



Queen's University
Belfast

THE GRADUATE 2015

The magazine for graduates and
friends of Queen's University Belfast

FEATURES

Meet Thomas J Moran,
Queen's new Chancellor

EVENTS

Find out about Queen's world
record bridge building

REGULAR

Read what your former
classmates have been
getting up to

PLUS

All the news and updates
from the campus and around
the world

We are exceptional



WELCOME TO THE 2015 EDITION OF **THE GRADUATE**

Your University is changing. Though much will still be very familiar, the campus, funding and staffing are undergoing major transformations. For example, our cover star, Thomas J Moran, was installed this summer as Queen's new Chancellor (pp09-11).



An uneven UK funding playing field and local government's disinvestment has resulted in swingeing education cuts. Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Gallagher, shares his views on the future of Higher Education (pp16-18) and what the changes will mean for local students. Please send your thoughts to editor@qub.ac.uk as part of the NI Education Minister's 'Big Conversation'.

The rebirth of the Lynn Library as The Graduate School (pp26-28) is not simply the redesign of a beautiful historic building but also the embodiment of the intellectual, social and ethical landscape that we aspire to foster here for our postgraduates. Led by the Dean, Professor Margaret Topping, it will help make Queen's the international choice for postgraduate education and research on global challenges.

Your University is changing the world. Discover how Queen's latest international research is helping to improve lives by making chemotherapy more effective, combating cybercrime and removing arsenic from rice (pp4-7). Class Notes (pp37-43) reminds me that our graduates too are changing things all over the world!

And learn how the Queen's experience impacts on the lives of our students by reading recollections shared by our Malaysian alumni (pp34-37).

Future plans rely heavily on the support of graduates like you. Catch up on the latest Campaign News (pp12-15), Queen's Annual Fund projects (pp20-21) and volunteering updates (pp29-31) to find out how your donations of time and money ensure your University can thrive in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read **The Graduate**. Changes across campus are reflected in a new look design and we'd love to hear your views on this issue of the magazine. Get in touch with Gerry Power (editor@qub.ac.uk) and tell us what you think.

Best wishes.

Norma Sinte
BA Hons Modern Languages
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

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This magazine is available online for those who prefer a larger font size. Go to:
www.daro.qub.ac.uk/TheGraduate

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04



09



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Editor: Gerry Power
Development and Alumni
Relations Office
Queen's University Belfast
Belfast, BT7 1NN
Northern Ireland

Tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3100
Email: editor@qub.ac.uk

Contributors - Helen Carrick, Professor Tony Gallagher, Meaghan Lyons, Ian Moore, Michéal O'Fearraigh, Lorraine Marks, Natasha Sharma, Helen Surgenor, Professor Margaret Topping, Jackie Trainor, Adele Ward, Susan Wilson

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

American cancer partnership

Queen's Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology (CCRCB) has joined forces with California firm CV6 Therapeutics for a major research and development project.

Aiming to develop a new drug with the potential to make chemotherapy more effective, the venture represents a total investment of £5.5m in research and development and will promote 10 new research jobs.

Invest NI has offered assistance of £2.5m towards the collaboration which includes part-funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

Dr Robert Ladner, CEO of CV6 and a world-leading expert on mechanisms of drug resistance, will relocate to Northern Ireland with his senior team to lead the project. Speaking about the initiative, Dr Ladner said:

"The R&D we will undertake during this project has the potential to significantly improve chemotherapy treatments in a wide range of cancers by overcoming key resistance pathways associated with these cornerstone drugs and in turn deliver significant economic benefits and advancements in cancer treatments worldwide."



Pictured (L-R) – Alastair Hamilton, Invest NI, Dr Robert Ladner, CV6, Professor David Waugh, CCRCB, and Dr Karl Mulligan, CV6. Image: Parkway Photography

Queen's in search for top brass!

Researchers in the School of Creative Arts are working on a range of new projects related to brass bands in Ireland.

Led by Professor Michael Alcorn and Dr Linda Price, the University is appealing to graduates across Northern Ireland to help by searching attics and garages for paraphernalia and artefacts – instruments, old uniforms and copies of band music – relating to brass bands over the last 165 years.



The research aims to create the most comprehensive picture of banding in Ireland – North and South – by pulling together information on the histories of over 200 brass bands, current and defunct, between 1850 and 1970.

Further information is available at www.brassbandsireland.org or by contacting **Professor Alcorn** by email: m.alcorn@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)28 9097 5534.



Combatting cyber attacks

Queen's is to be at the forefront of SAFEcrypto – a major, new European push to combat increasingly sophisticated cyber attacks.

The initiative brings together cryptographers and other IT experts to devise security solutions capable of withstanding attack from the next generation of hackers. It is the first project to be co-ordinated in Northern Ireland using funding from Horizon 2020, the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever developed.

The venture is set to focus on an acute threat from emerging technologies including 'quantum computers' – capable of processing information many times faster than normal silicon-based computers.

Costing £3.8m, SAFEcrypto will concentrate on protecting information passed via satellites, safeguarding the privacy of data collected by municipal authorities and protecting public safety communications systems, such as those used by police, fire and ambulance services.

Project lead Professor Máire O'Neill, from CSIT, the Centre for Secure Information Technologies at Queen's, said: "CSIT was among the first centres in the UK to be recognised as a centre of academic excellence in cyber security research, and it is a natural progression for us to start working on a larger, pan-European stage. Horizon 2020 has given us the opportunity to form a consortium which is a true partnership between industry and academia."



Top 10 place for Queen's accommodation!

Queen's has been ranked in the top 10 of UK universities for student halls accommodation, in the latest National Student Housing Survey, an independent student led survey carried out by Red Brick Research.

Elms Village is a purpose-built, village-style accommodation complex aimed primarily at first year undergraduates. The University currently offers over 2,200 staff and student places; in 2013/14 more than 40 per cent of those living in Queen's student accommodation were non-NI students from over 60 countries.

**OVER
2,200
PLACES**

2013/14

**40% NON-NI
FROM OVER
60 COUNTRIES**

Agri-Food Competence Centre Launched

Trade and Investment Minister Jonathan Bell was on hand in May to announce the establishment of a £6.7m Northern Ireland Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre (AFQCC), to be hosted at Queen's.

Focusing on improving the international competitive position of the Northern Ireland Agri-food sector through innovation and co-operative research, the new Competence Centre will draw upon the research capabilities of Queen's, Ulster University and the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute.

Professor Chris Elliott, Director of the Institute for Global Food Security (IGFS) at Queen's said: "The establishment of this industry-academia research partnership is essential to help local companies keep up with the fierce competition they face on the world's global markets. The IGFS is very proud to host this Centre and will work alongside our industry partners to drive innovation across the Agri-food sector."



Pictured (L-R) – Professor Chris Elliott, Jonathan Bell, Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment, Michael Bell, NI Food and Drink Association and Alastair Hamilton, CEO Invest NI.

Making the announcement at Balmoral Show, Jonathan Bell said: "The Northern Ireland Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre will provide a platform for companies which want to pursue research projects in areas such as packaging, shelf-life, waste minimisation and food security.

"Not only will it support the development of our local food industry to compete strongly in export markets, it will also build on the Agri-food knowledge and skills that already exist in Northern Ireland."

How to cook the safest rice

With arsenic in rice a global health concern, researchers at Queen's have discovered a simple way of removing worrying levels of the highly poisonous metallic element from the staple food cereal.

After numerous laboratory experiments, the University's team found that a simple, shop-bought coffee percolator is the best way of removing the carcinogen, inorganic arsenic, from all types of rice, including white and wholegrain.

Andy Meharg, Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at the Institute for Global Food

Security said: "This is a very significant breakthrough as it offers an immediate solution to decreasing inorganic arsenic in the diet.

"In our research we rethought the method of rice cooking to optimise the removal of inorganic arsenic and discovered that by using percolating technology, where cooking water is continually passed through rice in a constant flow, we could maximise removal of arsenic."



Hospital superbug breakthrough

Researchers at Queen's have developed a cutting-edge medical therapy that could protect UK hospital patients against a lethal superbug.

The new treatment, which uses a molecule called an inhibitor to prevent the superbug **Klebsiella pneumonia** from blocking the body's natural defences, has the potential to save thousands of lives each year. Klebsiella, which has mortality rates of 25-60 per cent, can cause bladder infections and pneumonia and is resistant to all major antibiotics.

The team from Queen's School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, led by Professor José Bengoechea, found that Klebsiella can survive inside white blood cells called 'macrophages', which are meant to protect the human body from infection. The superbug takes over a protein in the blood cell called 'Akt', paralysing the cell and making it the perfect shelter to avoid being killed by antibiotics. By treating the cell with the inhibitor, which stops 'Akt' protein from working, the blood cell is once again capable of killing Klebsiella and the infection can be completely eliminated.

Professor Bengoechea said: "The global problem of antimicrobial resistance is fast becoming one of the major health issues of modern times. Of particular concern is the mounting prevalence of infections caused by Klebsiella pneumonia which has been identified as an urgent threat to human health by the UK government and the World Health Organisation due to extremely drug resistant strains. Our research has helped us gain a better understanding of the vulnerable pathways of human defences, meaning we have been able to develop a potentially ground-breaking new therapy that will block the bug and stop it in its tracks."



Professor José Bengoechea



Kissing with confidence!

Emer Maguire, a 23-year-old Clinical Anatomy Masters student at Queen's, won the first ever FameLab Northern Ireland – the competition to find the new voices of science and engineering – and then went on to take the UK title!

Explaining the science of flirting, Emer was narrowly pipped in the International Finals in June, where she made it to the last nine.



Further University news stories can be found at:

www.daro.qub.ac.uk/latestnews

POINTS OF VIEW

Throughout 2014-15, graduates have been sharing their opinions at discussion groups around the world. From New York to London and from Singapore to Belfast, alumni views have been shared and we are doing our best to ensure that what we do for you is relevant and valuable.

You said

Queen's responds

You have an interest in hearing from Queen's more often.

We will increase the frequency of the **eGraduate** electronic newsletter.

You want to support Queen's but don't just want to be asked to give money.

We will develop more volunteer opportunities and improve the way we promote them.

Country specific information would be appreciated.

We will communicate more frequently with international alumni. We have included a feature on Malaysia (p34) as it is the country with the most Queen's alumni outside the UK and Ireland. Next year we will feature the US.

You would like a list of the benefits available.

The benefits page in this magazine (p47) has been redesigned to be clearer. Full details can also be found on our website: www.daro.qub.ac.uk/alumni-benefits

More activity on social media would be good.

There are many social media sites for alumni to keep in touch with each other and Queen's; go to www.daro.qub.ac.uk/socialnetworks for a full list. Next year we will focus on encouraging interaction and discussion. Volunteers are welcome to help moderate discussions online and remember, this only works if you join in!



@QUBAlumni



Queen's University Belfast Alumni



If you want to add your comments, or would like to take part in an alumni discussion group this year, please contact:

Gerry Power, Communications Officer
Email: g.power@qub.ac.uk or
tel: +44 (0)28 9097 5321 or
visit: www.qub.ac.uk/home/Alumni

PROFILE OF A CHANCELLOR

"To be Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast at this point in time means so much to me because we are on the precipice of great things. We are torn between the past of The Troubles and the future of all possibilities, of creating greatness for Northern Ireland and for Queen's."

Thomas J Moran



DUTIES

The Chancellor of Queen's fulfils three main roles:

Ceremonial

Presiding at degree congregations

Ambassadorial

Helping to 'open doors' for the University as it seeks to fulfil its mission

Advisory

Available to the Vice-Chancellor and senior management as a 'sounding board', providing counsel and guidance



Honorary Graduate and leading Irish-American businessman, Thomas J Moran, was formally inaugurated as the 10th Chancellor of Queen's on Thursday 2 July. Dr Moran succeeded His Excellency Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, in May and will serve as the University's Chancellor for five years.

At the special installation ceremony in a packed Great Hall, the University's President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick Johnston, referred to Dr Moran as "someone who shares our passion for education" who "recognises the transformative effect it has on the world around us."

Tom Moran grew up in Staten Island, one of three children of an Irish-Italian-American mother and an Irish-American father, with roots in Counties Fermanagh, Cavan and Tipperary. At 14, he began his first job as a janitor at his high school and later, while attending college, he drove a cab during the night shift. Now listed as one of the top 100 Irish-American business people in the USA, he has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mutual of America Life Insurance Company since October 1994, the first person to have been appointed President from within the Company.

"Tom is no stereotypical corporate titan," said Professor Johnston. "Instead, he leads a life that is defined by service, generosity and a commitment to helping others. As CEO of

the Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, he has grown the firm to become one of the leading financial services firms in the States with assets in excess of \$18 billion."

Dr Moran is also Chairman of Concern Worldwide (US), an international relief organisation operating in 30 of the poorest countries of the world. He has contributed to several humanitarian and community causes, including acting as one of a group of unofficial peace envoys to Northern Ireland throughout the 1990s. He serves on the boards of the American Cancer Society Foundation, the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Channel Thirteen WNET, and the National Committee on American Foreign Policy.

Accepting the position, Dr Moran said: "It is a great honour to take on the role of Chancellor of this fine institution. Queen's is known around the world as an innovative, dynamic and exceptional University that helps change lives for the better. I hope, during my time as Chancellor, that I can make a positive contribution to the University's continued success and to increase further its global impact on society."

One of Dr Moran's first formal duties was to officiate at five summer Graduation Ceremonies in the Sir William Whitla Hall and to confer honorary degrees on a number of local and national academic and business figures.

This has been one of the most uplifting experiences I've had in a long time.

"The ceremonies were fabulous. For me it was the excitement of the young people, knowing that all possibilities are alive and well in them. We see so much in the news about bad things happening around the world, that it is easy to become depressed. This has been one of the most uplifting experiences I've had in a long time."

Speaking about his hopes for the University, Dr Moran was upbeat: "The Vice-Chancellor has a vision for 2020, in which I totally believe. I think to define this University as an international university – that is as well-known as any of the great institutes around the world – and to be known for its expertise in certain key areas is exciting and challenging, but it will be done."

Dr Moran and his wife Joan, who joined him in Belfast for Graduation Week, reside in New York City.

Curriculum Vitae

- 2015** Installed as Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast
- 2012** Inducted into Irish America Hall of Fame
- 2011** Won Richard J. Caron Award of Excellence for corporate and humanitarian leadership
- 2010** Honorary Doctorate from College of Mount Saint Vincent, New York
- 2008** Won Irish America's Irish American of the Year
- 2006** Awarded Honorary Doctorate of Science (Econ) by Queen's for services to business, commerce and to public service
Appointed to Board of Aer Lingus Group plc
- 2004** Honorary Doctorate from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee
- 2002** Honorary Doctor of Laws from National University of Ireland
Concern Worldwide Humanitarian Award
- 1996** Received Ellis Island Medal of Honor
- 1994** Appointed CEO, Mutual of America
- 1992** Appointed President, Mutual of America
- 1975** Joined Mutual of America as a pension underwriter
- 1974** BSc Mathematics, Manhattan College

CAMPAIGN CATCH-UP

The University's ambitious fundraising campaign continues to attract the support of generous individuals, businesses and philanthropic trusts and foundations. Funding received in the last 12 months will ensure that Queen's continues to provide life-changing opportunities for students in the latest world-class facilities, as well as support innovative research, impacting society both locally and internationally.

Head of Major Gifts Helen Carrick considers how the Campaign is changing the look of the University campus, while Helen Surgenor, Head of Medical Fundraising, reflects on a busy fundraising year.

Shaping the face of the University



Philanthropic support plays a key role in the development of Queen's. It helps us to accelerate world-leading research, attract the best and brightest students, enhance the student experience and achieve academic excellence. In 2014/15 we raised an outstanding £15m which takes us just over 80 per cent of the way towards our £140m target.

In last year's issue of **The Graduate**, details of a substantial capital investment programme,

including the development of new facilities for Law and Computer Science, were outlined. Twelve months on, major changes are evident around the campus.

Fundraising for both the law and computer science projects is now well underway and through the support of alumni, businesses and charitable trusts and foundations, we have raised over £700,000 to date.

Opportunities to name space(s) in new buildings have provided businesses and charitable foundations with a platform to visibly demonstrate their commitment to higher education and the next generation of leaders. We were delighted to receive an exceptional gift of £500,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation towards the new home for Computer Science. This bespoke project will double the size of the existing facility enabling us to deliver innovative teaching and further enhance collaboration with industry. It will also increase our inspirational outreach activities to engage future generations and ensure a sustained supply of highly skilled graduates for the growing ICT sector.

We are also pleased to see the development of collective giving through our law graduates. A number of them have made a decision to bring their philanthropic giving together into a class gift to make a more meaningful and long-term commitment towards the School of Law.

Other gifts have helped to establish scholarships. This includes a scholarship programme set up by London-based Queen's alumnus Patrick Magee. The 'Magee Scholarship' provides an opportunity for a Law student to enhance their academic journey through spending a semester at an international university in third year.

We are also currently developing a scholarship fund which will provide an opportunity for international students, who would otherwise be unable to access a UK education, to undertake the Juris Doctor degree. The 'Juris Doctor' programme was set up by the School of Law in 2013, and is the only one of its kind in the UK and Europe. It delivers a Qualifying Law Degree to graduates from a discipline other than law, providing the necessary professional exemptions to allow holders to apply for the professional stage in England, Wales, North America and elsewhere.

For further information please contact **Helen Carrick**, Head of Major Gifts, on tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3403 or email: h.carrick@qub.ac.uk



Homework Clubs – raising aspirations

Queen's Widening Participation Unit hosted a Homework Clubs Summer School for over 50 children from six schools and community groups over two days in August.

Accompanied by parents, staff and volunteers the young participants enjoyed campus tours, sports and a variety of games during their visit to Queen's, at the end of which each one was presented with a certificate of participation.

Homework Clubs aim to provide a free, safe environment for children to complete their homework with the help of student volunteer tutors. Working in partnership with local organisations, the initiative ensures children and young people from 5-16 years old get access to a range of resources, homework support (both one-on-one and group opportunities) and recreational activities.

The Clubs ultimately help improve study skills, build confidence and raise the aspirations of young people about further and higher education. This year, the University's Homework Clubs have enjoyed backing from Santander Community Plus Fund and from Queen's City Scholars.



Trading Places

In 2012, Queen's Management School, through sponsorship from First Derivatives and Invest NI, established a state-of-the-art Trading Room. The main objective of the facility was to give students a real-life experience of a busy stock exchange with the capacity to deal in equities and bonds, plus foreign exchange and derivative instruments.

Building on the success of the First Derivatives Trading Room, Queen's University Trading and Investment Club (QUTIC) was established to help cultivate and support the needs of the Trading Room. QUTIC is a large and active student society with the aim of educating its members on trading and investing using guest speakers, competitions, educational seminars and a virtual Student Managed Fund. One such speaker was Queen's alumnus Manus Cranny (above), Markets Editor/Anchor at Bloomberg TV.

In 2015, Queen's is seeking to raise £30,000 to create Northern Ireland's first ever student-led real money Student Managed Fund (SMF). Providing students with the opportunity to manage actual money in financial markets will help to bridge the gap between financial theory and everyday applications; enriching the education of our students and enhancing their employability.

QUTIC members and the SMF team also received some valuable insights into the markets at two Brewin Dolphin masterclasses held earlier in the year, a gift in kind from Investment Manager Andrew Burns, a 2002 BSc graduate in Economics. Brewin Dolphin is one of the UK's leading providers of personalised, discretionary wealth management services. Expert analysts shared their views on the oil, pharmaceutical and technology sectors and students also heard about portfolio construction, asset allocation and negative interest rates.

For further information or to make a gift towards the Student Managed Fund, please contact **Helen Carrick**, Head of Major Gifts, on tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3403 or email: h.carrick@qub.ac.uk

Caterpillar – building for the future



In April, four Queen's School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering students received scholarships from Caterpillar worth up to £7,500 each.

Pictured at the Caterpillar Scholars presentation are (l-r) Helen Carrick (Queen's Head of Major Gifts), scholar William Hamilton from Magherafelt, Geoff Cunningham (Director of Education, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering), scholar Andrew Young (Londonderry), Simon Collins (Caterpillar, EAME Future Talent Development Manager), scholar Darryl Doyle (Lurgan) and scholar Stuart Fellows (Ballymoney).

Each recipient gets £2,500 at the end of their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years at Queen's plus they are also in line for an all-important work placement.

Cancer research on course with Darren Clarke Foundation

The 2016 Ryder Cup Captain, Darren Clarke OBE, is supporting three PhD students, holders of The Heather Clarke Scholarships in the University's Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology (CCRCB).

Helping patients in Northern Ireland and beyond

The development of a global Institute of Health Sciences remains a strategic priority for Queen's and is central to the medical fundraising campaign. With the opening of the new Centre for Experimental Medicine building in September this year, more than 1,000 researchers are now working together on one site across a range of diseases. Their focus is on speeding up the process of taking new laboratory discoveries through to the patient's bedside.

Many generous alumni are already supporting research into cancer, lung disease, multiple sclerosis, eye disease and diabetes. Moreover, an increasing number of patients and patient families are choosing to support their doctors' research directly at Queen's.

In 2014/15, the Medical Fundraising team raised more than half a million pounds from individuals for the medical campaign. At one level donors are funding scholars in cancer research and lung disease and at another they are providing much-needed support for medical and biomedical students to undertake eight-week summer placements in one of our research centres. These placements allow students to get insights into working in a research environment and encourage them to consider a career in academic medicine.



In addition, two very generous gifts of £50,000 and £30,000, from people not directly linked to Queen's, are now supporting postgraduate research in prostate cancer in Queen's Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology. At a time when the number of PhD studentships on offer from the Department for Employment and Learning have been greatly reduced, donations such as these are even more important and enable more research to happen, ultimately benefiting patients in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Regular giving to the medical campaign continues to grow and was boosted during the year by a direct mail initiative. The Medical Fund now supplements the work of the Hardship Fund in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences and provides further opportunities for summer research placements.

To find out more, or to support research into one of our major disease areas, contact Helen Surgenor, Head of Medical Fundraising – email: h.barnes@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)28 9097 1568.



Through the Darren Clarke Foundation, the popular Northern Ireland golfer has been a major supporter of cancer research, donating to a number of local and national cancer charities.

Two of the students – Jekaterina Vohhodina (left) and Amy Templeman (centre) – will complete their PhDs in 2016 and the third, Rebecca Steele (right), the following year. All are focused on breast cancer research.



A TESTING TIME FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The future for higher education in Northern Ireland has never looked more uncertain. By comparison to universities in other parts of the UK there is significant annual underfunding in the sector here. Hundreds of student places and staff jobs have already been axed at Queen's and Ulster University. With Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) Minister Dr Stephen Farry preparing to launch a 'big conversation' about higher education finances, Queen's Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Tony Gallagher considers the impact of the current education cuts.

Queen's has played a key role in our city and region for almost 170 years and increasingly we are making an impression globally.

This is evident from the impact of our research, whether this focuses on the safety of the food we eat or the way our cutting-edge medical

research is translated from the laboratory bench to the treatment of patients or through our contribution to the arts, perhaps most notably in our proud tradition of poetry.

Our alumni can be found in every corner of the world and our global footprint is even more

evident following the establishment of the China Queen's College in Shenyang and our partnership with Dubai Healthcare City.

The impact of Queen's is evident in Northern Ireland as well. We ourselves are a major employer and economic contributor. Our graduates play leadership roles in almost every sphere of life here and the quality of our graduates is regularly cited as the main attractor for foreign direct investment and jobs to Northern Ireland. Adding together the University's annual output of £289m, the knock on effects of this in other industries, and the output of its students' off-campus spending, Queen's had a combined impact of £988m in 2012/13.

The central role of higher education to the economy in Northern Ireland should come as no surprise. Our greatest natural asset is our people, so our key priority for economic development should be the knowledge economy and the skills of our population. The scale of this challenge was recognised a few years ago with the establishment of the Knowledge Economy Index (KEI) which set out, in 2012, to identify the key public policy interventions and business community actions that must happen to address the biggest roadblocks holding back Northern Ireland's transformation.

The most recent annual KEI report suggests we have much still to do, but we are making progress. The knowledge economy in Northern Ireland is now growing at the second fastest rate of any region in the UK.

But all this is being put at risk. In the budget settlement for 2015-16 the Northern Ireland Executive cut the Higher Education budget by over £8m and further in-year cuts are likely as the Executive grapples with the crisis over welfare. This blow has come on top of serious cuts in funding available to teach students since 2011. So in four years, Queen's student funding in Northern Ireland has decreased by just under £12m (11.5 per cent) compared to only a 1.1 per cent reduction in Scotland and a 6.7 per cent increase in England. Or put another way, Northern Ireland universities are underfunded by approximately £1,000-£2,000 per student in comparison to their English and Scottish counterparts, amounting to £39m annually.

**NORTHERN
IRELAND**

11.6%

**BUDGET CUTS
IN HIGHER
EDUCATION**

OVER THE SAME PERIOD

ENGLAND

6.7%

**BUDGET
INCREASE
IN HIGHER
EDUCATION**



As DEL Minister Dr Stephen Farry says, Northern Ireland's university funding model is 'unsustainable'.

The effects of the cuts are direct, immediate and serious. The immediate consequence is that we will recruit 290 fewer local and EU students this September and we are seeking to reduce our staffing complement by 236 posts. Over the next four years our local undergraduate population will shrink by over a thousand students. The cruel irony, of course, is that many of these young people will still go to university, but will leave for England or Scotland, where they will pay considerably higher tuition fees!

In other words, while the key priorities for promoting the knowledge economy are to invest in our people and their skills, Northern Ireland is the only region of the UK actively disinvesting in Higher Education.

We have a response: the Vision 2020 goals for Queen's are to expand our postgraduate and international student numbers, and to double our external research grant income. This will work for Queen's and help the Northern Ireland economy.

But it is hard to get past the fact that, this year, about 550 talented young people from Northern Ireland who, in normal circumstances might reasonably have expected to start a degree programme in Queen's or Ulster University this year, will now have to leave Northern Ireland, most never to return. And it will be the same next year, and the year after that, and the year after that. What is to be done? We have argued consistently

for a sustainable funding model for Higher Education, with an appropriate balance of public and private investment. This is essential if Northern Ireland is to grow a competitive knowledge economy.

Other parts of the UK have made their choice: England opted for high levels of private investment through higher tuition fees, whereas Scotland and Wales went for high levels of public investment through government funds to universities. The Northern Ireland Executive has opted for a middle course, with relatively low fees and low public investment. This may be popular in the short term, but it will be economically damaging in the medium to long term.

To ensure the widest possible level of access to high quality higher education for our young people, while also ensuring that our universities are enabled to make their maximum contribution to economic growth and the wider social good, we need a more sustainable funding model. Like many challenging or controversial issues in Northern Ireland, this has become an intensely politicised issue.

DEL Minister Dr Stephen Farry launched the 'big conversation' on Higher Education funding this autumn and we all hope this will lead to an informed and considered debate on the issues. Our 170 years of service and heritage are just the start – there is so much more we can do, for many, many years to come.

Professor Tony Gallagher is Queen's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Public Engagement



For further information visit
www.daro.qub.ac.uk/QUBImpact
to download the report created by
Universities UK on the economic impact
of Queen's University Belfast on the
Northern Ireland economy



CONVOCATION LECTURE

Thursday, 19 November 2015 at 7pm in the
Canada Room / Council Chamber

Speaker: John Larkin, QC
Attorney General for
Northern Ireland

Notice of Annual Meeting of Convocation

**The business of the Annual
Meeting of Convocation will
follow the Convocation Lecture.**

At this meeting a Deputy Chair
and four Ordinary Members of the
Standing Committee will be elected.

The Agenda for the Annual Meeting and
the forms to submit a motion to the Annual
Meeting are available online at:
www.daro.qub.ac.uk/convocation
and from the Clerk of Convocation.

All graduates of Queen's University Belfast
are welcome to attend.

Please contact the Clerk of Convocation to
indicate your intention to attend.

Meaghan Lyons
Clerk of Convocation
c/o Development and Alumni Relations Office
Queen's University Belfast
University Road
BT7 1NN

Email: convocation@qub.ac.uk

QUEEN'S ANNUAL FUND

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

The Queen's Annual Fund supports a wide range of projects that benefit current students, the University campus and the wider community. Since the Fund's launch in 1999, gifts from generous graduates have helped build distinctive student programmes and innovative research schemes all of which have a positive impact on University life.

Among the 39 initiatives funded this year was a project acknowledging student excellence, another supporting a week of 'live' architecture and a third to send a ladies team to the Gaelic Games in China. But as Natasha Sharma, Annual Fund Manager, points out, the most innovative undertaking backed by the Annual Fund is an attempt to use a range of engineering skills to build the world's longest bridge – out of Meccano.

The Big Bridge Build



Lead Student on the project Claire Hughes

Queen's students have created a new Guinness World Record for the world's longest Meccano footbridge. The team used 11,000 pieces of Meccano in the construction, which weighs 600kg and has an overall length of 32.2m.

Academics and students from the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering created the bridge, with the help of

local school children, as part of the University's outreach programme to encourage young people to think about careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

The project received funding from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, AECOM, Meccano and Queen's Annual Fund with technical support and advice from McLaughlin and Harvey. Smyths Toys and Belfast Harbour also supported the event.

The bridge attracted thousands of visitors to Belfast's Clarendon Dock in September to witness the world record.

Asian Gaelic Games

The 20th annual FEXCO Asian Gaelic Games will be held in Shanghai, China from October 24-25, when 23 clubs from 13 countries across Asia will take part in senior, intermediate and junior divisions in ladies' and men's football, hurling, and camogie.

Since May, Queen's Sport has been running a project giving female international students an opportunity to play Gaelic Football at recreational and competitive levels and, ultimately, the chance to represent the University in Shanghai. Queen's is only the second university from



Ireland to compete at the Asian Games and the first from the UK. Keep up with the progress of the Queen's team on Twitter #FEXCO2015AGG.

Celebrating Excellence

Over 160 nominations were received from students and staff across the University for the 2015 Students' Union Education Awards.

Among those present in the Great Hall for the announcement of the 12 category winners were Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning, Professor David Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students, and Rebecca Hall, NUS-USI President, who was the Keynote Speaker at the event.

The Awards, supported by the Queen's Annual Fund, celebrate academic excellence, acknowledging staff, students and Schools for their contribution to the quality of education and the student experience at the University.

Among the categories acknowledged were Faculty course representatives, peer mentoring and enterprise champion.



If you would like further information on the Queen's Annual Fund, please get in touch with:
Michéal O Fearraigh
on tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3351 or
email: m.ofearraigh@qub.ac.uk

Find out more about the projects supported at
www.daro.qub.ac.uk/annualfund

Architecture 'live'

Street Society 2015, a week of 'live' architecture projects involving 58 first year undergraduate and 26 Masters-level Architecture students at Queen's, took place in March.

Initiated in 2010, Street Society is a unique 'design research' learning experience for students and a great opportunity for clients to develop a piece of work in a very short space of time.

Students spent a week working with 11 'real' clients (not-for-profits, charitable and community groups) requiring spatial advice, guidance and expertise. For the first time all the projects were located in the same place – the lower section of the Newtownards Road in Belfast. The area had been designated Urban Village status under the Together: Building a United Community strategy.

Working in teams of 8-10, each Street Society 'office' had to respond creatively to briefs set by community groups, social enterprises, special interest groups, cultural and arts organisations, building preservation trusts and others.



Photo by Awashyak Shrestha

KTP

OUR SPECIALIST SUBJECT

Since 1975, Queen's has helped more than 350 companies achieve their goals through strategic university-business collaborations.

Known as KTP – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships – these alliances open up fresh markets, develop new products and improve productivity, profitability and customer responsiveness.

As those behind the initiative in Northern Ireland celebrate 40 years of KTP, Lorraine Marks, the University's KTP Manager, tells **The Graduate** why the programme has been such a runaway success.

"Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a UK-wide programme enabling businesses to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance. It is a collaboration between academic institutions, the business world and graduates. Government funded, KTPs enable firms to work with university staff to transfer knowledge, skills and expertise into their organisation," said Lorraine. "And Queen's is number one in the UK in terms of KTP participation."

Two-thirds of the Partnerships are with local SMEs and on average firms partnering with Queen's can expect to increase gross annual profits by £270k after completion of a KTP.

"The impact on the Northern Ireland economy has been enormous," said Lorraine. "Quite simply, KTPs help firms take their business to the next level and enhance their profitability, while at the same time creating important graduate jobs.

"It's a win-win for everyone and demonstrates how Queen's impacts on society and directly feeds into our local economy."

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a UK-wide programme enabling businesses to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance. It is a collaboration between academic institutions, the business world and graduates.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships give companies access to the latest knowledge and expertise available within an academic institution. That knowledge is then transferred from the University and embedded within the business by a recently qualified graduate who works in the host company, usually for a period of two years. And with government paying up to two-thirds of the costs, KTPs are often an effective way for businesses to support important internal projects and to attract and develop talented graduates.

A dedicated KTP team at Queen's provides advice and support throughout the project lifecycle – from initial contact and application to graduate recruitment and management of all administration and finance-related aspects of the relationship.



KTP Case Study

01

McFarland Associates Ltd

McFarland Associates Ltd in Belfast specialises in the inspection, testing and remediation of damaged concrete structures, as well as monitoring and maintaining structural assets through their life cycle. Paul Callender is a KTP Associate with McFarlands.

Queen's has a long-standing reputation for successful university-business collaboration. Currently ranked No 1 in the UK, the KTP team led by Dr Mary Flynn, who earlier in the year was appointed an MBE for services to education and business, has received 10 national awards for their work in this area.

For the company, the benefits are new knowledge or capability, increased profits, staff training and, in the very best projects, culture change. For Queen's, academic staff also benefit. They can apply their latest research to business problems and work in partnership with industry to find workable solutions. As for the KTP Associate (around 400 graduates have been placed in over 350 companies by

Queen's, with a significant number of these being from the University) they see significant benefit through training and development and first-hand experience – and 60 per cent of them get a permanent post in the host company at the end of the scheme!

Given that the initiative is operated by numerous universities throughout the UK, what makes Queen's the most successful participating institution? Lorraine Marks explains. "It's widely recognised throughout the KTP fraternity that our model for managing projects is one of best practice.

"We look after all aspects of every KTP including introducing partners, assisting

with funding applications, managing the recruitment process and financial administration, handling meetings, running events, drafting final reports and writing up case studies. Our office is a one-stop-shop for KTP!"

To celebrate 40 years of KTP in Northern Ireland, Queen's, in conjunction with Ulster University, hosted a night of celebration on 1 October in the Sir William Whitla Hall. The KTP@40 event highlighted and celebrated the achievements of the scheme, bringing together past and present partner companies, academics and KTP Associates.



If you are interested in learning more about KTP, please contact

Lorraine Marks, KTP Manager,
Queen's University Belfast, at
email: l.marks@qub.ac.uk or
tel: +44 (0)28 9097 2568
or visit www.qub.ac.uk/ktp



Dr Mary Flynn, MBE

Dr Mary Flynn, Head of KTP and Business Networks at Queen's received an MBE for her services to Higher Education in Northern Ireland earlier this year.

"I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed an MBE as I see it as an endorsement of the great work the KTP & Business Networks team I lead at Queen's does in facilitating the engagement of local companies with our researchers," said Dr Flynn.

"Through the successful delivery of the KTP initiative at Queen's the impact on our local NI economy has been enormous, enhancing the profitability of businesses as well as creating graduate jobs. I am both very humbled and proud to receive this," she added.



KTP Case Study

02

Lowden Guitars

George Lowden Guitars is an internationally renowned, family-run business in Downpatrick, Co Down, that has been producing high-end, handcrafted acoustic instruments since the 1970s. With an average three-year waiting list, the bespoke brand counts top musicians such as Eric Clapton, Gary Lightbody and Alex de Grassi among its repeat customers. Mechanical Engineering graduate William Imrie is the KTP Associate with the company.

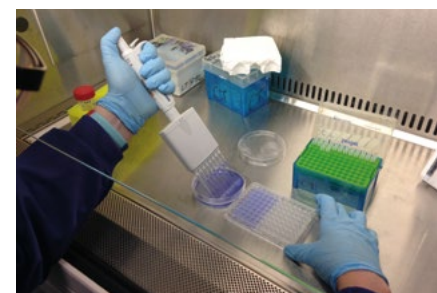


KTP Case Study

03

Moy Park Ltd

Moy Park Ltd in Craigavon, Co Armagh, is one of Northern Ireland's largest and best-known companies, supplying a wide variety of chicken products to retailers throughout Great Britain, Ireland and Europe. Graduate Roberta Bajo is currently employed as a KTP Associate, working with Moy Park Ltd and the Institute of Global Food Security at Queen's.



KTP Case Study

04

Randex Laboratories Ltd

Randex Laboratories Ltd in Crumlin, Co Antrim, is a global market leader within the in vitro diagnostics industry. Currently on its third KTP, the company is developing a test for the detection of bacterial infection in cases of Chronic Infective Lung Disease. Matthew Twigg is the current KTP Associate with the company.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

WHERE FUTURES ARE MADE

The development of an ambitious postgraduate culture at Queen's, with sizeable increases in student numbers, is integral to the University's Vision 2020. Located in the former Lynn Library, the Graduate School opened in April and is among the first major milestones in the implementation of this Vision. As Professor Margaret Topping, Dean of the new facility, explains, the refurbishment of the two-storey, grade B listed building, has created a beautiful home for the School in a key historical location on the main campus.

"The concept of a vibrant Graduate School at Queen's is one of the University's most ambitious plans. The new School will provide the infrastructure, intellectual support and unity of purpose – not to mention a whole new programme of challenging, boundary-testing activities – to execute a graduate-centred postgraduate vision that will enhance the experience of our students," said Professor Topping.

An American concept, the Graduate School model came to the UK in the 1990s in response to increased administrative demands from a growing postgraduate population. Now, the intellectual possibilities of The Graduate School environment are being recognised with Queen's adopting one of the bolder and more innovative approaches in the Russell Group, by creating a School that operates across, rather than within, Faculties.

"The School will support Faculties in increasing the quantity and the quality of the national and international graduate intake. Set in a unique location, it will provide a range of services aimed at enhancing the 'student experience' and helping to create tomorrow's leaders."

The Graduate School will bring together – under one very impressive vaulted roof – students of diverse disciplines, with collaboration and transdisciplinary thinking at its core. So a chemist can talk to a linguist, a lawyer can approach a global research challenge alongside an engineer. Through unexpected conversations, interesting and innovative outcomes may lead to new collaborations, as Professor Topping explains.

"It's really about creating an intellectual hub, a place where students across disciplines can get together to think in disruptive and divergent ways. And it's about preparing

individuals to be challenging thinkers who can then operate in any environment."

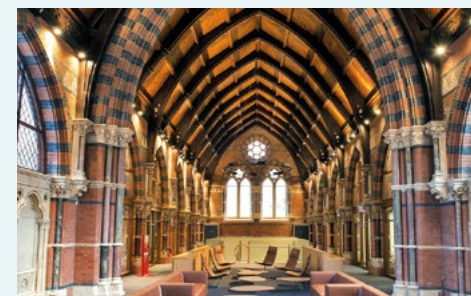
While the ground floor houses support space, training facilities and meeting rooms, it is the building's breathtaking first floor – featuring a central, open-plan, double height space with masonry gothic arches and aisles to each side – which provides the wow factor.

"This is a truly impressive space within which to study, relax and socialise," said Professor Topping. "And we have a team of dedicated staff on hand, who can provide advice, whether it's on health and wellbeing, on securing a postgrad award, identifying training needs, or applying for funding."

As well as fostering interdisciplinarity, The Graduate School will provide training, learning workshops and events. By offering activities that range from writing retreats, to guest lectures and from intensive week-long courses and added-value one-off classes to interdisciplinary research networking opportunities, it will take students out of their usual study environments and throw them together into an intellectual melting pot.

The School will also offer a focal point for the families of graduate students – and in particular of international postgraduates – with networks and activities reflecting the cultural diversity of the additional 3,000 students Queen's is hoping to attract by 2020.

"The Graduate School will create a community built on excellence, intellectual challenge and inclusiveness and will transform lives and inspire futures. We are seeking to nurture the next generation of leaders, thinkers who can work beyond conventional boundaries, and who can, as such, influence their chosen fields in new ways" said Professor Topping.



Already the School is making its mark. Supervisory Excellence Awards have been introduced, recognising the role of, and engaging with supervisors as well as their PhD charges. Bespoke leadership courses for postgraduate students have all been massively oversubscribed. And a number of research 'sandpits' – intensive brainstorming sessions where diverse teams are challenged to come up with collaborative solutions to real-life scenarios – have proved hugely popular.

A 'Big Thinkers' series of lectures and a Postgraduate Diploma in Future Leadership are among other new ideas currently being worked on by Professor Topping and her team, all of which are geared at delivering a differentiated Queen's postgraduate experience.

And alumni can play a key role in the School's development. Professor Topping is keen to hear from graduates – particularly those who have studied at postgraduate level – who would be willing to come back to talk to students or to volunteer as mentors.

"The Graduate School will attract the best students with high quality, flagship programmes to give Queen's postgraduates the edge in a globally competitive market. If the University's Vision is about responding to the needs of society, then we've got to come together in these multidisciplinary teams to address real challenges.

"Queen's has taken the first step by making a massive investment in what is an exceptional space, but space alone doesn't make the School. It's such a bold statement on

the University's part and a huge commitment to shifting the culture of the institution. Together it's what will really differentiate Queen's."

Without doubt, the impressive Lynn Building is a stimulating environment in which to study and meet fellow students. The beautiful surroundings will provide a conducive atmosphere for developing transferable skills and furthering individual study. The challenges awaiting Professor Topping and her colleagues of changing the face of postgraduate study at Queen's forever may be daunting, but the prospects for success are as exciting as they are immeasurable.



Margaret Topping

Oxford graduate (1994, 1995 and 1998)

Lecturer in French at University of Wales, Bangor (1998-2002)

Joined Queen's (2011) from Cardiff University as Professor of French Literary and Visual Cultures; Dean of Graduate School, 2015

Research interests – travel and cultural tourism, migration, mobility, and ethics of cross-cultural representation and display

Executive Board member of Irish Humanities Alliance, the Society for French Studies, and the Association of University Professors and Heads of French

VOLUNTEERING

OPENING UP A NEW WORLD

Graduates of Queen's know first-hand the transformative nature of a first-class education. Long after crossing the stage at the Sir William Whitla Hall, there are still many ways for alumni to get – and stay – connected to the University, and to make a real impact on the lives of current students.

Volunteering not only makes a real difference it can also open up a new world for all those involved.

Whether you are a Queen's alumnus living in Northern Ireland or further afield there is a wide range of volunteer openings for graduates to support the University. Becoming an alumni volunteer is rewarding on many levels, and can be an excellent way to re-engage with Queen's, catch-up with old friends and network with fellow graduates – professionally and socially!

Our volunteers help us run successful engagement activities such as class reunions,

career networking sessions and association social events. Many also provide invaluable career support as mentors to final year students often sharing their experiences in more informal settings.

"I found speaking with graduates at the alumni event to be quite an eye-opening experience. It was interesting to hear from someone currently going through the process of vetting applicants for a position, and what she was looking for. It was also quite encouraging to see just how far a degree in Biology could take you, and what sort of career-building opportunities assisted her."

Matthew Herdman
(Level 2 Microbiology with
Professional Studies)

Some of the many possibilities to make a big impression through volunteering at Queen's are outlined below, from mentoring a student, to offering a venue for an event, and from speaking at a careers forum to organising a class reunion.

SPEAK AT AN EVENT

Speakers are required for events both on campus and wherever we have alumni chapters. Share your experiences of work, life and university with fellow alumni or students. For more information contact volunteer.now@qub.ac.uk

TALK TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Who better than a graduate to tell someone thinking of coming to Queen's all about life in Belfast! The University's recruitment team needs your presence at fairs around the world to help inform prospective students about living and studying in Northern Ireland. For more information contact volunteer.now@qub.ac.uk

MENTOR A STUDENT

You can offer help and advice to a student considering working in your profession. Our mentors provide email or telephone support on a number of occasions through the period of the Mentorship Programme. For more information contact volunteer.now@qub.ac.uk



The Graduate School welcomes casual 'drop in' inquiries (Mon-Fri, 9am-10pm); alternatively email: graduateschool@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)28 9097 2585.

For more on mentoring Graduate School students email: volunteer.now@qub.ac.uk

LONDON BUSINESSMAN IS ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



The 2015 Alumni Volunteer of the Year is John Murtagh, a member of the Queen's University Association, London.

Head of Operations at FQS Capital Partners LLP, John was presented with his award by Ian Moore, Head of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at a glittering ceremony in June. The occasion was attended by over 250 people there to celebrate the positive impact of volunteering by Queen's students, staff, Schools and alumni on the local community and the wider world.

John was recognised for his contribution to the Alumni Career Mentoring Programme.

BIOSCIENCE GOES ON TOUR

The School of Biological Sciences, in partnership with Queen's Careers, Employability and Skills service, organised a pilot 'Bioscience Workplace study tour' in June to the Golden Triangle area of England.

Over three days 14 undergraduates from the School, who had competed to secure a place on the programme, visited a range of biotechnology and pharmaceutical employers in the Cambridge and Oxford areas – the so-called Golden Triangle – home to many of the UK's leading science employers.

Companies involved in the initiative included global leaders GSK and Pfizer as well as a number of cutting-edge biotech firms such as PsiOxus Therapeutics and Immunocore. In addition, a skills-based session was delivered to the students by SRG, the UK's leading scientific recruitment agency.

The aim of the project was to provide a quality careers educational experience to students in the School of Biological Sciences who have an expressed interest in working in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. These sectors in Northern Ireland are small and one of the key aims of the tour was to expose students to a range of GB-based

"It was great to be able to give advice and reassurance based on my experiences of moving away from home to work. I think it was good for the students to see that an education from Northern Ireland – and a degree from a Russell Group university – really does set you up for a successful career in England and the opportunities over here are huge."

Ruth Miller, LLB 2007,
Associate at Nabarro LLP



Pictured (L-R) – Kerry McIlwane, Mark Gallagher (School of Biological Sciences), Siobhan McNally, Ruth Muckian (Law graduate), Hannah Rooney, Amy Rooney, Francesca Ross

companies working in these areas and to develop links with employers outside of Northern Ireland.

With increasing student demand there is a requirement to establish opportunities for Queen's students outside Northern Ireland and to raise expectations and ambitions to work in this sector. This successful three-day pilot was a step towards doing that.

An alumni evening which rounded off the second day, was hosted at the Cambridge Gonville Hotel. It was a wonderful occasion with a number of Queen's alumni in attendance who were very happy to share their experiences of living and working in the area.

Given the success of the 2015 pilot, it is expected that the Bioscience Workplace study tour will become an annual event.



For graduates interested in establishing a link with Queen's School of Biological Sciences Work Placement programme, please contact

Mark Gallagher,
email: m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk or
tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3957

PROVIDE A STUDENT INTERNSHIP

To find out more about hosting a City Scholar intern in London, Dublin, Liverpool, Edinburgh or New York contact alumni@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3114.

SUBMIT A PROFILE

Inspire the next generation of Queen's graduates by emailing your career profile for use on our website to alumni@qub.ac.uk

OFFER A VENUE/HOST AN EVENT

We are always on the lookout for interesting venues that alumni might enjoy visiting, so if you are able to offer somewhere (in Belfast or around the world) please let us know at alumni@qub.ac.uk

WRITE FOR THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

If you have a story to tell, let us know and we'll tell the world! Gerry Power, editor of **The Graduate**, would love to hear from you (editor@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)28 9097 5321).

Alumni
volunteering up
33%
at Queen's
2014-15

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Would you like to host an international Queen's student for a day, a weekend or perhaps at Christmas? HOST UK is a voluntary (not-for-profit) organisation which arranges wonderful occasions for international students to meet and stay with families in their own homes in Northern Ireland. For more information contact alumni@qub.ac.uk

ORGANISE A REUNION

The Development Office supports volunteers thinking of organising class reunions by providing mailing lists and guidance on venues. Contact alumni@qub.ac.uk for more information or visit www.daro.qub.ac.uk/reunion

Volunteering at Queen's can be rewarding and a lot of fun for all involved. However you choose to get involved, giving something back to your alma mater will make a huge difference, not just for the current generation of students but for those who have long since left the University as well.

GO ON, WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY!

For further information on Queen's Volunteering programme, email: volunteer.now@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3135.



TOP OF THE CLASS!

Laura Graham is the 2015 First Trust Bank Student of the Year. From Portglenone, just outside Ballymena in Co Antrim, the 2014 Masters graduate and current Dentistry undergraduate expects to complete her studies and graduate from Queen's for a second time next year.

With a keen interest in both science research and application, Laura grabbed the chance to pause her undergraduate studies in Dentistry in 2013 to pursue a Masters degree in Research in Translational Medicine. The one-year programme provided her with the opportunity to move from a clinic setting into a lab. Her research, carried out at the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology (CCRCB), was focused on the role of p63 and BRCA1 in Oropharyngeal Cancer.

Laura was chosen to represent the Irish division at the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts in May 2015, where she went on to win the Junior Researcher Hatton Award, the most prestigious student research prize in dentistry globally.

"It was a fantastic experience," said Laura. "As Ireland's representative, I was up against 16 other candidates who were also there to represent their countries. Hopefully this award will help open some doors for me in the world of dentistry as it is recognized worldwide."

Laura's research has shown significant insight into the links between this gene and patient survival rates within cancer sufferers and her work has prompted further research in the area. And she is thankful for the financial support she received from generous donors in order to complete her degree.

"I won a scholarship worth £6,500 through the School of Medicine for my Masters programme," said Laura.

"Ten are available every year for students who want to do intercalated degrees in dentistry and medicine. Even with this scholarship though, which was great, I did have to go through most of my savings to pay for my Masters and for the remainder of my undergraduate degree."

Despite spending up to 10 hours a day in the lab, Laura found time during her Masters programme to volunteer as a fundraiser for St Vincent de Paul.

She organised activities to encourage donations, clothing and food drives for the Christmas season, and organized a cleaning support team to work at the Welcome Centre,

a shelter for Belfast's ever-growing homeless and vulnerable community. "We cleaned toilets and did our best to help the full time staff however we could," she recalls.

What about Laura's most treasured memories from her time at Queen's? "I really enjoyed performing in the Chamber Choir concerts as a soprano. My time on Student Council helped me develop my assertiveness and get a better understanding of how politics works at the various levels of government," she said. "The Irish Dental Student's Association formals were also good fun!"

Laura's studies at Queen's will wrap up in spring 2016 and, although she says she is ready to take the next step, she will always look back fondly on her time here. Though Laura had received offers to study at the universities of Dundee and Glasgow when starting her undergraduate degree, her decision to come to Queen's was made easily.

"I picked Queen's due to the excellent reputation of the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences. Queen's has one of the top dentistry schools in the UK and I was able to stay closer to home by studying here. It didn't make economic sense to go further away for an education when I could get a high quality one here."

Pictured (L-R) – Edel McCooe (First Trust Bank), Norma Sinte (Queen's Director of Development and Alumni Relations), Laura Graham and Mark McKeown (First Trust Bank)



Student of the Year



Name

Laura Graham

From

Portglenone, Ballymena, Co. Antrim

Education

St Mary's Primary School Portglenone; St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena; Queen's University Belfast – Masters of Research in Translational Medicine; Trinity Guildhall Grade 8 violin, Grade 7 singing, Grade 5 piano.

Achievements

Winner of the 2015 Junior Researcher Hatton Award at the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts – the most prestigious student research prize in dentistry globally.



The Student of the Year Award

is organised by the Queen's Graduates' Association and the Development and Alumni Relations Office, with support from First Trust Bank. To submit a nomination for the 2016 award, please contact:

Alumni Officer
email: alumni@qub.ac.uk

LOOK EAST

FOCUS ON MALAYSIA



My time at Queen's



Datuk Lim Si Boon

BEng Manufacturing Engineering 1989, Director, Bonanza Venture Holdings

There were many fond memories of Queen's...my personal tutor was Professor Bahrani; he was a great character and was always approachable and an inspiration to me. What I always remember was Prof – who was about 65 – jumping at least two steps as he came down stairs!

Memories of the Ashby include meeting Jeyabalan Seenivasen from Mauritius – we became good friends and did our final year project together. We spent many hours in the workshop and the darkroom developing photos and won the Institute of Production Engineers Best Project.

The best memories were the friendships I made. I had friends from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Ireland...sharing cultures in Queen's Elms. I remember once I was frying preserved and salted fish when an Irish friend came running out and said, 'who is drying their dirty socks in the common room?' We laughed when he learnt it was food. Anyway he insisted on trying it and did turn a little green!

Malaysia is ranked among the top non-EU countries sending students to the UK. At any time, over 14,000 Malaysians are studying a range of degrees at a wide cross-section of British universities.

Far from a recent trend Malaysian students have been coming to Queen's since the 1950s, bringing with them a wealth of culture, knowledge and experiences. Ian Moore, the University's Head of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, reflects on the links between Queen's and Malaysia and on what makes Northern Ireland a study destination for so many.

With an estimated half a million UK alumni, Malaysia is central to the strong educational and trade links between this part of the world and South East Asia. And with nearly 2,000 Queen's graduates living there, it is also home to an active network of alumni, many of whom have held positions of political influence and business leadership over the last five decades.

Distinguished graduates include the current leading political figure, YBM Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (1); the former (late) government minister YB Dato' Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik (2); Professor Tan Sri Datuk Dr Annuar Ali; Vice-Chancellor and President of Open University Malaysia (3), eminent lawyer Dato' Dominic Puthucheary (4); and former United Nations Assistant Secretary General Datuk Rafiah Salim (5).



"My time..." memories of alumni help to explain why, despite its remoteness on the western edge of Europe, Northern Ireland still remains an important study destination for many young Malaysians and a key recruitment territory for the University. The quality of the education on offer, the unique student experience and links with Malaysia are all key factors in the special ongoing west-east relationship.

Daniel Tackage is Queen's Regional Manager for South East Asia, and is based in Malaysia. He regularly attends recruitment exhibitions in Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Melaka on behalf of the University and says that recruitment from the region remains strong.

My time at Queen's



Lee Hui Seng

BSc Civil Engineering 1988
Director at Reinforced Earth Malaysia
Vice President, QUAAM

When I graduated a pint of beer was only 70p in the Students' Union! The top floor had a record shop where you could buy 6-inch singles or 12-inch albums of the latest chart songs.

Queen's boasted one of the best sports facilities – the PEC. Malaysian students would gather on Saturdays to play volleyball and badminton.

The Whitla Hall was, and still is, the location for summer graduations. It was the one event I would never miss – seeing friends dressed in full robes, and taking photos among the fully blossomed flowers in the quad.

Queen's Elms Halls of Residence was a happy place. We congregated during meal times and socialised in the kitchens on our respective floors. During holidays, we would move our belongings to a block that housed students who weren't going home.

We also met at the Malaysian Students' Centre, 22 Adelaide Street, where a TV donated by eminent 1950s graduate YAM Tengku Razaleigh, still stood the test of time.

"Queen's has recruited from a wide range of subject areas this year including Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law, Engineering, English-Creative Writing and business from across several Malaysian cities.

"Malaysia continues to be our most important market in South East Asia; currently there are over 200 Malaysian students studying at Queen's. We have also continued to grow our institutional links with the region and will be welcoming our first Law cohort from Brickfields Asia College this autumn."

My time at Queen's



Dr YN Chow

BAgr 1985, MSc 1987,
PhD 1990
CEO, Han Chiang College

Until I met Clarence Ko (Civil Engineering, 1984) in Dublin in late September 1982, I had never heard of Queen's! He persuaded me to follow him to Belfast to try my luck there. I have no regrets and am greatly indebted to Clarence's kind gesture.

I stayed as a student for longer than most and ended up being one of the few individuals who have earned three degrees from Queen's. I graduated with a Bachelor of Agriculture (1985), followed by an MSc in Biotechnology (1987) and finally a PhD in plant tissue culture (1990).

Life as an undergraduate in agriculture was tough as I had never been near a cow or a sheep until I came to Queen's. Having to be on field trips almost every week visiting different farms gave me a better insight into life in rural Northern Ireland.

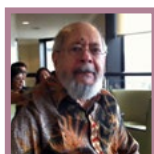
In 1984, I was elected President of the Malaysian Students' Society of Northern Ireland (MSSNI). Organising the annual Merdeka Ball for MSSNI, however, nearly took a toll on my studies!

Brickfields is just one of a number of important institutional links which Queen's has with Malaysia. Others include a joint research Centre for Public Health in International Medical University (IMU), and connections with Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), the Institute of Technology Petronas, the University of Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Taylor's University College.

And we are building on our successful collaboration in green chemistry with the petrochemical giant Petronas, co-founded by YAM Tengku Razaleigh. The technology developed at QUILL, the University's world famous ionic liquids laboratory, led to our scientists receiving the Royal Society of Chemistry Teamwork in Innovation Award in 2014 for what was previously named the most important British innovation of the 21st century by the British Library.

A number of Queen's networks exist for Malaysian students while they are in Belfast and for alumni once they return to Malaysia. The Malaysian Students' Society of Northern Ireland (MSSNI) reflects the cultural diversity of Malaysia, celebrating festivals such as Chinese New Year, Diwali and Hari Raya Adilfitri, the biggest holiday in Asia. Back home, the Queen's University Alumni Association of Malaysia (QUAAM) organises regular events for graduates and assists the University with visits and recruitment initiatives. In 2009, QUAAM also funded a study space in the award-winning McClay Library which is fittingly decorated with Malaysian artwork and wall-hangings.

My time at Queen's



Datuk Ramesh Chander

BSc (Econ) 1958
Former Chief Statistician
Government of Malaya

Queen's and Belfast remain in my thoughts. The passage of years has not dimmed fond memories.

I was 19 when I stepped ashore from the Liverpool ferry in Belfast docks on a cold and grey October morning in 1954, after a 3 week long journey from the other end of the Empire. Malaya was home.

We from the tropics found the harsh winters trying. Thus, the Union was a haven of warmth. For sure, the Library was warm and inviting! So too were the city's cinemas where for 2 shillings one could keep warm and see two films in an afternoon!

Malaysian students have been coming to Queen's since the 1950s, bringing with them a wealth of culture, knowledge and experiences

As the country which is home to the largest number of Queen's graduates outside the British Isles, and with a tradition of sending its brightest and best students in this direction down through several generations, it is clear to see why Malaysia remains so important, not just to Queen's University Belfast but to Northern Ireland.

Those wishing to assist the University with student recruitment or to attend any of the pre-departure sessions in Malaysia should contact Daniel Tackage (d.tackage@qub.ac.uk).

Life at Queen's was rich as there were many clubs and societies that catered to all interests. I partook fully in student life and became the first ever overseas' student to be elected to the Executive of the Student Representative Council. This was a rich experience for me.

The Malayan Student Society of Northern Ireland's Annual Dinner and Dance gained a high reputation as guests included prominent figures in Belfast society.

After attaining the high position of Chief Statistician to the Government of Malaya at the age 28, I went on to become the Senior Statistical Adviser at the World Bank. After 20 years, I retired from the Bank and founded a private research group that advises governments on statistical reforms. I celebrated my 80th birthday last month.

On behalf of my contemporaries, allow me to salute Queen's! Thank you for the experience! Yes, those were the days and we thought they would never end!

My time at Queen's



Mei Ling Foo

BSc, Finance, 1997
Consultant at
PositiveLinks Asia

Ireland was my very first adventure living away from home.

I can remember, vividly, getting on my first plane and arriving at Belfast International Airport where we were warmly escorted to Queen's. Till today, the beautiful façade of the University is fondly in my memory.

Queen's remains a precious experience where I learnt, built relationships, saw the beautiful sights, sounds and the delicious local food.

Everywhere I went, the locals greeted students with "hello luv" or "duckie" which I found charming and endearing. People were warm and lovely.

My first winter, we had snow – not much, but it was a thrill. Till today, the midnight snow fight remains a wonderful memory together with crumpets and strawberry jam, the awe-inspiring Giant's Causeway, mouth-watering Irish Stew, and familiar Chinese takeaways!

I arrived at Queen's a young and inexperienced girl and left with greater confidence, experience and memories that I will treasure a lifetime.



For more on The Queen's University of Belfast Alumni Malaysia

Find us on Facebook or contact
Queen's Alumni Officer
by emailing: alumni@qub.ac.uk

CLASS NOTES

Thanks to all those who have contributed to our popular Class Notes section. Unfortunately, we are limited by the space available, so apologies if your entry has not been included here. All class notes are posted on our website – www.daro.qub.ac.uk/classnotes – from where you can also submit your news.

In association with:



2010s

Luke Hanley, MSc Construction and Project Management 2014, works for PBC Builders in Limerick. He was shortlisted for Project Manager of the Year at the Irish Construction Industry Awards 2015.

Lisa McEvoy, BSc Economics and Accounting 2014, has begun an Accounting Graduate programme at Deloitte in Belfast.

Stephanie Ferguson, BSc Zoology 2014, started an accelerated veterinary medicine course at The Royal Veterinary College in London in September.



Victoria Bustard, BSc Zoology 2013, opened her own business – Plant & Play Wildlife Garden in Bangor – in May 2014. One year on and Plant & Play won the Visitor Attraction of the Year (small category) 2015 in the NI4Kids Awards! That's in addition to being Regional Winner at The Big Start Up Loans Competition plus Runner-up in the Northern Ireland Enterprise Awards – Start Up Business of The Year in her first year! Further information available at www.plantandplay.co.uk

Regional Winner at The Big Start Up Loans Competition plus Runner-up in the Northern Ireland Enterprise Awards – Start Up Business of The Year in her first year! Further information available at www.plantandplay.co.uk



The wedding of Sharon McConville, MB BCh BAO (2007), to Robert Hastings, MA Creative Writing (2013), took place at the Meeting House, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, on 23 April 2015, and was followed by a reception at Cultra Manor.

The couple met in 2012 at a leisure writing class in the Crescent Arts Centre and run a video production business – Eye Contact Films – from their new home.

The couple met in 2012 at a leisure writing class in the Crescent Arts Centre and run a video production business – Eye Contact Films – from their new home.

Sean McGeough, MSc International Business 2012, moved to London in 2014 after interning at Corkscrew and working in AIB, to join Wonga Group as a Procurement Analyst. In March 2015 he was promoted to Group Procurement Manager with a remit to manage all third party spend across the group (Wonga.com and Billpay.de) that together provide services in 12 countries.

Andrew Mulvenny, BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering 2010, moved from London to New York in 2014 as Assistant Vice President at Barclays Investment Bank. He is now responsible for CCAR – Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review – and the US IHC (Intermediate Holding Company) implementation and execution.

Catherine O'Neill, BEng 2012, is managing director of the Amelio Group, an engineering firm which she founded while still a student at Queen's. And Catherine has made the shortlist for the 2015 EY Entrepreneur of the Year in the Emerging category. Amelio now employs over 50 staff and has offices in Belfast, Dublin and Gloucester.

2000s

Catharina Hendrick, BA History of Art 2006, has recently completed a PhD in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. The former Press Officer for the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's and the European Parliament worked at the Naughton Gallery for two years during her studies at Queen's where she was Project Manager for the 'Silver Sounds' exhibition.

Richard Kirk, MEng Civil Engineering 2005, MBA Business Administration 2013, was appointed Regional Director of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) in June 2014, where he is working with ICE members in Northern Ireland to develop and deliver the regional business plan. In January 2015, he was appointed to the board of Colleges NI as a Non-executive Director.

Seán Hogan, MSc Organisation and Management 2004, stepped down as Chairman of Northern Ireland Water Ltd in March 2015 to take up a role on the board of Ervia Ltd, the parent company of Irish Water Ltd and Gas Networks Ireland (formally Bord Gáis). Seán is also currently chairing the Strategic Partnership Group, appointed by the Agriculture Minister to devise a strategy and implementation plan for the reduction and eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis in Northern Ireland.

David Leonard, LLB 2004, has co-written Constitutional Law of Ireland (3rd edn) published by Bloomsbury Professional, along with co-author Michael Forde SC. The book provides comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of Irish constitutional law. David lives in Dublin with his wife and son. He has been a barrister in practice in the Law Library, Dublin, since 2005.



Cat Barter, BA Drama 2004, Post-Grad Intensive Performer Training (Pilot) 2009, and Clare Galway, BMus Music, MA Music (Interdisciplinary Arts) 2009, have been touring babytheatre to venues across the UK, Ireland and the US with Replay Theatre Company. They are taking their current show, TiNY, to South Africa in October.



The show was created by Anna Newell, the Artistic Director of Replay Theatre Company and former Artistic Director of CETL(NI): The Centre for Excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts, with music by award-winning composer David Goodall, who worked as a freelance composer on many of the CETL projects with Anna.

Philip Smith, BA European Studies 2003, MSc Education 2009, has written his first novel **The KD Shindig** published by Austin Macauley. It is a tale which starts out in '...a small, historic cathedral town in Northern Ireland'. Philip currently lives in Ontario, Canada.

In association with:



1990s

Jacquelyn Benson, BA English 2002, MA Social Anthropology 2003 – New Hampshire author, playwright, mystic and explorer, released her first novel **The Smoke Hunter** in September 2015, published by Grand Central Publishing in the USA.

Find out more at www.jacquelynbenison.com

Bernard Mulholland, BA Environmental Science 2000, MA Archaeology and Palaeoecology 2001, MA Byzantine Archaeology and Text 2004, PhD History 2012, has had a number of academic works published including **Identification of Early Byzantine Constantinopolitan, Syrian, and Roman Church Plans in the Levant and Some Possible Consequences and Paraliturgical activities in the Early Byzantine basilical church.**

Caoimhe Keogan, BSc Psychology 1999, MSc Occupational Psychology 2000, won the Excellence in People & Talent Award at the 2015 Digital Masters Awards. Caoimhe is currently VP People at SoundCloud, based in Germany. In the past two years, she has overseen huge growth in the company, which now has over 300 staff from 36 countries in four offices across the globe.

Find out more at www.soundcloud.com



Joanne Campbell (née Shaw), PGCE 1998, left primary school teaching in 2013 to pursue a career as a freelance artist and art teacher. Joanne paints with acrylics on canvas and slate and teaches drawing and painting in Whitehead and Antrim. Her paintings can be found in Belfast Castle, America, Japan and Germany.

For more, go to www.ballycarryart.com



Sharon Noonan (née Devlin), BA Business Administration 1995, has taken to the airwaves! Sharon presents a food and drink show, 'Best Possible Taste', on West Limerick 102FM every Tuesday from 8-9pm. The one-hour programme features a variety of topics including on-air wine tastings, reports from food festivals and interviews with a wide range of guests from celebrity chefs to culinary heroes and artisan producers.

If you have an interesting food story to tell, Sharon would love to hear from you. You can email her at s.noonan@live.ie, follow her @QueenofOrg (short for Queen of Organisation) and listen to the podcast of her show www.soundcloud.com/food-and-drink-show

Simon Mowbray, BA Modern History and Politics 1997, has taught in Castlederg High School in Co Tyrone since 1999. After five years as Vice Principal there, he was recently appointed Principal of Devenish College, Enniskillen, and took up post on 1 September.



Joan McCoy, BSc Architecture 1990, won the Best Woman Architect at the European Women in Construction and Engineering Awards 2015 in May. Joan is a Director of White Ink Architects in Belfast and has been involved, among other key projects, in ongoing upgrades to the 24 VIP suites and the creation of a new shared hospitality area the 'Electric Lounge' in the landmark Odyssey (now SSE) Arena.

Christine Chu Jia Huey, BSc Biochemistry 1992, has been appointed Head of Medical Laboratory Technology Service at the Department of Laboratory Medicine, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore.

1980s

Kevin Smith, BA English and Philosophy 1986, is due to publish his second novel, **The Voyage of the Dolphin** – a comic odyssey set in 1916 – early next year. His first book, **Jammy Dodger**, was nominated for the 2013 Desmond Elliott Prize for new fiction.



DELTA CREW REUNION

Brendan Duffin, Darren Comer, Mark McGimpsey, Allan Leonard, Jonny Malloy, Stephen Meenan, Paddy Doherty, Keith Wilson, Paul Murphy and Gareth Ingram pictured at the Little Angel pub, in Berkshire, England.

The group of former students who rowed for Queen's in the 1994-95 season – when they were nicknamed the Delta Crew – have been meeting for reunion events every five years.

Read Allan Leonard's report on the most recent get-together at this year's Henley Regatta online at <http://bit.ly/1JmHlFW>

William McDowell, BA Modern History and Politics 1984, was ordained in July 2015 at Christ Church Cathedral Oxford as a deacon in the Church of England. William's curacy will be in East Downland in the Newbury Deanery.

In association with:



Paul Miller, PhD English 1982, and his wife **Carol Miller (née Hunter)**, BA Arts General 1975, Postgraduate Diploma Library and Information Services 1978, retired from their positions in Stowe School, Buckingham in August 2015. Paul and Carol would be delighted to hear from contemporaries from their University days, including those involved in the Drama Society.

carolmiller52@btinternet.com



Mrs Rosemary Lim (née Wright), BA 1981, (pictured right) is the new President of the Irish Graduates' Association of Singapore. The current Vice-President is fellow alumna, **Dr Lee Sze Min, MB BCh BAO 1994** (left). It is the first occasion that both roles have been held by Queen's graduates and the first time the Association has elected two women to the senior positions.

Association of Singapore. The current Vice-President is fellow alumna, **Dr Lee Sze Min, MB BCh BAO 1994** (left). It is the first occasion that both roles have been held by Queen's graduates and the first time the Association has elected two women to the senior positions.

1970s

Geoff Hill, BA English 1979, has been appointed motorcycle columnist for the Daily Mirror. Formerly the bike columnist for The Sunday Times, he is also the editor of Microlight Flying magazine and a travel writer for the Daily Telegraph, as well as being the author of 11 best-selling books.



For further information go to www.geoff-hill-adventures.com



Ken Addley, MB BCh BAO 1979, MD 2000, was awarded an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division) in the Birthday Honours List 2015 for services to occupational health.

For over 30 years Ken, who is a Visiting Professor to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, United Arab Emirates University, UAE, Al Ain has been an active promoter of employee health and wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

Professor James Scott Brown, MB BCH BAO 1979, has taken up the post of Vice Chancellor at International Health Sciences University, a private non-residential university in Kampala, Uganda.

Dr Thomas Geehan, BSc Colour and Polymer Science 1977, retired from Schlumberger after 31 years' service in January 2015. A keen cyclist, Thomas has been racing in his age group for over four years.

Dr RM Raja Harun, BSc (Hons) Botany 1970, BAg Agricultural Botany 1971, PhD Agricultural Botany 1974,

was awarded an Honorary MBE at Hillsborough Castle on 30 April in recognition of his services to commercial horticulture in Northern Ireland and the local community in Belfast.



Denis Christie, BSc Mechanical Engineering 1970, has spent most of his life living and working in England. From 1966 to 1969 he was

a member of the Queen's University Air Squadron and learned to fly De Havilland Chipmunks. The six aircraft in the fleet were based at Sydenham, now George Best Belfast City Airport. Recently, by chance, Denis found out that a Chipmunk being used in the Midlands to tow gliders was one of those from his time at Queen's.

The registration number is WP788 which Denis says will bring back some happy memories to his fellow airmen from those days. In July this year, Denis managed to get to fly in the aeroplane again nearly 50 years after he first flew it.

Premnarine Misir, BSSc 1973, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Fiji. Holding degrees from a number of UK universities, he also has a Postdoctoral degree in Public Health from Columbia University (NY). Prior to his new role Professor Misir was Executive Director of the Health Sector Development Unit at the Ministry of the Health, Government of Guyana. The one time Pro-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, he also served as Professor of Public Health at the University of Central Lancashire. He has intensive publications to his credit in international journals, books and book chapters.

1960s

Ken Mitchell, BSc Geography 1965, will retire from teaching on December 31, 2015 after 45 years as a Professor of Geography at Rutgers University, USA. He hopes to continue research, writing and other assorted activities until they no longer satisfy.



Patrick McConnell, BSc Mathematics 1969, has jointly authored **People Risk Management**, published by Kogan Page.

This book is the first to cover the topic of People Risk or the risk that people, especially senior managers in financial institutions, will make 'really bad' business decisions. Building on research from the behavioural sciences, the book charts cases where managers were blinded by 'cognitive biases' such as over-confidence and groupthink, leading to disasters such as the failure of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Pat, who now lives in Australia, has recently finished another book on the topic of systemic risk, which is to be published by Risk Books in 2016.

1950s

Cecil Cyrus OBE, MB BCh BAO Medicine 1957, MCh Surgery 1991, and former First Trust Bank Queen's Graduate of the Year, has published his autobiography, **A Dream Come True – the autobiography of a Caribbean Surgeon**. It includes a history of life at Queen's during his sojourn from 1950-1963. The book is available on Amazon.



Thomas J Hughes, BA Geography 1954, spent most of his career teaching in St MacNissi's College, Garron Tower, in north Antrim where he served as vice-principal. An avid film fan since boyhood, his book **How Belfast Saw the Light: A Cinematic History** traces the growth of cinema in Belfast from the earliest 'electric theatres' through the mid-century 'picture palaces' to the modern multiplexes.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we include obituaries and appreciations of some of those graduates and former students who are no longer with us.

Thérèse Garnett (née Gibson)

BSSc Econ and Social History 1975 (18.08.14)

Thérèse Garnett died in Kendal aged 61, after a 28-year battle with multiple sclerosis.

Born in Belfast in 1952, Thérèse was the eldest of eight children. One of her cousins was Irish actor Ciarán Hinds. She met her future husband Will in Edinburgh while they were both studying for a diploma in adult and community education, and the two were married in Belfast in 1978. They moved briefly to Canada before living in Suffolk for two years and then settled in Kendal in 1982.

Possessing a beautiful soprano singing voice, Thérèse was a member of Kendal South Choir. She was diagnosed with MS in 1986 and for the last two years she lived at Summerhill Nursing and Residential Home.

Thérèse is survived by husband Will and children Catherine, Ciaran, Liam and Siobhan, and granddaughter Eva Rose.

John Wilson 'Jackie' Kyle

MB BCh BAO 1951 (28.11.14)

Surgeon and rugby great

Jackie Kyle, one of Ireland's all-time rugby greats and one of Queen's most notable graduates, died at his home in Newcastle last November, aged 88.

Born in Belfast on January 10, 1926, Jackie Kyle was educated at Belfast Royal Academy, before studying medicine at Queen's.

The former Ulster, Ireland and British and Irish Lions fly-half played his club rugby for Queen's and North of Ireland. He is acknowledged as one of Ireland's greatest ever rugby players, winning major honours for his country in the 1940s and 1950s, playing a key role in Ireland's 1948 Grand Slam success. In 2002 he was voted the best Ireland player of all-time in an IRFU poll and was inducted into the International Rugby Board's Hall of Fame in 2008.

After graduating he practised as a GP before specialising as a surgeon. He worked in Sumatra and Indonesia before moving to Chingola, Zambia where he served as a consultant surgeon between 1966 and 2000.

Jack, who received an OBE in 1959, was given an honorary doctorate by Queen's in 1991. In his honour, the Jack Kyle Bursary fund was established to support Queen's RFC Academy in 2001.

Pre-deceased by his wife Shirley in 2009, he is survived by son Caleb and daughter Justine.

William Anthony 'Chas' Emmerson

BA History 1967 (09.12.14)

Co-Founder Belfast Festival at Queen's

Tony 'Chas' Emmerson co-founded the Belfast Festival with his brother Michael, and was Assistant Director from 1964-1968.

Born in Stratford-upon-Avon, he was a year behind Michael and followed him to Belfast in 1962. Reading Modern History, Chas, like Michael, was devoted to the arts. Putting on two Festivals in 1964, the Emmersons

completely changed the ambition and scope of what could be achieved in the arts in Belfast.

Over the next four years, Tony was a key part of that optimistic scene which gathered around Queen's and had a reputation as the 'fixer' for the Festival, sorting out problems where no one else could.

In 1968 he met and married Mary Mills, who was Michael's secretary at the Festival. After he stepped down from Festival, Tony went on to have a distinguished teaching career, including teaching US History at the University of Ulster. He was also an important figure in the Irish Association of American Studies.

Frederick James Kennedy

BSc Physics 1954 (13.03.15)

Computer/space expert

Fred Kennedy died at home in Malahide, Co Dublin, aged 83. He grew up in Bellaghy in Co Derry. After graduating from Queen's with a first class degree, he worked for Shorts in Belfast on the development of the first vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

He married Anne Marshall in 1957 and the couple moved to Montreal, where he worked with Canadair on supersonic aircraft design. He then joined the aerospace department of Radio Corporation of America in Boston, working on the Lunar Lander subsequently used on NASA's Apollo missions.

Fred then moved to IBM in New York, where he helped develop the first computerised reservations system for Aer Lingus, a project that brought him to Dublin in 1963. When Ireland joined the EEC, Fred became a strong advocate for the country's participation in the newly-formed ESA.

He went on to establish CAPTEC and over four decades expanded the company into other areas, including medical imaging. CAPTEC was a major contractor to the European Space Agency (ESA), for which he

carried out numerous assignments, including the recent successful Rosetta/Philae comet landing.

Fred is survived by his widow, Anne, sons Nicky, Jon and Simon and their families.

Dr John Hinds

MB BCh BAO 2003 (04.07.15)

Consultant and 'flying doctor'

John Hinds died following an accident at a motorcycle event in Skerries, Co Dublin, aged 35.

A consultant at Craigavon Area Hospital, Dr Hinds was also a lecturer in trauma science. He was known affectionately as one of the 'flying doctors' of Irish motorcycling, for the lifesaving support he provided during high-speed bike races throughout the country, including the world-famous North West 200 in Co Antrim. He had, for many years, led a campaign for a regional air ambulance service to be introduced in Northern Ireland.

He is survived by his partner Janet Acheson.

Stephen McKiernan

BA English 2004, MA Creative Writing 2005 (28.07.15)

Journalist

The former Communications Officer with the SDLP Group in the NI Assembly died at his home in Trillick, Co Tyrone, after battling illness for a number of years.

Originally from Drumnakilly outside Omagh, he worked as a freelance reporter and with the Tyrone Constitution and Q101 Radio in Omagh.

Stephen is survived by his wife Julie and his children Grace, Dara and Éabha.

Dr Ian Brick

BSc Physiology 1965, PhD
Pharmacology 1967 (05.07.15)

Businessman and philanthropist

One of Queen's most distinguished graduates and generous benefactors, Ian Brick died at his home in Nashville, Tennessee, aged 72, after a long battle with cancer.

Ian was born in Belfast in 1942, the son of an insurance salesman and grandson of an East Belfast joiner who worked in the shipyard and on the construction of Parliament Buildings at Stormont.

At 16 he came to Queen's to study medicine but transferred to physiology, graduating in 1965 and again in 1967 with a PhD in pharmacology. His research field was in beta blockers and cardiology.

He served as President of the Students' Union when, in 1967, it moved to its current location. In 2002 he received an honorary DSc (Econ) for services to Queen's and in 2011 was awarded an OBE for his contribution to Northern Ireland education.

After 10 years with ICI Pharmaceuticals and a period as MD of Cullen & Davidson in Dublin, he co-founded the Institute of Clinical Pharmacology in 1980. The firm went public in 1984 on NASDAQ, requiring the Brick family to move to the US. In 1990 he set up Pharmaceutical Laboratory Services in Baltimore, Maryland, subsequently purchased by his major competitor in 1994.

A founder member of the Board of The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation, Ian was also a past President and Honorary Patron of the Friends of Queen's.

Predeceased by his wife Katherine in 2008, he is survived by his son, Michael, daughters, Karen and Claire, and eight grandchildren.

Among other graduates and former staff who have passed away are:

- **Leo Wilson**
BA Politics 1993 (04.01.14)
- **Sylvia Cox**
BA 1969 (03.09.14)
- **Denise Moyes**
MB BCH BAO 1995 (01.10.14)
- **Ann McGeeney**
BSc Geography 1985 (02.10.14)
- **Rev Dr Joshua Adeware**
Alokana History 1961 (22.12.14)
- **Elizabeth Jean Fulton OBE**
BA 1975 (15.01.15)
- **Laura Morton**
BA Mathematics 1952 (01.05.15)
- **Hugh Speers**
BA Geography 1963 (19.01.15)
- **Norman Wright Stewart**
BSc (Econ) 1965 (20.05.15)
- **Alan William Martin**
BSc Computer Science 1982 (30.06.15)
- **Caroline Chisholm**
BA English and Russian Studies 1994 (July 2015)
- **Dr Jeremy Harbison**
MSc 1966 (14.08.15)
- **Dr Jack McCluggage**
MB BCH BAO 1965 (31.08.15)
- **June Meenagh-Smartt**
BEd 1978 (25.09.15)



Further obituaries and appreciations
can be found online at

www.daro.qub.ac.uk/obituaries

DID YOU KNOW?

One thing we often hear is "I never knew you did that!" So we dedicate this page to highlighting the special advantages available to you.

CONNECTIONS

- There are over 145,000 Queen's alumni. We can help you access the power of that network.
- We can also help you reconnect with old friends.
- Join a graduate association locally or internationally and benefit from a network of connections and a range of social activities.

BENEFITS FOR YOU

- Free careers support for two years after graduation.
- Discounted access to the McClay Library.
- Further study discount.
- Exclusive right to get married in the Lanyon Building.
- Special rates at Queen's Physical Education Centre.

SHOWING YOU CARE

- We welcome your help to ensure that Queen's continues to deliver an exceptional student experience and to offer crucial solutions to world problems through its pioneering research.
- Financial gifts can be made to the Queen's Annual Fund, (page 20) to a major campaign project (page 12) or by leaving a legacy to Queen's (page 48).

- Volunteering is a valuable way to support Queen's. Advocacy, career mentoring, providing feedback, organising events, supporting student recruitment and/or committee leadership are just some of the ways you can give back.

NEWS UPDATES

- Annual alumni magazine.
- Bi-monthly eGraduate newsletter for those with a valid email address.
- Dedicated alumni website helping you manage your personal information online.
- Your personal updates can be published in the magazine or online in the Class Notes, My time at Queen's, obituaries and news sections.
- You can access Queen's videos online by visiting www.qub.ac.uk/qtv

GET CONNECTED



Queen's LinkedIn groups offer professional support to 30,000 pre-registered graduate users.



Facebook provides social interaction via the Queen's University Belfast Alumni page.



Twitter gives bite-sized updates and announcements. Queen's has a dedicated alumni Twitter feed #QUBAlumni and an additional institutional feed #QueensUBelfast

PHILANTHROPY IS CATCHING

PAY IT FORWARD

Each and every one of us will, one day, leave behind a legacy. What lives on after we are gone, irrespective of our financial wealth and the personal lifetime causes we back, is really a question of how we want to be remembered. The University's Legacy Marketing Officer, Susan Wilson, explains why leaving a legacy is a wonderful way to make your support for Queen's live on for future generations.

Many will be aware that the motto on Belfast City Council's Coat of Arms is *Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus*, the first three words of which provide the title for that most infamous of Queen's publications, PTQ. The full legend translates as 'what shall we give, in return for so much' which seems apt for a student rag magazine.

Recently, I popped in to a café near Queen's to buy my early morning coffee. I paid for two Americanos but only took one away with me. Another customer bought a Cappuccino and a soup and left with just the coffee. As we walked out, the staff marked the menu board over the counter to reflect a 'suspended coffee' and a 'suspended soup' on offer. Retribuamus?

The café is a port of call for local homeless people, where they can drop in (usually to shelter from the Belfast rain!) and take up a bowl of soup or a coffee, thanks to a charitable stranger. This is a relatively new phenomenon here, one that started with the book *Pay it Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, published

in 1999 which has been gaining worldwide momentum since.

The 'pay it forward' philosophy maintains that, through random acts of kindness, we can all foster a more caring society. In the novel, a Californian social studies teacher challenges his students to come up with a plan to 'change the world', even in some small way. One pupil, 12-year-old Trevor, takes the task to heart. As he goes about his day he wonders what he could do to change the world. He starts by showing kindness to a stranger and, from there, moves on to the next person he can help. His kind attitude spreads from those he helps and has a cumulative effect.

Anonymous acts of kindness are something I see often in my role as Queen's Legacy Officer. We regularly receive notifications of charitable legacy gifts to the University from individuals who have paid forward a gift in their will to support a student or area of research. And yet they know it's a gift they won't be around to see the impact of. Retribuamus?

"I am very proud to be associated with Queen's and want to support the continuing good work of the University through a legacy gift that will make a positive and lasting difference."

Dr Lavinia Boyce, MSc 1992, PhD 2010

The great thing about 'paying it forward', whether through a legacy or an arbitrary act of kindness, is that anyone can do it! You don't have to be wealthy to make a difference and the act doesn't need to be magnanimous; the impact lies in its cumulative effect.

Earlier this year, I received notice of a gift to Queen's from the late Dr Mary MacWilliam in California. I didn't immediately recognise her name, nor could I find it on our list of legacy pledgers or on our graduate database. Yet the name Dr MacWilliam and her benevolence will be recognised and remembered by students for years to come. As a result of her action, future generations will benefit from the exceptional educational facilities and internationally-renowned researchers available to them at Queen's. In her will, Mary donated 20 per cent of her estate to the University and it is thanks to 'suspended' gifts such as this that we will be able to fulfil our Vision to create a world-class university.

Each of us, every day, has the opportunity to show our charitable side. We can share a meal with a stranger or buy a friend a coffee. We can volunteer with a charity, mentor



Suspended legacy menu (Spring/Summer 2015)

M Tyrrell

BA German 1973 – to support a postgraduate student in the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice
£1,000

M Bell

Non-graduate – to support students in engineering
£30,000

E Hamilton

Non-graduate – to support research in pharmacy
£150,000

someone in their career or help them find a job. We can pay forward a gift which we may never be around to see the full impact of.

Over the years, many individuals – graduates of Queen's and people who never studied here – paid forward their legacy to the University. Our 'suspended legacy menu' looks quite impressive, but we still need others to add their names to the board, to provide for upcoming generations.

To those most recent legacy pledgers – some we know about, others currently anonymous – I would like to say thanks. Thank you for paying it forward, for giving so much in return for whatever Queen's has given you or, in a selfless random act of kindness, for sharing your generosity with our future students, researchers and staff. That is retribuamus.



If you would like to add your name to Queen's suspended legacy menu please contact **Susan Wilson** (Legacy Marketing Officer) on tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3162 or email: susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk

EVENTS AND REUNIONS

Keeping in touch around the world Highlights from 2015

Events are a sure-fire way to keep the University connected with its alumni. Lectures, dinners and business networking occasions enable engagement with those who benefited first-hand from a Queen's education.

Reunions and association activities give thousands of former students the chance

to reconnect with old friends, to return to Queen's to catch up on the latest news and developments, or just to see how the campus has changed.

Increasingly, events organised by the University give graduates an opportunity to link with current students, to pass on personal careers tips.



Queen's University Alumni Association Malaysia (QUAAM) held a Fellowship Dinner in Kuala Lumpur in January for over 50 members and guests. The occasion was attended by a delegation from Queen's including the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McElroy (third from right) and Isabel Jennings, Director of Marketing, Recruitment, Communications and Internationalisation (second from left) and was hosted by the QUAAM President Lim Si Boon (fourth from right).



Steve Rowe (fifth from left), Executive Director of Food at Marks & Spencer, was keynote speaker at the annual lecture of the Queen's Institute for Global Food Security, delivered to a packed audience in Riddel Hall in February.



Whether you are a recent graduate wishing to attend a careers event, an information evening or a public lecture, or are returning from further afield for a significant class reunion, your University always looks forward to welcoming you back!

To find out more about future events for alumni go to www.daro.qub.ac.uk/events

Over 30 students and 12 mentors (most of whom were graduates) took part in a Speed Mentoring evening in the Student Guidance Centre in February. The alumni mentors from areas such as radio production, international law, planning, social work, language support and the voluntary sector, also included – via Skype – a graduate based in New York!



Graduates in Ontario, Canada attended a reception at the residence of the British Consul General in March. Organised by the local alumni chapter, guests

welcomed Queen's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick Johnston, who was on his first visit to Canada since taking up post in 2014.

Pictured (L-R) – Association members Paul Nix and John Kennedy, Tony Russell, member of Queen's University Foundation Board, Association President Barb Hill, Helen Surgenor, Head of Medical Fundraising, Professor Patrick Johnston, Stewart Matthews of the Northern Ireland Bureau, Association member Dianne Ballam and Norma Sinte, Director of Development and Alumni Relations.



In June, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences students spent four days in Brussels learning about internships and graduate roles in EU institutions.

Pictured at the networking reception are (L-R) – Aoife Macauley (Law), Laura Barron (Law), Johanna Haughey (Queen's alumna working at Scottish Government EU Office), Tom Mervyn (Queen's Employer Engagement Staff), Irish Ambassador to Belgium, Eamonn Mac Aodha, and Andrew Elliott (Queen's graduate and Head of the Office of the NI Executive in Brussels).



In June over 70 Queen's University Association, London (QUAL) members and alumni were hosted by Citi in Canary Wharf for the annual President's Summer Drinks.

Speaking about Citi's Belfast centre James Bardrick outlined how its growth had been with considerable cooperation from Queen's as a source for talent in technology, law, finance and human resources.

Association President, Cormac Bradley (pictured above with his wife Kate) announced QUAL's next two events – a City Leaders' City Scholars Programme evening in September and the Annual Dinner at Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge 11 November.

My legacy

Caroline Jamison

Helping drive ground-breaking research into treatments for MS



Caroline Jamison was diagnosed with MS in 2013. Shortly after her father passed away the following year, she decided to reserve her late parents' collection of rare and valuable motorbikes as a legacy gift to support ground-breaking MS research at Queen's.

“ My late mother had MS and I understand first-hand the devastating impact it can have on family life. My aim is to help raise awareness of the pioneering MS research at Queen's. I want to do what I can to support this work, in memory of my late parents, to ensure that research continues until a cure is found. I hope that through my actions I can offer a beacon of hope to other families with MS. I also take confidence from the fact that 100 per cent of money raised will be spent on MS research here in Northern Ireland. ”

If you would like further information on legacy gifts to Queen's please contact Susan Wilson, Legacy Marketing Officer, Development and Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN
T: +44 (0)28 9097 3162 E: susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk

www.queensfoundation.com

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