John O’Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Merrit Bucholz</td>
<td>Ms Ciara Corcoran</td>
<td>’Cllr Jerry O’Dea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Eoin Devereux</td>
<td>’Mr Caolan O’Donnell</td>
<td>’Cllr Michael Hourigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>’Dr Dermot Shinners-Kennedy</td>
<td>Mr Sean McKillen</td>
<td>’Cllr Liam Galvin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Colum Dunne</td>
<td>’Ms Aimee McKenzie</td>
<td>’Cllr Jerry O’Dea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Michael Pomeroy</td>
<td>Mr Tadhg B Kearney</td>
<td>Ms Kay Doyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Sean McGrath</td>
<td>Ms Berni Brady</td>
<td>Mr Michael Houlihan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Martin O’Droma</td>
<td>Mr Bobby O’Connor</td>
<td>Mr Richard Leonard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Wynette Redington</td>
<td>Ms Breda Deedigan</td>
<td>Professor Michael Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Peter Tiernan</td>
<td>Mr David O’Flynn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Governing Authority met eight times during the period under review on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30/10/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/11/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/01/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/02/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/03/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/04/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/05/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/06/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. Dr Shinner-Kennedy was elected in December 2015 to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Professor Eoin Devereux.
2. Ms Dunphy replaced Mr Clarke as President, University of Limerick’s Students’ Union, (ULSU) in June 2016.
3. Mr O’Donnell replaced Ms Corcoran as Deputy President, ULSU in June 2016.
4. Ms McKenzie replaced Mr McKillen as President, University of Limerick’s Postgraduate Students’ Union in June 2016.
5. Cllr O’Dea was elected Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick in June 2015.
6. Cllr Hourigan was elected Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick in June 2016.
7. Cllr Liam Galvin was elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick in June 2015.
8. Cllr O’Hanlon was elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick in June 2016 and as permitted by the Local Government Reform Act 2015 he nominated Cllr O’Dea in his place on the Governing Authority.
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## CONSOLIDATED & UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the financial year ended 30th September 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consolidated</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30th September</td>
<td>30th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td>€'000</td>
<td>€'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State grants</td>
<td>36,174</td>
<td>34,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic fees</td>
<td>89,630</td>
<td>86,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants &amp; contracts</td>
<td>35,154</td>
<td>34,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation of deferred capital grants</td>
<td>4,113</td>
<td>5,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>46,578</td>
<td>44,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>5,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net deferred funding for pensions</td>
<td>34,157</td>
<td>35,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>247,304</td>
<td>246,773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                        | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| **EXPENDITURE**        |      |      |      |      |
| Staff Costs            | 125,293 | 119,534 | 116,679 | 111,992 |
| Retirement benefit service cost | 17,722 | 18,307 | 17,722 | 18,307 |
| Other operating expenses | 65,370 | 68,636 | 61,939 | 63,417 |
| Interest payable & similar charges | 842 | 1,362 | 564 | 899 |
| Retirement benefit interest cost | 16,435 | 16,790 | 16,435 | 16,790 |
| Depreciation           | 15,747 | 15,220 | 11,214 | 10,837 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  | 241,409 | 239,849 | 224,553 | 222,242 |

|                        | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| **Surplus before other gains & losses** | 5,895 | 6,924 | 2,808 | 5,849 |
| Gain on investments  | 226 | 133 | - | - |
| Surplus for the year after depreciation of assets and before taxation and impairment | 6,121 | 7,057 | 2,808 | 5,849 |
| Taxation              | (4) | - | - | - |
| **Surplus for the year** | 6,117 | 7,057 | 2,808 | 5,849 |
| Actuarial loss in respect of retirement benefit scheme | 205,527 | 18,946 | 205,257 | 18,946 |
| Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding | (205,257) | (18,946) | (205,257) | (18,946) |
| **TOTAL comprehensive income for the financial year** | 6,117 | 7,057 | 2,808 | 5,849 |

Represented by:
- Restricted comprehensive income for year - - - -
- Unrestricted comprehensive income for year 6,117 7,057 2,808 5,849

## CONSOLIDATED & UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the financial year ended 30th September 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consolidated</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>437,053</td>
<td>424,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment property</td>
<td>5,544</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>3,103</td>
<td>2,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>445,500</td>
<td>427,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>25,244</td>
<td>22,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>115,662</td>
<td>166,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>140,906</td>
<td>188,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                        | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| **PAYABLES**           |      |      |      |      |
| Amounts falling due within one year | (148,187) | (151,063) | (103,743) | (100,895) |
| **NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS** | (2,281) | 37,604 | 30,437 | 44,680 |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS**   | 443,219 | 464,881 | 340,664 | 341,078 |

|                        | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| **PROVISIONS**         |      |      |      |      |
| Retirement benefit receivable | 877,777 | 638,363 | 877,777 | 638,363 |
| Retirement benefit provisions | (877,777) | (638,363) | (877,777) | (638,363) |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS**   | 240,919 | 234,802 | 156,381 | 153,573 |

|                        | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| **Unrestricted reserves** | 240,919 | 234,802 | 156,381 | 153,573 |

|                        |      |      |      |      |
| **TOTAL RESERVES**     | 240,919 | 234,802 | 156,381 | 153,573 |

Statements extracted from Financial Statements

Full financial statements are available here [https://ulsites.ul.ie/finance/financial-statements](https://ulsites.ul.ie/finance/financial-statements)