LAUNCH OF THE BERNAL INSTITUTE

The Bernal Institute at University of Limerick was launched in November 2016 by an Taoiseach Enda Kenny. This €86 million science and engineering institute will facilitate research and is comprised of 20,000m2 of high quality, multipurpose research space. The new Institute is named after John Desmond Bernal, one of the most influential scientists of the 20th Century.

The Bernal Institute incorporates UL’s Materials and Surface Sciences Institute, the Stokes Research Institute and the Bernal Project into one unified flagship research institute to showcase and build on the University’s significant strengths in research. A key aspect of the Institute is the recruitment of world leading researchers as Bernal Professors, with seven out of a total of ten new professorial chairs filled. The Institute houses over 260 researchers who work in and across research themes in advanced materials, manufacturing and processing engineering and fluid dynamics. The Institute will soon establish a programme in biomedical sciences, the fourth pillar of its strategy.

UL has partnered with Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Enterprise Ireland (EI) in relation to the establishment of numerous technology centres as well as centres of excellence hosted at the Bernal Institute. The recruitment of two of the Bernal Chairs, Mike Zaworotko, Professor of Crystal Engineering, and Paul Weaver, Professor of Composite Materials, has been supported by SFI through their Research Professors Programme with each receiving awards of €5 million.

The Institute has been awarded substantial infrastructural funding by the Higher Education Authority's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions.

The Bernal Institute recently began preparations for its 2017 Infrastructure Investment Plan worth €74 million: one of the largest equipment infrastructural investments undertaken by the Bernal Institute since its inauguration. The Infrastructure Investment Plan, around a number of significant SFI, SSPC and ERC facilities, marks the operational consolidation of the Bernal Institute. The plan includes a further upgrade and extension of the Electron Microscopy Facilities, Bio (Med) Materials Centre, Composites Labs and Process Engineering Research Pilots for Biobased Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals and Advanced Fuels.

INTRODUCTION

It is my great honour to introduce this year’s annual report. The University is vibrant, growing and evolving. As you will see in the pages that follow, we are enjoying the fruits of strategic capital investments, with the completion of projects such as our Clinical Education and Research Centre and the Munster High Performance Centre.

This year saw the launch of the Bernal Institute, incorporating our Materials and Surface Sciences Institute, the Stokes Research Institute and the Bernal Project. This state-of-the-art facility provides space and advanced instrumentation to over 200 engineers and scientists. The Bernal Institute will give us a marked advantage in attracting the very best talent to UL. In our Bernal chairs, we have individuals who themselves will attract the best students and postdoctoral fellows and who will inspire future leaders in research and innovation.

We have had an outstanding range of projects, innovations and national awards this year, such as our flagship initiative in Smart Manufacturing, the CONFIRM Centre. Other awards advance and promote our research network, a network that connects UL to widest possible community of industry, global R&D, international development and, of course, with the people of Limerick city and the Mid West.

This year, UL has continued to build its record on equality and diversity. UL has ranked 3rd in Europe for gender equality and is 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 gender equality and diversity at all levels of the University, with all the attending benefits and growth that true diversity promises.

For me as UL’s new president, this report is a source of immense pride and excitement for the years ahead.

Dr Desmond Fitzgerald
President of University of Limerick
New President Joins University of Limerick

Dr Des Fitzgerald commenced as University of Limerick President in May 2017.

Dr Fitzgerald has come to UL from UCD, where he was Professor of Molecular Medicine, Vice-President for Health Affairs and Chief Academic Officer of the Ireland East Hospital Group.

He is a UCD medical graduate and trained in Cardiology and Clinical Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. He remained in the US until 1991 as Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and Director of the VA Coronary Care Unit. From 1994, he was Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and later Head of Research at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. From 2004, he held various positions in UCD including Vice-President for Research.

He has served on several national bodies, including the Irish Medicines Board, the Health Research Board (which he chaired) and the Irish Heart Foundation, as well as committees of the European Society of Cardiology, the UK National Institute for Health Research and the Merck Foundation International Fellowship Programme. He has published over 350 papers on cardiovascular disease, thrombosis, genetics and proteomics.

In a statement, at the time of his appointment, Dr Fitzgerald said he was honoured to lead UL and looked forward to working with colleagues and partners to secure a strong national and international academic profile.
FURTHER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS
2016 / 2017

Opening of the Clinical Education & Research Centre

In February, the first wave of GEMS (Graduate Entry Medical School) staff moved into the new €14.5million state of the art four-storey Clinical Education & Research Centre (CERC) at UL Hospitals campus. The building is jointly-financed by UL and the HSE and houses several different groups of staff and students and replaces old education and research facilities spread across the hospital site.

Launch of UL’s Olympic Diving Pool & the Munster High Performance Centre

Two new sports buildings worth approximately €15million were officially opened in April, by Minister of State, Patrick O’Donovan, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The cost of building the Munster Rugby High Performance Centre and new 25m Diving Pool was met, in part, by financial support from UL Students.

The high-performance training facility for Munster Rugby comprises extensive gymnasium, weight rooms, video analysis facilities, physiotherapy treatment rooms, lecture facilities, a 65-seater auditorium, changing rooms, recreation and dining facilities and facilities for the entire administrative function of Munster Rugby. The new pool includes 1m and 3m Olympic-standard spring board diving facilities and is visually linked to the existing pool through a glazed screen. With a depth of 4m the pool features a floating floor and dividing boom and can be subdivided for technical events such as Springboard Diving, Synchronised Swimming and Sub Aqua training, while also catering for the Schools Learn to Swim Programme and the Advanced Years Aqua Jogging classes. The new pool can also support the existing Olympic sized 50m pool as a warm up facility for major National and International Long Course Championships.
International Student Barometer Survey
Results from International Student Barometer Survey showed UL ranked among the top universities globally for overall student learning experience, incomparable campus living and top-tier graduate employability. UL has maintained its strong position in the International Student Barometer Survey, published in January, and it remains the most highly recommended university in Ireland. The survey was undertaken by independent research group i-graduate and involves over 18,257 international students across 182 institutions worldwide.

For the student learning experience UL ranks:
• 1st in Ireland and UK for English language support;
• 2nd in Ireland quality lectures, course organisation and optimal class size; and
• 9th in Europe for academic English and 10th for learning support.

Road Safety Award
UL was awarded the Road Safety Authority’s (RSA) ‘Leading Lights in Road Safety’ award for the third year in succession in December. UL scooped the third level education award for its Smarter Travel initiative, designed to promote sustainable travel behaviour such as walking, cycling, taking the bus and car-sharing among UL staff and students. Smarter Travel is promoted in the University by the Buildings and Estates Department led by co-ordinators Ross Higgins and Sean Collins.

KBS Named Best Business School
Kemmy Business School (KBS) was named Best Business School in Ireland 2016 at the InBUSINESS Recognition Awards held in Dublin. The awards recognise significant achievement across 22 categories based on the criteria of growth, profile of business, range of services and customer care. KBS was recognised for its increased student intake and quality, its higher than national average student employment rate and its exceptionally strong working relationships with employers, local chambers and local business.

Law School of the Year
The School of Law was named Law School of the Year at the 6th Annual AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards. The awards are supported by the Bar Council of Ireland and the Law Society of Ireland.

SSPC Named Pharma Research Centre of the Year
The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC), an SFI and industry-funded research centre based in the Materials & Surface Science Institute (MSSI), was announced as Pharma Research Centre of the Year 2016. This was the third time SSPC was in receipt of this title at the Pharma Industry Awards. Over the past 12 months, SSPC has received over €7 million funding for projects linked to the pharmaceutical industry and has launched new projects and international partnerships with significant research centres in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Further Awards 16/17
• SSPC’s PhD Industry Placement programme won an Excellence in Education and Training award, at the HR Leadership & Management Awards. These awards celebrate excellence and emerging roles of HR as a strategic management device that aligns with organisational business objectives, underpinning both business profitability and sustainability. The programme is co-ordinated Dr Sarah Hayes, SSPC’s Education and Outreach Officer (ETO), who provides support for the programme linking the PhD curriculum with industry sector needs. Since the programme started two years ago, the SSPC programme has placed twenty-two PhD students in industry. The companies involved to date include Pfizer, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, MSD, BMS, Roche, Alkermes, Abbvie/Fournier Labs, Clarachem Ireland and APC Ltd.

• This year, UL won two International Business Awards, known as Stevie Awards. It won gold in the Communications/PR Campaign of the Year – Global Issues category and silver in the Communication/PR Campaign of the Year - Low Budget category. The winning campaign – ‘Meet the Mesentery - The Organ Hiding in Plain Sight’ highlighted the research of Professor Calvin Coffey, Professor of Surgery at UL’s Graduate Entry Medical School and Consultant Surgeon at UL Hospitals Group.

• KBS received a Recognition for Excellence Award from the United Nations for its PRME SIP (Sharing Information on Progress) report at a recent gathering of UN officials, deans, business executives, faculty, students and stakeholders. Nine institutions were selected by a peer review group under the guidance of Giselle Weybrecht, Special Advisor to PRME and expert in sustainable business education. This endorsement not only recognises the quality of the KBS report, but also the extent to which issues of sustainability, responsibility and ethics underpin teaching, research and engagement activities in KBS. KBS’s involvement with the UN as a PRME Champion School contributes significantly to the KBS international profile, opening the School up to several high-quality networks. It also connects KBS to the major accreditation bodies and facilitates KBS’s external engagement.
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 two exceptional individuals.

In April, UL conferred Honorary Doctorates on Sr Angela Bugler, former President of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, and Vincent Roche, President and CEO of Analog Devices Worldwide. Sr Bugler was conferred with a Doctor of Letters. Mr Roche was conferred with a Doctor of Engineering. The University confers honorary degrees on distinguished individuals who have made major contributions in their fields.

ACCOLADES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Michael Pomeroy Made a Fellow of The European Ceramics Society

Professor Michael Pomeroy of the School of Engineering and Bernal Institute, was made a Fellow of The European Ceramics Society at a ceremony in Budapest. Professor Pomeroy has been with UL since 1979. He has published more than 200 technical articles, including 92 in ISI indexed journals. He is currently editing the Ceramics Section of an Elsevier reference module in Materials Science & Materials Engineering. Professor Pomeroy is a founder member of Irish Materials Forum (1983) and member of ECerS since 2011.

Professor Michael Zaworotko Admitted to Learned Society of Wales

Professor Michael Zaworotko, Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering, was elected to fellowship of the Learned Society of Wales (LSW) in recognition of his academic excellence and achievement. He is internationally recognised for his work, contributing important theoretical models and practical demonstrations of how crystalline materials can address challenges such as energy sustainability to enhancing processes within the pharmaceutical industry. Professor Zaworotko is the first UL academic to become a member of the Learned Society of Wales.

Professor Tiziana Margaria Made a Fellow of the Irish Computer Society

Professor Tiziana Margaria, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and PI in Lero and Confirm, was recently appointed as a Fellow of the Irish Computer Society. She is an expert in Software Systems, in particular high assurance software development methods and one of the few female professors in Computer Science.

Young Scientist Fellowship for Dr Nanasaheb Thorat

Dr Nanasaheb Thorat, a postdoctoral researcher with the Bernal Institute, was awarded a Young Scientist fellowship from the Nobel Laureate Foundation. Thorat, an expert in biomedical materials, was also awarded Fellowship of the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung Foundation, which recognises and supports excellence in science.

Jerome Hynes Fellowship for Dr Kathleen Turner

The Arts Council of Ireland named Dr Kathleen Turner, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, as the recipient of the 2017/2018 Jerome Hynes Fellowship, offered through the UK-based Clore Leadership programme. The year-long programme aims to develop the knowledge, skills and experience of potential leaders in the arts, across a wide range of cultural activity.

Emeritus Professor Tom Moylan Receives Pilgrim Award

Emeritus Professor Tom Moylan, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, received the Pilgrim Award – a lifetime achievement award for his contributions to Science Fiction and Fantasy scholarship. The award was named for J. O. Bailey’s pioneering book, Pilgrims through Space and Time. The presentation, by the Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA), was made to Professor Moylan at the SFRA’s annual conference held at the University of California.
Dr Stephen Kinsella Named Economic Commentator of the Year
Dr Stephen Kinsella, Senior Lecturer in Economics at KBS was named Economic Commentator of the year at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Business Journalist Awards held in 2016. Kinsella won the award for his Sunday Business Post contributions: ‘Crisis, What Crisis?’, ‘The Dickensian Repercussions’ and ‘Time to Party Like it’s 2006’.

Further Awards & Accolades 16/17
- Professor Brian Fitzgerald recently received the Conference Ambassador award in recognition of bringing the 37th
- Writer Julian Gough received a €20,000 bursary to be the new writer-in-residence with the School of Culture and
- Dr Barbara Geraghty, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, received a Japanese Foreign Ministry
- GEMS Director of Research Professor Colum Dunne and Dr Shane Knox, PhD graduate, won two of the seven HSE
- The Ostoform project, led by GEMS Dr Leonard O’Sullivan and Professor Calvin Coffey, was awarded Best University
- The winner of this year’s Jennifer Burke Award was Dr Antonio Calderon, PESS department. The awarded innovation,
- Dr Jennifer McMahon, received this year’s Award for Excellence in Service to the Community. Jennifer was nominated
- Dr Terry McGrail, Director and Technology Leader of the Irish Composites Centre (IComp) based in the Bernal
- Dr T erry McGrail, Director and Technology Leader of the Irish Composites Centre (IComp), was recently honoured with a Teacher Education Honour Award by SHAPE America (Society of Health and Physical Educators), The award recognises recipients for exemplary, innovative work which has an impact on teacher education.
- Dr Misyy Parker, Department of Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS), was recently honoured with a Teacher Education Honour Award by SHAPE America (Society of Health and Physical Educators), The award recognises recipients for exemplary, innovative work which has an impact on teacher education.

Professor Tisianan Margaria
Professor Tisianan Margaria delivered her inaugural lecture, entitled ‘Soft Matters’ on the 25th January 2017.

Professor Catherine Woods
On May 9th, Professor Catherine Woods gave her inaugural lecture, entitled “Lack of physical activity is a global epidemic: Can Ireland show the way forward?”

Professor Jacques Huyghe
Professor Jacques Huyghe delivered his inaugural lecture on the 24th May. The lecture was entitled ‘Interfacial forces: how it structures biology and industry’.

INaugural Lectures

View of Millstream Building, University of Limerick
STUDENT SUCCESSES

Google News Lab Fellowships

Three UL Journalism students each secured one of five Google News Labs Fellowships in leading media organisations in Ireland. The fellowships offer those who are particularly passionate about data-driven journalism the opportunity to research and write stories and create timely data to frame debates accurately about issues in Ireland and around the world. Jennifer Purcell, BA in Journalism and New Media will complete her placement with The Irish Times. Cillian Sherlock, BA in Journalism and New Media will with complete his with the Irish Independent. Andrew Roberts, MA in Journalism and New Media will work with The Journal.ie.

Irish Tatler Woman of the Year

UL alumna Razan Ibraheem was presented with an Irish Tatler Woman of the Year 2016 award at a ceremony in Dublin. The awards recognise the impact women have made on Irish life within their fields of influence and expertise and highlight the innovators and headline-makers of 2016. Ms Ibraheem, a journalist with Storyful, received the International Award for her efforts to highlight the war in Syria.

Awards for Sarah Guerin

Sarah Guerin, a PhD Student in the Bernal Institute, won the Best Conference Research Paper at the 7th Annual NUI Galway-UL Alliance Research Day. Her plenary presentation was entitled; ‘First Principles Design of Organic Piezoelectric Devices’. She also won first prize in the 2016 national ‘Thesis in 3’ competition, sponsored by SFI’s Discover Programme. Sarah’s presentation was entitled ‘Nature’s Shocking Secret’. Sarah works with Dr Damien Thompson and Dr Tofail Syed, Department of Physics on protein piezoelectricity. Guerin also delivered her winning presentation at the SFI Science Summit 2016, held in November.

Sindy Joyce Consults for RTÉ Documentary

Sindy Joyce, Sociology PhD student, joined RTÉ’s research team for a three-part documentary presented by John Connon on Irish Travellers. Sindy is the current recipient of the AHSS Registrar’s scholarship and former recipient of a postgraduate scholarship from the UL Foundation and a Department of Sociology/AHSS fee waiver. She was also awarded postgraduate funding by the IRC.
FURTHER STUDENT SUCCESSES
2016 / 2017

- UL students; Eoin Hann, Civil Engineering; Darten Fehilly, Mechanical Engineering; Patrick Lu, Electronic and Computer Engineering; and David Monaghan, Business, recently became the first team outside Canada to claim highest honours at the International Engineering and Commerce Case Competition (ECC). This interdisciplinary competition focuses on combining Engineering and Commerce to collaboratively identify solutions to real-world challenges modern industries face. In addition to being named overall winners, the UL team won the Best Engineering Solution and Best Sustainable Solution awards. The students were mentored by Dr Vanessa Egan, Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering and Dr Briga Hynes, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship at KBS.

- Sarah Murray, Accounting and French BBS student, was selected to represent Ernst & Young (EY Ireland) at the EY International Internship Leadership Conference (EILC) in Orlando, Florida. Murray completed a summer internship with EY in their Limerick office and based on her exceptional performance was chosen to represent the company at the international conference.

- The winners of the best social media strategy display, at the recently held #BR4041 ‘Social Media for Social Good’ story fair, were announced by KBS Dr John Lannon. Tiffany Fanning, Karl Mulligan, Ryan Sheehan, Sarah Long and Jordan Corkery designed a social media strategy for Compassionate Cities in UL, which focusses on breaking down the stigma of death within the campus.

- Dr O’Keeffe, was awarded a Global Marie Curie fellowship, for her work; ‘COMPEL-Costs and Mechanisms of Personalised Exercise and Education for Chronic Low back pain’. Dr O’Keeffe will spend two years at the George Institute in Sydney before returning to Europe/Limerick for her last year.

- Mairead O’Regan, Law Plus, won the Silken Thomas Moot Court Competition.

- Sarah McCarthy, Law Plus, won the 2016 A&L Goodbody Bold Ideas Student Innovation Award, following her proposal to build on Ireland’s reputation and success on the international stage. McCarthy’s winning submission proposes the establishment of the Irish Fintech Investor Market (IFIM) which would connect Irish technology companies at the international conference.

- Ciara Murphy, Law and Accounting, was presented with the 2017 Arthur Cox Participation prize, having achieved the highest academic grades in her most recent Law exams. The prize is also awarded on grounds of wider participation in life at UL and Murphy has extensive volunteering and swimming achievements to her credit.

- Niamh Donnell, MA in Creative Writing, won the Arts Council’s Next Generation Award for Literature 2018 and received a grant of €15,000 to enable her to focus on her writing.

- UL team ‘Trash Team Racing’ won the 2017 Games Studio Competition which was held as part of the 2017 Games Flash at LIT Tipperary. Trash Team Racing comprised five UL students from BSc Computer Games Development: Joseph Greaney, David Ryley, David Ryan, Christopher Brady and Shane O’Malley. The team’s participation was organised and managed by UL’s ICT Learning Centre.

- The School of Law and GEMS hosted the 2016/17 Kate Fleming Mediation Competition in Medical Law in February. Fifteen students of Law and Medicine formed cross-disciplinary teams to settle a claim of medical negligence. The winning team comprised GEMS students Michelle Stephenson and Anna Howard, and law students Siobhan Macloingsigh and Blaithin O’Shea. The competition provided a unique opportunity for inter-disciplinary learning with students researching the law, writing an expert report and deciding strategy for mediation.

- Aideen Kelly, MSc in Risk Management and Insurance, was awarded first place at the Insurance Ireland Essay Competition, at the European Insurance Forum. Kelly was presented with a cheque for €1,000 by Frank Mee (Allianz), Chair of the industry judging panel, on behalf of Insurance Ireland. The essay competition was open to postgraduate students studying a module in the discipline of Risk Management and Insurance.

- MBA graduates, Tom Brennan and Patsy Carney of Eirgen Pharma, were presented with the Judge’s Special Recognition Award at the Waterford Business Awards. The award was presented in recognition of their contribution to the cultural and economic climate of Waterford and for inspiring others through their exceptional commitment, motivation and vision.

- Steve Murphy was named Logitech Designer of the Year. His product NAVU is an advanced firefighter-accountability system and personal communication aid. It works by monitoring the movements of a firefighter from the moment they enter a fire-fighting situation.

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- Barry Lunn, MA in International Entrepreneurship Management graduate, is cofounder/CEO of Arralis, which was recently awarded the Irish Times ‘Innovation of the Year Award’. Arralis designed a very high frequency radar chip set - Arralis 94GHz - which has a wide range of potential applications. These include aiding unmanned landings by spacecraft, air defence systems, drone guidance systems, airport radar, driverless cars as well as internet and next generation 5G telecommunications. The company, which is based in UL, took first place in the ‘IT & Telecommunications’ category and went on to compete against six other category winners to claim the top award.

- Siobhan O’Reilly, Law and Accounting Graduate, and John Noonan, Diploma in Business Administration Graduate, were named Ireland’s Future Business Leaders by the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland, as part of the Future Leaders programme recently. O’Reilly leads Enterprise Sales at Dropbox and Noonan is Quality Team Leader with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care. The Future Leaders Programme is an initiative, launched in May 2016, which aims to inspire the next generation of leaders among member companies.

- Michael Kelly, BBS graduate and founder of Waterford-based Grow It Yourself (GIY) Ireland, was awarded Best in Food & Agri Business at the Waterford Business Awards. GIY is a not-for-profit organisation, aims to inspire people to grow their own food and give them the skills necessary for success.

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• Cian McKeown, a PhD student supervised by Dr Fernando Rhen, won the Institute of Physics (IOP) Rosse Medal for his presentation entitled ‘How Strain Enhances Fuel Cell Catalysts’. The research, supported by SFI was recently published in the Journal of Physical Chemistry and illustrates the high-impact research being carried out in the Physics Department and Bernal Institute at UL.

• KBS students, Robin Bogan, MSc in Computational Finance, Sinead McInerney, MSc in Risk Management and Insurance, and Shane Brosnan, MSc in Financial Services, took second place in the final stage of the 2017 International Professional Risk Managers’ International Association (PRMIA) Risk Management Challenge. The students were the first representatives from the PRMIA Ireland Chapter and competed with teams from Canada, Italy, the USA and Russia. The team has received a PRM Scholarship, allowing free access to the suite of globally-recognised Professional Risk Manager Examinations, worth in excess of $1,200 each.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Japan Karate Association World Championships

The Japan Karate Association (JKA) World Championships took place at UL Arena in August. It was the first time Ireland hosted the competition. More than 2,500 people were in attendance and competitors from 58 countries participated in the week-long event. The event takes place outside Japan just once every six years and has previously been held in Australia and Taiwan.
Nicole Drought Named Irish Sportswoman of the Year

KBS student Nicole Drought was awarded Sportswomen.ie Irish Sports Woman of the Year 2016. Despite only having made her motorsport debut two years ago, Drought has enjoyed much success, becoming the first woman to be nominated for the Motorsport Ireland Young Driver Award in 2015, the first woman to win in Irish Touring Cars in 2016 and qualifying on the front row of the grid for her sports car debut in Wales when she joined the Global GT Lights for a round of their championship competition delivered by Dr Keith Wood and Baroness Sue Campbell, former Chair of UK Sport.

Ireland U20 Six Nations Squad Selections

First-year Business Studies students Liam Coombes, Peadar Collins, Conor Fitzgerald and Jack Lyons along with Economics and Sociology students John Foley, Fineen Wycherley, Gavin Coombes and Bachelor of Science in Technology Management student Adam Moloney, were selected for the Ireland U20 Six Nations squad, sponsored by PwC.

Multi-Million Euro Microscope Unveiled

In June, a multi-million euro microscope funded by SFI and UL was unveiled at UL’s Bernal Institute by the Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton TD and Professor Mark Ferguson, Director of SFI. The FEI Titan Themis Double Aberration Corrected Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) will allow researchers to study materials at an atomic level in real-world conditions and is one of only a handful of microscopes with these capabilities worldwide.

The TEM is valued at €6 million and a further €3 million worth of specialist equipment has been added to the UL machine including in-situ microscopy and ultra-fast and sensitive detectors, as well as environmental holders, which allow for the behaviour of materials to be studied in real-time across a range of environments.

The microscope could be used in the drug discovery and design processes in the pharmaceutical industry; medical device development; in the electronics industry; and in materials characterisation in the nuclear and aviation industries.
Gems Professor Pioneers Robotic Surgery at UHL

Professor J Calvin Coffey, UL GEMS, became the first surgeon in the country to carry out a colorectal procedure using a state-of-the-art robot, the only one of its kind in a public hospital in Ireland. Professor Coffey performed the surgery using the Da Vinci Xi Dual Console Robot at University Hospital Limerick (UHL).

Robotic surgery represents the highest international standard of surgery worldwide and is the most advanced form of key-hole surgery available to patients.

The Da Vinci Xi technology offers 3D-HD visualisation which provides surgeons with a highly magnified view, virtually extending their eyes and hands into the patient, which Professor Coffey compared to the surgeon ‘standing inside the abdomen and reaching out to the organs’.

The robot is secured or ‘docked’ to the patient and has four working arms (each requiring only an 8mm skin incision) to which operating instruments are attached. The instruments are extremely precise, with no tremor, and they can achieve activities not possible with the human hand, though they would never replace the human hand, they are completely controlled by the surgeon.

The Da Vinci Xi robotic programme, now underway at UL Hospitals Group, costs €2.8 million to run and is funded by the Midwestern Hospitals Development Trust, the JP McManus Benevolent Fund, UL and UL Graduate Entry Medical School. UHL now has the ability to broadcast live surgery within the hospital right now to its junior doctors on a small scale and will be able to broadcast live to UL in the coming months. This provides an unrivalled educational program for medical staff, nursing staff and students alike.

UL, the academic partner to UL Hospitals Group, donated €135,000 to the project for audio visual and training equipment.
UL Researchers Produce Electricity from Tears

A team of scientists at UL have discovered that applying pressure to a protein found in egg whites and tears can generate electricity. The researchers from the Bernal Institute observed that crystals of lysozyme, a model protein that is abundant in egg whites of birds as well as in the tears, saliva and milk of mammals can generate electricity when pressed.

The ability to generate electricity by applying pressure, known as direct piezoelectricity, is a property of materials such as quartz that can convert mechanical energy into electrical energy and vice versa. Such materials are used in a variety of applications ranging from resonators and vibrators in mobile phones to deep ocean sonars and ultrasound imaging. Bone, tendon and wood are long known to possess piezoelectricity.

The discovery may have wide reaching applications and could lead to further research in the area of energy harvesting and flexible electronics for biomedical devices. Future applications of the discovery may include controlling the release of drugs in the body by using lysozyme as a physiologically mediated pump that scavenges energy from its surroundings. Being naturally biocompatible and piezoelectric, lysozyme may present an alternative to conventional piezoelectric energy harvesters, many of which contain toxic elements such as lead.

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€1.3m Investment in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Research

Enterprise Ireland has awarded €1.3 million worth of funding to the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMTC), hosted at UL, for economically important Innovation Partnership Projects involving multiple industry partners. This funding will primarily focus research towards improving cleaning processes in the industry and contributing to network competitiveness in areas such as product-to-product changeover. The research effort will lead to increased efficiencies, cost savings and will ensure improved effectiveness in the biopharmaceutical industry helping to secure jobs. The PMTC is part of the Enterprise Ireland IDA Technology Centre Programme and works with industry partners to provide advanced technology solutions for the biopharmaceutical sector in Ireland. The centre currently assists more than 30 companies on pharmaceutical manufacturing projects, including continuous manufacturing, plant cleaning and process engineering. Pfizer is the lead industrial collaborator on the multi-partner EI Innovation Partnership Programme.

Fix the Fixing: Lessons from Sporting Integrity for Sport and Society

This year saw the launch of the ‘Fix the Fixing’ EU commissioned research project. Match-fixing is a problem affecting sports worldwide and is recognised as a major threat to the integrity of sports.

More than 12% of athletes have played in a match that was fixed, according to the findings of a European survey published by researchers Dr Deirdre O’Shea and Dr Tadhg Macintyre. The survey reported that nearly 15% of respondents had been asked to fix a match within the last year with nearly 40% of participants reporting that club officials were the most likely to instigate the illicit act. However, of those who were approached to fix a match in the last year, 36% of participants said they would not report any suspicions of fixing, mainly due to lack of trust and confidentiality.

Fix the Fixing aims to develop an evidence-based user-friendly educational tool which will be used by stakeholders to increase sportspeople’s awareness about corruption, fraud and match-fixing in different types and levels of sport; teach coping skills on resisting offers and temptations to engage in match-fixing; and indicate ways to properly report match-fixing incidents to the relevant authorities. UL has led the quantitative and qualitative elements of the project across six European countries.

The project comprised experts in sport psychology, sports law, organisational psychology, sport coaching, social media data analytics, and anti-corruption researchers from the following partner institutions: UL; Queen’s University, Belfast; Cyprus Sports Organisation; IRIS (The French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs); ICCE (International Council for Coaching Excellence); Association for the Protection of Integrity in Sports, Austria; KEA (Sports Transparency and Integrity Protection of Greek Athleticism, Greece) ICSS (International Centre for Sport Security); and, was led by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

More than 12% of athletes have played in a match that was fixed, according to the findings of a European survey published by researchers Dr Deirdre O’Shea and Dr Tadhg Macintyre. The survey reported that nearly 15% of respondents had been asked to fix a match within the last year with nearly 40% of participants reporting that club officials were the most likely to instigate the illicit act. However, of those who were approached to fix a match in the last year, 36% of participants said they would not report any suspicions of fixing, mainly due to lack of trust and confidentiality.

Fix the Fixing aims to develop an evidence-based user-friendly educational tool which will be used by stakeholders to increase sportspeople’s awareness about corruption, fraud and match-fixing in different types and levels of sport; teach coping skills on resisting offers and temptations to engage in match-fixing; and indicate ways to properly report match-fixing incidents to the relevant authorities. UL has led the quantitative and qualitative elements of the project across six European countries.

The project comprised experts in sport psychology, sports law, organisational psychology, sport coaching, social media data analytics, and anti-corruption researchers from the following partner institutions: UL; Queen’s University, Belfast; Cyprus Sports Organisation; IRIS (The French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs); ICCE (International Council for Coaching Excellence); Association for the Protection of Integrity in Sports, Austria; KEA (Sports Transparency and Integrity Protection of Greek Athleticism, Greece) ICSS (International Centre for Sport Security); and, was led by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.
FURTHER RESEARCH
2016 / 2017

Metal Organic Frameworks (MOF) Technologies will collaborate with Bernal Institute researchers to develop two new Metal Organic Frameworks with outstanding gas capture and storage capabilities. MOF Technologies, a Belfast-based company and leader in MOF production, has agreed to develop for commercialisation two MOFs from UL, TIFSIX and SIFSIX, designed to be highly selective for carbon capture and storage. The research team was led by Professor Mike Zaworotko, Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering, and member of MOF Technologies’ Scientific Advisory Board.

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD announced the signing of a new agreement between Lero, the SFI Research Centre for Software headquartered at UL and the Fraunhofer Centre for Experimental Software Engineering at the University of Maryland, which will see both centres of excellence engage in extensive research collaboration in the coming years. The collaboration will focus on evolving critical systems and digital transformation. Lero is Ireland’s national software research centre. It is funded by SFI and both Irish and international technology corporations.

Cala Medical, a spinout from UL, recently developed a medical device approach to the treatment of sepsis and is tasked with bringing the device through to clinical trials. The number of sepsis cases globally is estimated to be over 25 million and there is currently no specific treatment. Cala Medical was founded by Dr Jakki Cooney, Dr Todd Kagawa and Dr Brian Noonan. The company has licensed IP in the form of granted patents from the university. Pre-foundation funding was provided in the form of founder investment and an EI Commercialisation Fund awarded to Dr Cooney. The company closed a seed funding round earlier this year from angel investors and EI’s high potential start-up fund.

Researchers at KBS are playing key roles in an important new project investigating tax evasion in the EU. The H2020 COFFERS project (Combating Fiscal Fraud and Empowering Regulators) is one of the world’s largest research projects examining tax and inequality and aims to discover how much tax revenue is being lost through avoidance and evasion. The €5 million project involves researchers in Ireland, the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Turkey and the Czech Republic. The team at the Kemmy Business School are focussing on the role of expert professional networks, tax advisors, wealth managers and the factors which can lead them to take ethical or aggressive approaches to their taxation work. The UL award is over €500,000 which will fund a three-year project addressing the role of professional expert networks. The UL team includes; Dr Sheila Killian, Dr Philip O’Regan, Anne Tynan and Kieran Gallery.

Inventors from the School of Design and from GEMS recently secured funding for a new percussion device. SoloPEP is a medical device which helps remove mucus from the airways and improve the quality of life for cystic fibrosis (CF) patients. It also aims to decrease exposure to infections resulting in fewer doctor visits, reduced antibiotic usage and shorter hospital stays. It is expected to be market-ready within two years. The Limerick-based team, which recently secured €500,000 in EI funding for the development of the product, involves microbiologists, product designers and medical doctors who specialise in treating both paediatric and adult respiratory illness. Professor Colum Dunne, GEMS and Dr Leonard O’Sullivan, School of Design, are co-Principal Investigators and the team includes Professor Deirdre McGrath, GEMS and Respiratory Consultant at Barrington’s Hospital, and Dr Barry Linnane, Senior Clinical Lecturer and Paediatric Consultant at UHL.

Dr Martin Mullins and Dr Fintan Murphy (KBS) and the AA have announced a major research partnership to study developments in connected car technology and their implications for Irish road users. The partnership will focus on Ireland as a test bed for new vehicle technologies and assess the likely effects. The Irish trial will see 300 AA members’ cars fitted with a smart device that will connect to the engine management system and share data from it with the AA in real time. Data will be analysed continually and can be used to assess whether an insurance premium has been calculated fairly. This data will also be used as part of a broader research agenda financed by the European Commission in the research projects VI-DAS and Cloud-LSVA.

The Family Links programme works with prisoner families in Limerick to improve relationships between prisoners, their partners and children and to develop a more family-supportive environment within the prison itself. The programme, evaluated by UL staff, took place over 18 months and included 15 families with 28 children. Report authors Professor Orla Muldoon and Darragh Bradshaw, PhD psychology student, cited international research that shows that maintaining imprisoned fathers’ contact with their partners and children can reduce reoffending and protect vulnerable children from criminal careers. Researchers in Britain have found that imprisoned fathers who maintained a positive relationship with their children were six times less likely to re-offend.
The Bernal Institute secured over €1 million in funding in two H2020 projects within the Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Production Programme: Oyster (Open Characterisation and Modelling Environment to Drive Innovation in Advanced Nanoarchitected and Bio-inspired Hard/ Soft Interfaces) is led by Universita degli Studi Roma Tre. UL is one of 15 partners with a total budget of €4 million of which UL has control of €450,000. Dr Christophe Silien, Department of Physics, is leading this project along with Professors Tofail Syed, Department of Physics; Tewfik Soulimane, Department of Chemical Sciences; Edmund Magner, Dean Science & Engineering; Noel O’Dowd, School of Engineering and Dr Ning Liu, Department of Physics.

Dr Richard Kirwan, Department of History, received the Gerda Henkel Stiftung award for his research project; ‘Exules et Proselyti: Academic Conversion, Exile and Refuge in the Confessional Age’.

Professor Paul Bewer, Bernal Institute, was the recipient of the Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award for his project entitled ‘Towards Artificial Metamorphosis of Composite Structures’.

UL, 3D4Medical and IBM Research were the winners of the 2017 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards, jointly presented by the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy. The team from UL, led by Dr Eamonn de Barra, in collaboration with Stryker Orthopaedics, received the award for developing a new type of bioactive bone cement for neurosurgery, which has advantages over existing products on the market in terms of ease of use, speed of surgical placement and reduced workload on the OR team which is a positive outcome for all.

A report examining the development of a computer science course at Leaving Certificate level was commissioned by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and compiled by researchers from Lero, the National Centre for STEM Education at UL’s School of Education and the Third Level Computing Forum. The report examined the experience of those implementing computer science courses in England, Scotland, New Zealand, Ontario and Israel, in order to advise on the best methods for implementing a course for upper second-level students in Ireland.

Keelin Leahy has secured funding for IRC RSPS, for Ideation Development for Educational Approaches and Skills (IDEAS), valued at €100,000, for two years. The study aims to improve innovation skills through an ideation methodology for young students and educators in an educational setting.

The Ubuntu Network was awarded €145,000 to continue its work in supporting the integration of Development Education/Education for Sustainable Development (DE/ESD) into post-primary Initial Teacher Education programmes. The funding was awarded by Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs. This is a collaborative project, led by UL staff in education and involving ten Irish Higher Education Institutions. Core areas of the work are: innovative teaching approaches to support the learner to engage in development issues (such as climate change, migration, inequality); capacity-building of teacher educators; research on DE/ESD in ITE; curriculum and policy change for DE/ESD. Staff members include Deirdre Hogan, Joanne O’Flaherty and Ollie McGarr.

Dr Jennifer Hennessy, School of Education, and Nicola Marlow, Ulster University, were recently awarded funding by the Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS) for a project entitled: TCTOP: Exploring Teacher Confidence in the Teaching of Poetry at Leaving Certificate and A Level.
Dr Maura Adshead, Department of Politics and Public Administration, received over €24,000 funding from IRC New Foundations. The ‘Youth Engage’ project supports international collaboration and knowledge exchange to enhance young peoples’ political understanding and civic engagement by linking four existing community partnerships between youth workers, young people and academics, each with collaborative connections to LYS and/or UL.

The School of Law recently won a competitive tender to assist the Law Reform Commission of Ireland in appointing legal researchers. The Principal Investigators for the tender were lecturers Dr Susan Leahy and Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan. The Commission is an independent body established under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 with the purpose of keeping the law under independent, objective and expert review, to make recommendations for law reform and to make current law accessible for all.

Professor Shane Kilcommins and Dr Sean Redmond, School of Law, were awarded over €99,000 funding under the IRC Research for Policy & Society Scheme 2016. Entitled ‘Improving the Measurement of Effectiveness in the Irish Youth Justice System’, the research project will undertake an international review of youth justice systems’ data strategies, policies and practices; identify common features of data collection which are capable of indicating programme effectiveness and efficiency; undertake empirical analysis of how Ireland’s youth justice data practices compare to exemplar systems and provide practical recommendations for improvement.

The ‘Hate and Hostility Research Group’ led by Dr Amanda Haynes, Department of Sociology, and Dr Jennifer Schweppe of the School of Law, was selected for funding of over €220,000 under the EU Rights, Equality and Citizenship Work Programme. Along with their research partner, TENI (Transgender Equality Network Ireland) the HHRG is part of a consortium of over 50 organisations attached to the project, which is valued at over €1.2million. The project will measure the awareness of anti-LGBT hate crime in societies across Europe and work on improving reporting mechanisms and processes for victims of anti-LGBT hate crime.

The Bernal Institute, located in the Analog Building, announced the first Masterclass in Characterisation of Crystalline and Soft Materials. The four-day course is aimed at industrial and academic researchers who wish to gain experience of advanced techniques in the characterisation of materials. It will involve interactive seminars as well as hands-on workshops, offering participants a unique opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge for characterising samples in ambient and variable conditions, time resolved experiments as well as in-situ reactions.

Fab Lab Limerick IPhone Repair Event

Fab Lab Limerick, which partners in the Restarter-Limerick project, offered an IPhone repair event at Fab Lab Limerick in July to provide people with the opportunity to repair broken or damaged iPhones free of charge. The Restarter-Limerick project is funded through the SFI Discovery programme and aims to use electronics repair as a means of engagement with the general public on topics related to critical raw materials. Fab Lab Limerick is partner of the Restarter-Limerick project.
Role of Education in Supporting Small Business Event

KBS and the faculty of Science and Engineering jointly hosted an event for SMEs on the Role of Education in Supporting Small Business. The event was addressed by the Minister of State for Employment and Small Business, Pat Breen. The aim of the event was to stimulate greater collaboration between third level institutes and SMEs in relation to research, education and business advice. Attendees included small and medium enterprises, members of representative bodies, local Enterprise Offices, Chambers of Commerce, the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises association (ISME), EI and the IDA.

Regional Leaders’ Programme

A new Regional Leaders’ Programme, delivered by Limerick Chamber in partnership with Dell EMC and KBS, was launched recently. The initiative aims to develop leaders for the future in the Mid-West region and beyond through mentorship and skills sharing. Following on from the success of Limerick Chamber’s recent Leadership Mentoring Programme, this programme will support skills development amongst 150 current and future business leaders. The Regional Leaders’ Programme will run on a bi-monthly basis at Dell EMC’s Limerick Campus.

Enactus Ireland Competition

Dr Briga Hynes, Head of Management and Marketing, mentored a group of UL students in the Enactus Ireland Competition - a national showcase of social entrepreneurship and innovative projects. Enactus, an international non-profit organisation, inspires students to take entrepreneurial action to create community development projects to improve the livelihoods of socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged individuals and community groups. The UL team partnered with Limerick’s Gateway to Education (LGTE) who provide educational supports to primary and secondary students in at-risk families, to identify scaling opportunities to expand their services. The students designed and delivered Easter Camps with the theme ‘Creative, Inclusive and Fun Learning’. The students also generated an additional stream of volunteers for LGTE by involving TY Students in delivering the new services.

Community Engagement

Information Health Hub

A new Information Health Hub was recently developed in Limerick City by UL’s Faculty of Education and Health Sciences. The Health Hub will allow community-based groups to access health programmes and information regarding healthy living. The new centre was designed to allow UL students to deliver programmes to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Limerick. The Health Hub is co-located with the Limerick Fab Lab and complements UL’s existing models of student education and community-based initiatives. By providing quality health programmes to community groups at this site, UL students learn about professionalism and innovation and developing these skills while delivering a service for the people of Limerick. The Hub will run events throughout the year, some focused at specific groups and others open to the general public. Currently a wide range of issues are being targeted including back pain, mental health, voice care, active and healthy lifestyles and accessibility.

Partnership for Health Equity GP Clinics

The Partnership for Health Equity GP clinics for marginalised groups in Limerick City marked three years in operation in April. Since 2014, over 290 clinics and 500 individuals were provided with basic health care, many homeless or living as undocumented migrants in the city. GEMS’ students from the student-run Health Equity Project attended clinics as observers to learn about health issues faced by vulnerable groups. The clinics were established by Dr Patrick O’Donnell and Professor Anne MacFarlane with support from HSE Social Inclusion, the North Dublin City GP Training Programme, Safetynet, the Ana Liffey Drug Project and St Vincent de Paul. O’Donnell recently hosted a workshop on General Practice and Primary Care for marginalised groups for the Y3 group on the Mid-West GP Training Scheme. The session covered healthcare issues for homeless people, migrants and refugees, drug users and other vulnerable groups.
International Women’s Day

To celebrate International Women’s Day in March, UL collaborated with Dell EMC to host an event exploring the challenges of ‘Changing Mindsets’ in the working world. The event, supported by Johnson & Johnson, was attended by over 200 members of the Mid-West business and education community and focused on encouraging more females into science, technology, engineering and maths related sectors, as part of Engineers’ Week 2017. The main addresses and a series of breakout discussions explored different areas where changing mindsets and achieving greater gender balance need to be considered. The first focused on WiSTEM2D, a project led by Johnson & Johnson and UL and a number of UL students participating in the WiSTEM2D programme attended the event and prizes were presented for their projects. There was also consideration of unconscious gender bias in the workplace with a series of presentations by Dan Robertson, Diversity and Inclusion Director, Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion (ENEI); Sam Blenkinsop, National Development Officer, Transgender Equality Network Ireland and Joy Neville, former Ireland rugby captain, Grand Slam winner and first female to officiate at European rugby match. The University also held other International Women’s Day events, including one focussing on women in the media, organised by the Department of Journalism. Speakers included RTE’s Mid-West correspondent, Cathy Halloran; Gillian Devlin Head of News, Limerick’s Live 95FM; Fiona Stack, General Manager, Radio Kerry; Laura Ryan Head of Marketing and Communications, Limerick City and County Council; and Tara Giddens, PhD candidate, UL.

Glucksman Library acquires Kate O’Brien Letters

The Glucksman Library recently acquired a collection of 500 personal letters by the Limerick author, Kate O’Brien (1897-1974) to and from Dr Lorna Reynolds (1911-2003) who was Professor Emeritus of Modern English at the National University of Ireland, Galway and a lifelong friend of Kate O’Brien. Dr. Reynolds’ papers also contain letters from Darina di Silone née Laracy (1917-2003) who worked for the Herald Tribune and International News Services in Italy in 1940. She was expelled and fled to Switzerland where she met her husband, the Italian writer Ignazio Silone. Her letters to Lorna Reynolds are full of vivid accounts of life on the continent during the 1950s and 1960s. This latest acquisition is of considerable cultural significance and adds greatly to the significant archives of her life and work held at the Glucksman Library, which represent the largest collection of personal correspondence from the author. In addition to the recently acquired personal letters, the Glucksman Library holds a number of collections which contain images, letters, documents and unfinished work by Kate O’Brien. In March The Book Show celebrated the life and writing of Kate O’Brien with a programme which featured interviews with Head of Special Collections and Archives, Ken Bergin and Dr Margaret O’Neill.
FURTHER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
2016 / 2017

Now in its third year, ‘The Darkest Midnight’, an evening of song, poetry and carols from the Irish World Academy in support of Rape Crisis Midwest, was held in November. Artists and ensembles featured included the Cantorial Chant Ensemble, the BAVAD Gospel Choir directed by Kathleen Turner and the Irish World Academy Choir. Sean nós dancer Siobhan Butler and students from MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance also performed. Students from the MA Festive Arts programme helped produce the event as part of their module in festival development and production.

MBA students at KBS raised over €18,000 in funds for four charities: The Limerick Learning Hub, Join Our Boys, Limerick Marine Search and Rescue and Milford Care Centre. The MBA students took part in the 8th annual Barrington’s Hospital Great Limerick Run in a bid to raise the funds. The MBA Class Act 2017 is an initiative of the MBA Class. The mission of the class is to leave a positive impact by raising funds for charity organisations that have connections with members of the class.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering welcomed Junior Achievement Ireland to UL for the ‘Let’s Go’ Food Science and Nutrition Workshop hosted in partnership with Disney Ireland. Approximately 150 primary school pupils attended from St. Mary’s National School, Limerick, St Mary’s Convent, Nenagh, CBS Nenagh and Gaelscoil Aonach Urruimhain. ‘Let’s Go’ was opened by Trish Long, General Manager of Disney Ireland and Professor Sean Arkins, Head, Department of Biological Sciences. One of primary objectives of the day was to increase and develop students’ understanding of healthy living. Some 40 industry volunteers from companies including Disney, Northern Trust, Dell, Stryker, AXA and Gecas, worked with pupils on activities including a Food Quiz, Mind Maps and Idea Generation. Students were also coached on the preparation and delivery of presentations. They then made presentations on what they had learned.

In March, the SSPC funded by SFI and based in the Bernal Institute, launched their ‘Medicines in My Life’ initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to support the SSPC’s educational programme for post-primary teachers and pupils, entitled ‘Innovation in Medicines’, a module designed to introduce students to the world of medicine. Pupils taking the module in TY will take the knowledge learned through the module and website and translate this into an exhibit for a science centre/museum/art gallery/library or public space. The exhibitions will be interactive and approach different aspects of medicines in our lives and the development of medicine through advances in scientific research and in industry.

The Department of Biological Sciences hosted a visit of the Limerick Equine Academy in April. The group was established by Moyross Development Company (funded by the Department of Agriculture, through a service level agreement with Limerick City Council) to provide young people with a programme to educate them about and harness their interest in horses. A group of eight young people from Garryowen, Moyross, Thomondgate and Weston, all members of the Limerick Equine Academy and the Thomond Pony Club, joined by faculty member Sonaya Morschler in the Equine laboratory of the Department for their first visit to UL. Morschler is a committee member of the Limerick Equine Academy and is working with the Moyross Community Officer to facilitate more such visits in the future. It is envisaged that 40 young people will shortly join the programme from all over Limerick city.

Over 300 UL students raised €3,000 at the recent KBS Charity Ball, held in the Strand Hotel, Limerick and organised by KBS student department representatives. It was sponsored by Deloitte Ireland.

Caroline McCarthy, Physiotherapy student, recently designed and implemented a physical activity programme for children with autism in Redhill School. This took place during a paediatric placement in conjunction with Maevé Howlett, practice educator from St Gabriel’s, the class teacher at Redhill and a fellow student studying early childhood education at IT Tralee. The two students encouraged communication, engagement, interaction and team-work among the children through sport and games, as well as improving physical activity, co-ordination and fundamental movement skills for the group. This was the first time this project was delivered by students from different disciplines.

The KBS Annual Coffee Morning, held in March, raised over €2,000 for the Irish Cancer Society. Local businesses both on and off-campus donated to the event: 1826 Restaurant (Adare), Alife’s Bar & Kitchen (Rahoon), Aramark, Aunty Lena’s Bar (Adare), Bean A Ti Bakery, Castletoy Park Hotel, Castle Oaks House Hotel, Collins Bar (Dooradoyle), Danes Bakery, DeLush, Dunraven Arms Hotel (Adare), Glucksman Library, UL, Hook & Ladder, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, O’Connor’s Bakery, Plaza Café, Sean Collins Bar (Adare), Spar (Gleeson’s), The Burren, The Wild Geese Restaurant (Adare), Treats Coffee Shop (Newport), Tuscan Bistro, Zest.

GEMS recently graduated four new peer overdose prevention workers from the TOPPLE Programme, run by NOVAS Initiatives at the McGarry House homeless hostel in Limerick city. The TOPPLE programme was established in response to the increasing number of overdoses and deaths from heroin use in Limerick. The project is supported by UL GEMS’ Paramedic trainees and Dr Patrick O’Donnell, who provide the life-saving drug Naloxone to clients.

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance took part in Limerick’s Live 95FM’s annual charity fundraiser, the ‘95 Stop Tour’, to raise money for the Children’s Ark Unit at the University Hospital, the neonatal unit at University Maternity Hospital and CARI Limerick. The Academy put on a series of performances of Irish Traditional Music, Irish Traditional Dance, World Music and Community Music. The Tour raised over €110,000 for the Children’s Ark.
**GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

**Erasmus Teacher & Staff Mobility**
The number of UL staff participating in Erasmus Teacher and Staff Mobility has also increased in 2016/17 with 55 teacher and 5 administrative and technical staff mobility visits increasing from 45 and 6 respectively in 2015/16.

**Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Projects**
UL has FOUR current E+ ICM projects each lasting 26 months. The preliminary results of the 2017 application have been released and will be confirmed when contracts are issued and signed.

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<th>2015 R2</th>
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A total grant amount of €1,156,088 has been awarded to UL across the 5 deadlines.

UL has received the highest amount of funding for E+ ICM:
- In 2015 UL received 25% of the overall budget allocated
- In 2016 UL received 33% of the overall budget allocated

**Ambassador Visits:**
- H.E. Laura Bernal, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to Ireland, visited UL in November. She was accompanied by Counsellor Mr Diego Sadoschi. The Ambassador met with the President and staff of Kemmy Business School. She was given a tour of the Trading Floor and the University campus.
- H.E. Mr Ahmad Abdelrazek, Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, visited the University in October. He met with the President and was given a tour of the campus.
- The Swedish and Norwegian Ambassadors visited SAUL in May, at the invitation of SAUL Senior Lecturer Elizabeth Hatz and Professor Merritt Buchholz. SAUL wishes to strengthen the already close relationship with the design culture of Scandinavia.
- In June, Dr Sarah Brady hosted a tour of the Bernal Institute for an international delegation from Masai Mara University, Kenya together with the Kenyan Ambassador, H.E. Richard Opmbe.

- In May, a group of 35 refugees received certificates for completing a course in English Language Competence provided by Masters’ Students in TESOL, MLAL. The course was designed by staff and students, led by Dr Mairead Moriarty, ADI. This activity plays a key role in establishing Limerick as a University of Sanctuary.
- A team from GEMS including Senior Lecturer in Public Health Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf, Community Placements Coordinator & Senior Administrator Michelle Murnane, V2 medical student Meghan Feeney and EHS Assistant Dean International, Dr Anca Minescu, attended the Network Towards Unity for Health (The Network: UFH) conference on Social Accountability in Tunisia, in April.
- The School of Law hosted a delegation of the Honourable Members of the Bar Council of India: Mr Rameshchandra Girdharlalshah, Mr Nilesh Kumar, Mr Amit Rana and Mr Ramchander Rao Naraparaju. The delegation met with representatives of the School of Law and members of the wider UL community and local and national legal community. The delegation also met with UL’s Indian law graduates and current students. The Bar Council of India is a statutory body created by parliament to regulate and represent the Indian Bar.
- In October, KBS hosted delegates from 20 countries for a week-long exploration of the Common Good and the place of business education and social reporting in serving that goal. The week comprised of four main meetings: the UN as Champions of Responsible Management Education, the Global Responsible Leadership Initiative, the Irish National CSR Stakeholders’ Forum, and the first biennial CSEAR Ireland, UL conference.
UL's role in the Mid-West is multifaceted and hugely significant. The University takes great pride in its place here in the Mid-West and will play an ongoing role in the continued prosperity and success of the region into the future.

**FACTS & FIGURES**

- **Graduate employment rate. 10% above the national average for the university sector (HEA)**: 72%
- **Increase in number of Students from 2015/16 to 2016/17**: 2%
- **Number of Undergraduate Students 2016/17**: 12,535
- **Number of Postgraduate Students 2016/17**: 2,603
- **Placements secured for students on the Cooperative Education programme**: 1,900
- **In Ireland and the UK for English language support according to the International Student Barometer Survey**: 1st
- **The numbers participating in the outgoing Erasmus programme and international exchanges remains stable with outgoing UL students totalled 469 in the academic year 2016/17 as opposed to 450 in the year before**: 469
- **Full degree international student numbers saw upward growth for 2016/17 with 152 undergraduate full degree students and 278 postgraduate full degree students, when combined with GEMS students this brought international students recruited from 603 in 2015/16 to 628 for 2016/17**: 628

**GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

List of Governing Authority members, 01st October 2016 - 30th September 2017:

- **President: Professor Don Barry**
- **Dr Desmond Fitzgerald**
- **Ms Michelle Breen**
- **Mr Fintan Breen**
- **Chancellor: Judge John L. Murray**
- **Ms Neasa Fahy O’Donnell**
- **Mr John O’Connell**
- **VPA&R: Professor Paul McCarthcheon**
- **Dr Pat Phelan**
- **Mr Pat Rockett**
- **Cllr Jerry O’Dea**
- **Cllr Stephen Keary**
- **Mr John Field**
- **Ms Sarah Dunphy**
- **Mr Jack Shelly**
- **Cllr Michael Hourigan**
- **Cllr Sean Lynch**
- **Professor Sean Arkins**
- **Mr Caolan O’Donnell**
- **Ms Roberta Harrington**
- **Ms Kay Doyle**
- **Professor Merrit Bucholtz**
- **Ms Aimee McKenzie**
- **Mr Michael Houlihan**
- **Dr Dermot Shinnors-Kennedy**
- **Mr Tadhg B Kearney**
- **Mr Richard Leonard**
- **Professor Colum Dunne**
- **Mr Bobby O’Connor**
- **Professor Michael Hayes**
- **Professor Eugene Wall**
- **Professor Michael Pomeroy**
- **Ms Breda Deedigan**
- **Professor Helen O’Neill**
- **Dr Sean McGrath**
- **Mr David O’Flynn**
- **Ms Judith Woodworth**
- **Mr Ger Slattery**
- **Dr Wynette Redington**
- **Mr Trish Long**

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

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Notes:

1. Dr Desmond Fitzgerald replaced Don Barry 1 May 2017
2. Dr Pat Phelan replaced Paul McCarthcheon 1 May 2017
3. Mr Ger Slattery was elected in December 2016
4. Mr Jack Shelly replaced Ms Sarah Dunphy as President, University of Limerick’s Students’ Union, (ULSU) in June 2017
5. Ms Roberta Harrington replaced Mr Caolan O’Donnell as Deputy President, ULSU in June 2017
6. Cllr Stephen Keary was elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick in June 2017
7. Cllr Sean Lynch was elected Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick in June 2017.
8. Professor Eugene Wall replaced Professor Michael Hayes (deceased)
## FINANCIAL REPORT
### CONSOLIDATED & UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the financial year ended 30th September 2017

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<td>89,630</td>
<td>92,749</td>
<td>89,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants &amp; contracts</td>
<td>42,027</td>
<td>35,584</td>
<td>42,027</td>
<td>35,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancillary services &amp; other self-funded income</td>
<td>9,700</td>
<td>12,865</td>
<td>9,700</td>
<td>12,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation of deferred capital grants</td>
<td>5,913</td>
<td>4,113</td>
<td>5,913</td>
<td>4,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>36,139</td>
<td>33,713</td>
<td>14,139</td>
<td>14,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net deferred funding for pensions</td>
<td>40,663</td>
<td>34,157</td>
<td>40,663</td>
<td>34,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>268,375</td>
<td>268,375</td>
<td>246,701</td>
<td>246,701</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>University 2017</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>131,501</td>
<td>122,144</td>
<td>124,819</td>
<td>116,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement benefit service cost</td>
<td>27,601</td>
<td>17,722</td>
<td>17,722</td>
<td>17,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating expenses</td>
<td>70,426</td>
<td>68,519</td>
<td>64,143</td>
<td>61,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable &amp; similar charges</td>
<td>1,348</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>1,131</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement benefit interest cost</td>
<td>13,062</td>
<td>16,435</td>
<td>13,062</td>
<td>16,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>17,086</td>
<td>15,747</td>
<td>12,352</td>
<td>11,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>261,024</td>
<td>249,409</td>
<td>243,108</td>
<td>224,553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus before other gains &amp; losses</td>
<td>7,351</td>
<td>6,325</td>
<td>3,593</td>
<td>3,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on investments</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on investment property</td>
<td>(727)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,044)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year after depreciation of assets and before taxation and impairment</td>
<td>6,893</td>
<td>6,551</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>2,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for the year</strong></td>
<td>6,892</td>
<td>6,547</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>2,549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial loss in respect of retirement benefit scheme</td>
<td>143,248</td>
<td>(205,257)</td>
<td>143,248</td>
<td>(205,257)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding</td>
<td>(143,248)</td>
<td>205,257</td>
<td>(143,248)</td>
<td>205,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL comprehensive income for the financial year</strong></td>
<td>6,892</td>
<td>6,547</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>2,549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Represented by:
- Restricted comprehensive income for year: - - - -
- Unrestricted comprehensive income for year: 6,892 6,547 2,549 2,549

## FINANCIAL REPORT
### CONSOLIDATED & UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the financial year ended 30th September 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consoliated 2017</th>
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<th>Consoliated 2016</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>453,382</td>
<td>437,053</td>
<td>321,532</td>
<td>304,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment property</td>
<td>5,870</td>
<td>5,344</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>5,344</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>2,157</td>
<td>3,103</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>461,409</td>
<td>445,500</td>
<td>325,832</td>
<td>310,227</td>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>21,789</td>
<td>25,244</td>
<td>72,532</td>
<td>44,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>142,025</td>
<td>115,662</td>
<td>107,698</td>
<td>90,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>163,814</td>
<td>140,906</td>
<td>180,230</td>
<td>134,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAYABLES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>(125,871)</td>
<td>(139,581)</td>
<td>(101,194)</td>
<td>(100,137)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>37,943</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>79,036</td>
<td>34,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>499,352</td>
<td>446,825</td>
<td>404,868</td>
<td>344,270</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PAYABLES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>(247,935)</td>
<td>(202,300)</td>
<td>(242,332)</td>
<td>(184,283)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROVISIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement benefit receivable</td>
<td>775,192</td>
<td>877,777</td>
<td>775,192</td>
<td>877,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement benefit provisions</td>
<td>(775,192)</td>
<td>(877,777)</td>
<td>(775,192)</td>
<td>(877,777)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>251,417</td>
<td>244,525</td>
<td>162,536</td>
<td>159,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>251,417</td>
<td>244,525</td>
<td>162,536</td>
<td>159,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESERVES</strong></td>
<td>251,417</td>
<td>244,525</td>
<td>162,536</td>
<td>159,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)