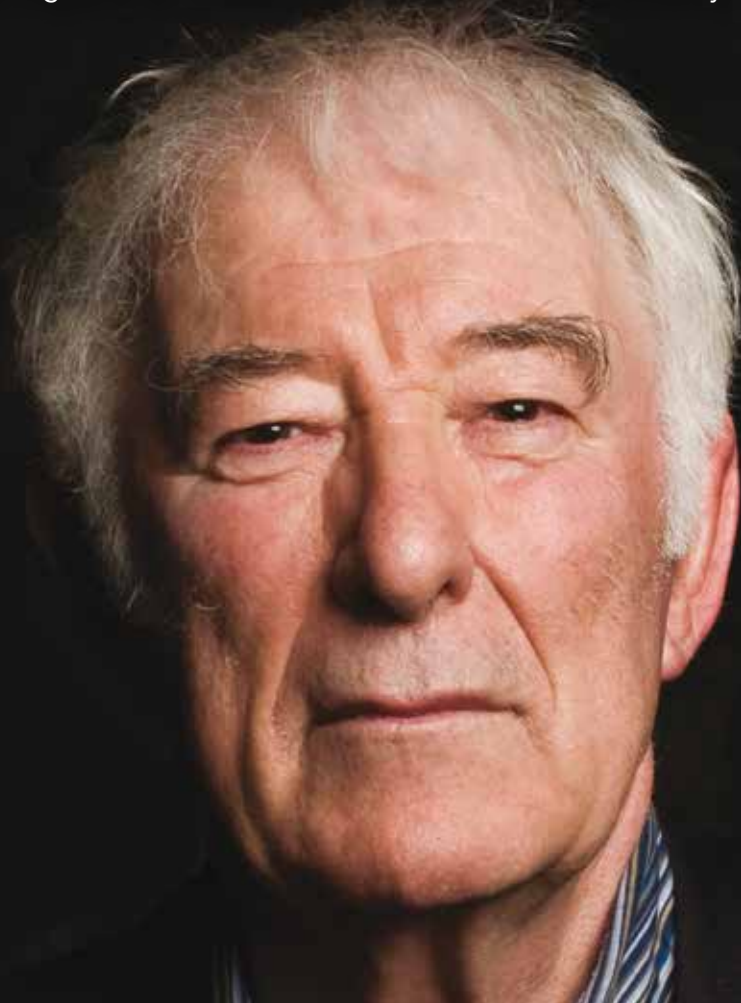


# The Graduate 2013

The magazine for Graduates and Friends of Queen's University Belfast



**SEAMUS HEANEY**  
1939 – 2013



Queen's University  
Belfast



# Welcome

to the 2013 edition of The Graduate magazine

This edition of *The Graduate* is dedicated to the memory of Seamus Heaney who died at the end of August. Seamus was a graduate, former staff member and Honorary Graduate of this University and all of those who knew him, or who were touched by his poetry, have lost a true friend. His support for Queen's over nearly 50 years was immeasurable and his loss is profound.

In this issue you can also read about some of the exciting postgraduate research currently being undertaken at Queen's which will impact on all our lives. We also highlight the latest news from around campus including progress on the University's £140 million fundraising campaign. And for those considering setting up a business, Ramona Nicholas, Queen's Graduate of the Year, shares her thoughts and experiences of doing just that.

As well as the regular features including Class Notes, Obituaries, My time at Queen's and your Book Review page, we have profiles of both the 2013/14 Student President and the new Festival Director, and focus on the work done by Professor Phil Scraton for the Hillsborough Independent Panel.

We hope that *The Graduate* lives up to its usual high standards! If it does - or more importantly, if it doesn't - please email [editor@qub.ac.uk](mailto:editor@qub.ac.uk) to tell us what you think.

Thank you for taking time to read *The Graduate*.

Ian Moore  
Head of Alumni Relations  
Queen's University Belfast

P.S. If you are reading this magazine for the first time, I would like to welcome you to our worldwide family of over 140,000 alumni. The Development and Alumni Relations Office is your lifelong link to Queen's and we want to ensure that this connection is beneficial to you.

Through this magazine, e-newsletters, our website ([www.qub.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.qub.ac.uk/alumni)) and our social media presence we will keep you connected with Queen's. I hope that you share our pride in this exceptional University and that you will help us to enhance its great reputation.

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



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# The Graduate

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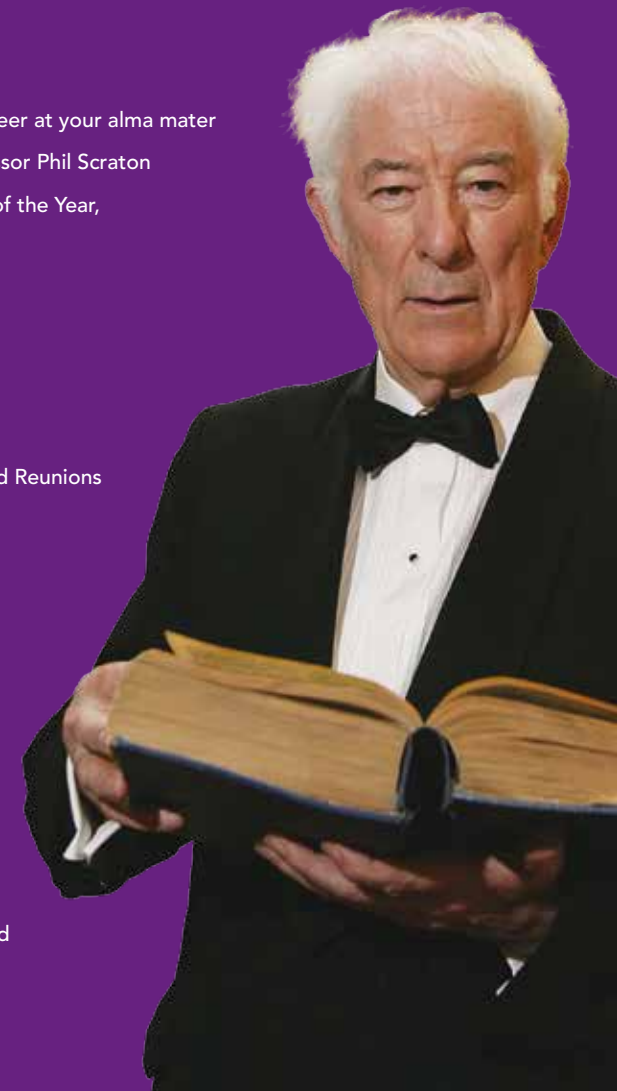
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# NEWS

Further stories can be found online  
[darq.qub.ac.uk/news](http://darq.qub.ac.uk/news) and [www.qub.ac.uk/qtv](http://www.qub.ac.uk/qtv)

## QUEEN'S NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Patrick Johnston will become Queen's new President and Vice-Chancellor on 1 March 2014.

Professor Johnston, a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, is an outstanding academic with a distinguished record of achievement. Having earned a distinction in medicine from University College Dublin in 1982, his further medical training at the Mater and St James's University Teaching Hospitals in Dublin was followed by a Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, USA, in 1987.

He combines vision with a passionate determination to deliver changes that will benefit society as a whole and throughout his illustrious career he has led transformational projects. In September 2007, Professor Johnston was appointed as Dean of the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, which has over 500 faculty, some 2,000 undergraduate students, 460 postgraduate students and an annual turnover of £60m. He is active on many national and international boards and is renowned for his work understanding and treating cancer.

Appointed as Professor and Head of the Department of Oncology at Queen's and Belfast City Hospital in 1996, he led the modernisation of cancer services in Northern Ireland. He developed the new Northern Ireland Clinical Cancer Centre



then created the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology. This culminated in the University being awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Prize in 2012 for its leadership of the Northern Ireland Comprehensive Cancer Services programme.

Speaking about his appointment, Professor Johnston commented: "This is a proud day for both me and my family. I very much look forward to leading this distinguished institution and working alongside its exceptional staff and students. It is an honour and privilege to be given this opportunity to further develop and enhance the reputation and standing of Queen's."

Professor Johnston will be the University's 12th President and Vice-Chancellor.

## UNIVERSITY GETS EXTRA STEM FUNDING

Queen's is to increase recruitment by some 30 students on economically relevant MSc courses, including Biological Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The announcement was made in August by Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, who said: "This investment in economically relevant Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) postgraduate courses will help improve the skills of our graduates to meet the needs of local employers and support economic growth."

Welcoming the additional funding, Professor Tony Gallagher, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Planning, Staffing and External Relations, said: "The additional places will enable the University to continue to strengthen local industry through the provision of an increased pool of highly skilled graduates in STEM-related sectors."

"Higher Education plays a vital role in underpinning the economy in Northern Ireland and therefore the decision by the Minister is most welcome."

## QUEEN'S ACADEMIC BECOMES BELFAST POET LAUREATE



Award-winning poet, Sinéad Morrissey, has been named as the first ever Belfast Poet Laureate.

Dr Morrissey, Reader in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre, School of English, was appointed Belfast Poet Laureate by the Lord Mayor of Belfast as part of his 'Vision for Belfast' released in July.

As Poet Laureate, Dr Morrissey will engage the people of Belfast in poetry through a series of events, community outreach to art groups,

language organisations and minority groups. She has also been commissioned to produce a series of poems about Belfast and the year as the city's Poet that explores the theme 'My City'.

Speaking about her appointment, Dr Morrissey said: "Belfast is a city with an extraordinary literary tradition, especially in relation to poetry. I am therefore hugely honoured to be appointed Belfast's first Poet Laureate, and am excited to celebrate and explore further both the city and poetry in the year ahead."

## CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE OPENS

A new £4m state-of-the-art medical research centre will allow more people than ever to take part in clinical trials in Northern Ireland. It will also benefit patients with rare conditions who previously had to travel to England to participate in trials.

The Wellcome Trust-Wolfson Foundation Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility (NICRF), based at Belfast City Hospital, will concentrate on four main research themes - cancer, nutrition and metabolism, vision science, and respiratory research.

Professor Danny McAuley from Queen's Centre for Infection and Immunity, and acting director of NICRF, said: "Researchers throughout Northern Ireland are making some of the most important scientific discoveries in the world today. Until the NICRF there was no dedicated area with such an array of specialist equipment to support clinical research here. Now, we will be able to translate laboratory discoveries into advances in patient care."

The NICRF is a joint venture between Queen's, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the University of Ulster, and the Health and Social Care Research and Development Division of the Public Health Agency.





## FESTIVAL HITS THE RIGHT NOTES

The 2013 Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's is promising an international mix of tenors, tension and transformation. Opening this year's event, which runs from 17-27 October, is an unveiling of Ireland's largest land-art portrait created by Cuban-American artist Jorge Rodriguez-Gerada. This is followed in the evening by a performance by world renowned tenor José Carreras at the Waterfront Hall.

Among other highlights is Roger Bernat's theatrical experiment in political engagement, *Pending Vote*, and Rob Drummond's 'edge of your seat' performance of the infamous magic trick, *Bullet Catch*. Add to the mix a major new production of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* and an epic Richard Strauss closing concert from the Ulster Orchestra, and the stage is well and truly set for Festival 2013.

Sir James Galway joins the Ulster Orchestra with *A Musical Journey* from Rodrigo to Tchaikovsky, and the UK's leading historical performance ensemble, *La Serenissima*, will perform Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* at Clonard Monastery. Festival will close at the Ulster Hall with a performance by the Ulster Orchestra entitled *The Swan Songs of Strauss* – featuring the final completed works of Richard Strauss, composed in 1948 when he was 84.

To find out more and book tickets visit [www.belfastfestival.com](http://www.belfastfestival.com) or call the box office on +44 (0) 28 9097 1197.



## TEN OF THE BEST!

Ten of Northern Ireland's best and brightest young people have won a free education at Queen's, after being named the inaugural Queen's Scholars.

Awards worth a total of almost £150k have been made to the winners, who were selected from 138 students nominated by 74 schools and colleges across Northern Ireland. Each of the students, who began their studies at the University in early October, will have their annual tuition fees paid for the duration of their undergraduate degree.

Anthony McGrath, Student Recruitment Officer at Queen's, said: "The Queen's Scholars awards are among the most prestigious available from any UK university. They are the latest addition to the University's undergraduate scholarship package, which is worth £300,000 per year, benefits approximately 200 students, and represents a crucial investment in Northern Ireland's future prosperity."

During a special selection day a shortlist of over 50 students were assessed on a range of

competencies by a number of business leaders, including Queen's Graduate of the Year and RTÉ Dragons' Den star, Ramona Nicholas.

The Queen's Scholars, who come from across Northern Ireland, will be studying a variety of courses, including Engineering, Business, Law, Pharmacy and Medicine.



Queen's Scholars with Anthony McGrath (right)

## CONVOCATION SCHOLARSHIP



The 2012 Convocation Studentship was awarded to Myra Lydon, a first year PhD student in Structural Engineering. Myra is currently working

on a project entitled: 'Development of bridge weigh in motion systems using advanced structural health monitoring sensor technology to extend bridge life and future sustainable infrastructure'.

The award allowed Myra the opportunity to visit the University of San Diego in California where she used specialised equipment which has made a valuable contribution to her research.

The Convocation Studentship, open to full-time postgraduate students, was awarded for the first time in 2011 and aims to promote and strengthen ties between Convocation (the formal body of graduates) and the University.

The inaugural Studentship recipient was Drew Mikhael, a postgraduate research student studying for a PhD in the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy. Drew recently submitted his thesis entitled 'Consociation in Lebanon' and hopes to graduate in December 2013. He told *The Graduate* that he did not think he would have been able to complete his thesis without the support he received from Convocation.

## TOP RANKING FOR QUEEN'S

Queen's has been rated as one of the top 15 universities in the UK according to the National Student Survey (NSS) results published over the summer.

The University achieved an overall score of 90 per cent, just one percentage point behind the University of Oxford and Queen's best ever NSS satisfaction outcome.

The NSS is a high-profile annual census of nearly half a million students across the UK. It produces influential Higher Education public information, giving final year students a powerful voice to help shape the future of their institution.

Queen's performed well in several key areas of the student experience, including teaching, where staff were ranked highly for their enthusiasm, their ability to explain things and their availability to speak to students when needed. The intellectual stimulation delivered by courses and students' access to high-quality library and IT resources at the University also came in for praise.

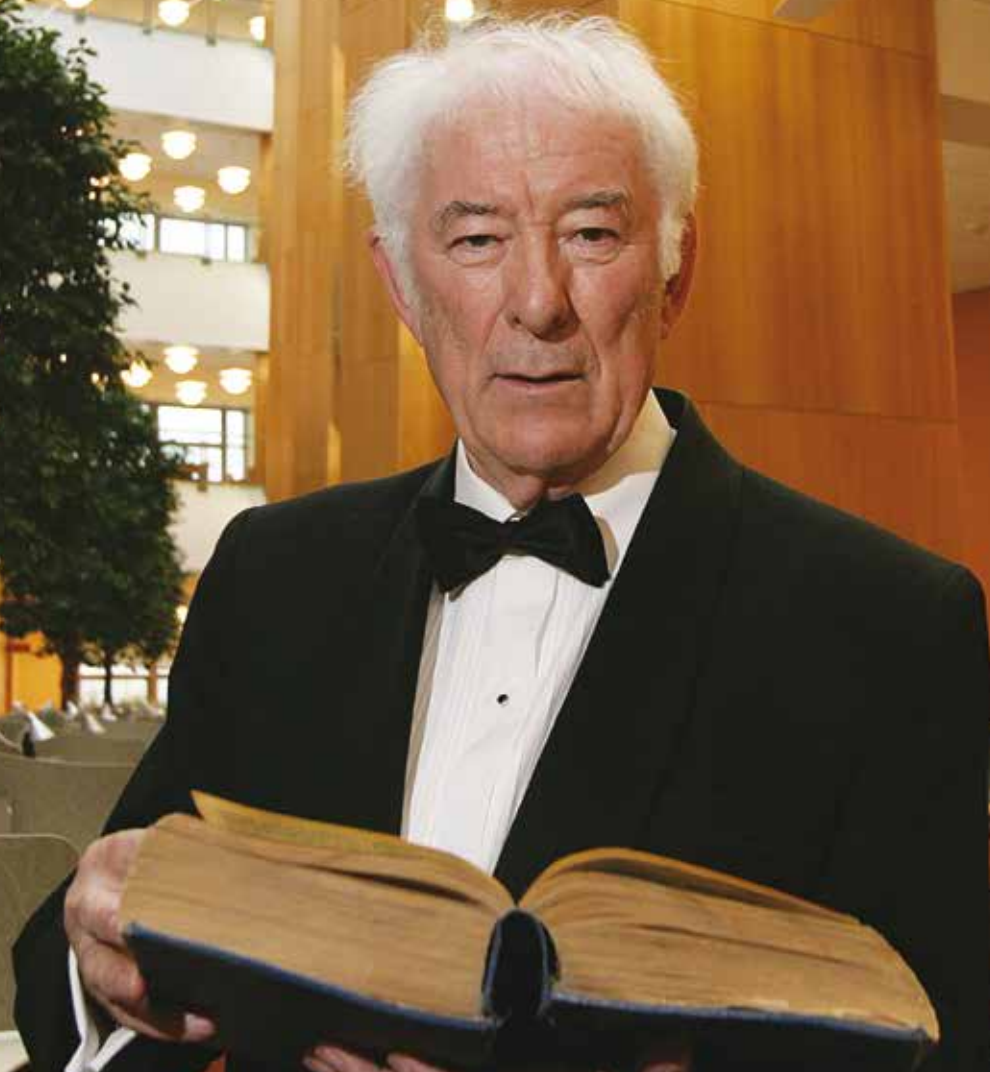
Welcoming the news, Niall McShane, President of the Students' Union, said: "We place great

emphasis on ensuring that students at Queen's are given every opportunity to make the most of their time here and that they are equipped with the relevant skills to give them a head start in the graduate employment market. These latest results from NSS verify that in coming to Queen's, students are making a decision that will impact positively on the rest of their lives."

Speaking about the results, Professor Ellen Douglas-Cowie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students, said: "Queen's prides itself on offering an exceptional experience for our students who are the lifeblood of this University. This NSS result is not only wonderful news for our students, but also for all our dedicated staff. It is testament to the quality of education and opportunities on offer at Queen's."

QUEEN'S  
RANKED 1ST IN  
RUSSELL GROUP  
FOR PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
(NSS)

# SEAMUS HEANEY – REMEMBERED



For some he was the best known poet in the world; for others there is little doubt that Seamus Heaney was the greatest Irish poet since WB Yeats. Writing exclusively for *The Graduate*, Professor Ciaran Carson, Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's, reflects on the life of the University's most famous son. And together with extracts from poems, speeches and addresses, the University remembers its most internationally recognised graduate, former lecturer, Honorary Graduate, Nobel Laureate and benefactor, who died on 30 August 2013.

I join the multitudes of people all around the world who have been deeply affected by the death of Seamus Heaney. It was a great shock; but I am reminded of the many pleasurable shocks that Seamus has given us throughout his career as a writer, not least that given by his first book, *Death of a Naturalist*, published in 1966. I was 18 then, hanging around with a group of friends who had some aspirations to writing. We had, I think, some vague notion that the centre of the poetry world was London; Northern Ireland was provincial, its poetry world more or less moribund. *Death of a Naturalist* changed all that. It woke us up to a plain, measured, deft language full of the accents of home, as in the celebrated poem 'Digging': 'the curt cuts of an edge/ Through living roots awakens in my head'. I was reminded of those 'curt cuts' when I read Roy Foster's moving tribute in *The Guardian*, which ends by his quoting this beautiful poem, the last sonnet in the sequence 'Clearings':

I thought of walking round and round a space  
Utterly empty, utterly a source  
Where the decked chestnut tree had lost its place  
In our front hedge among the wallflowers.  
The white chips jumped and jumped and skited high.  
I heard the hatchet's differentiated  
Accurate cut, the crack, the sigh  
And collapse of what luxuriated  
Through the shocked tips and wreckage of it all.  
Deep-planted and long gone, my coeval  
Chestnut from a jam jar in a hole,  
Its heft and hush became a bright nowhere,  
A soul ramifying and forever  
Silent, beyond silence listened for.

Since then the poem has echoed in my head. I love the articulated syllabic riff of 'the hatchet's differentiated/ Accurate cut'. And that decked chestnut tree now stands for Seamus himself, though not quite 'A soul ramifying and forever/ Silent', for Seamus's words will echo and ramify with even more resonance now that he has gone, as they have already for me.

I'm trying to remember when I first set eyes on Seamus Heaney, and I think it must have been in 1971, when he gave an introductory lecture to the students of the final Honours year in the School of English. I recall the high, sculpted cheekbones, the hooded, mischievous eyes, the rooted assurance of his stance, the beautifully modulated voice. Not a few girls in our year rather fancied him, including my own girlfriend of the

time. I confess I felt a twinge of jealousy. Later I got to know Seamus better through his wonderful tutorials, in which he always drew attention to the sound and heft of the language. Somehow he got to hear that I was trying my hand at poetry, and I was invited to join the Belfast Writers' Group, which then met in a tiny room at the back of 4 University Square. I remember vividly his reading from new work that would later be included in his collection *Wintering Out*, published in 1972. He ended with 'Wintering', whose last lines are 'Under the moon's stigmata/ Six thousand miles away./ I imagine untroubled dust./ A loosening gravity./ Christ weighing by his hands.' As he ended, there was that momentary silence that is the only proper response to transcendence, and then applause. At that time everyone smoked – 'before they put the cancer in cigarettes', as Michael Longley has it – and when we all got up I noticed that around the chair where Seamus had been sitting was an almost perfect semi-circle of ash left by the tapping of his cigarettes as he read, and I see him now seated within that magical, ghostly space. I hear again the gravity of that voice.

Little did I know then that I would end up as Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, and I still don't know quite how that came to pass. We never know what lies in front of us. Life and poetry proceeds by happenstance. As it happens, in 2009 I published a book of poems called *On the Night Watch*. I was about halfway through the writing when it occurred to me that the form of the poems – very short, skinny lines – owed more than something to the kind of poetry Seamus had been writing in the 1980s, poems which he describes as 'kinds of drills or augers for turning in and they are narrow and long and deep.' I ended up dedicating the book to him, and sent him the manuscript in advance of publication. As usual, he responded with immense generosity with one of his beautiful handwritten letters, praising the work. The book was written in the shadow of the illness of a loved one, and some of the poems refer to my father's death. I think the generation of poets here that came after Seamus thought of him as a father of sorts. Here's one of the poems from my book:

## The Day He Died

is certain  
in my memory

the corridor but  
dimly lit

as I pass through  
the swing doors

following the trolley  
into where

he will leave  
this life but

at what moment  
I saw his life

leave him  
I cannot tell



The last time I saw Seamus was some months ago. He asked me what I was up to. As it so happened, I was in the throes of translating the work of the French poet Jean Follain, and we spent some very pleasant time talking, among other things, about the ramifications of translating. At one point I quoted a line from one of the poems, 'The stairwell is without a handrail in the alleyway', whereupon he said, 'A lot of L's there.' 'Yes,' I said. 'Of course L's have angles on them, you'd need those in your alleyway.' As I write, I catch again the twinkle in his eye. A couple of nights before he died, I was working on this Follain poem, which I'd like to quote in full, since it seems to me that Follain's work, with its deep and resonant simplicity, is akin to Seamus's.

There was certainly no slack in Seamus's life; and never any trace of absence. He was always wholly there, grounded, earthed into language. He is gone but the poems remain; they have become part of our lives, and he endures in them.

### Soulier renouée: Shoelace Tied

When evening waves  
its mass of clouds  
one sees the grass fires  
raise their smoke  
flowers grow in the sunken lanes  
a glimpse of daylight still remains  
while a boy in an iron-grey smock  
bows to a rut  
to tie his shoelace  
no slack in his life  
no trace of absence.

### Remembering Seamus Heaney

'I have been given more by my alma mater than I ever could have imagined'  
Seamus Heaney on the launch of the *Campaign for Queen's* in 2002.

We offer you, our alumni, the opportunity to pay tribute to Seamus and ensure that his legacy lives on through The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's. Most important to Seamus was that the Centre should foster the advancement of young poets and writers; that it would be a place where they could work together with and learn from established scholars and poets. The *Seamus Heaney Fund* will support postgraduate scholarships, international fellowships, a named Seamus Heaney Studentship, a 'first book' prize: all of which will continue the creative and academic tradition encouraged by Heaney.

Visit [www.daro.qub.ac.uk/seamus](http://www.daro.qub.ac.uk/seamus) to donate online. For more information, or to make cheque or credit card payments, please email [natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk](mailto:natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk) or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3928.

### Honoris Causa

Seamus Heaney received the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature from Queen's on Wednesday, 7 July 1982. The following is an extract from the citation delivered by Professor Colin B Radford, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

The award of every honorary degree is a matter of pride and congratulations, and the pleasure and satisfaction must always be intensified when the degree of Doctor of Literature, *Honoris Causa*, is conferred by the University where the recipient was formerly an undergraduate student.

It is now exactly 21 years since Seamus Heaney crossed this platform to receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts with first class honours in English. In the intervening period he has deservedly made for himself, as poet and critic, throughout this country and abroad, a name to be linked with those of the leading literary figures in the 20th century.

Few undergraduates can hope to lecture in the department in which they studied for their first degree; fewer still can dare to hope that their own poetry will one day be studied by later generations of students in the very rooms where they themselves have learned and taught!

Those who, for the first time today, have met his ready smile may be surprised if I suggest that his is not a poetry of joy, but one of the patient satisfactions more associated with country life where there are daily reminders of death: after *Death of a Naturalist* we find, in North, such revealing titles as 'Funeral Rites', 'The Digging Skeleton', 'Bone Dreams' and 'Bog Queen'. And yet digging, as we all know, is part of the creative process and it is significant that in his essay on Wordsworth he should talk of the poet as ploughman, and that he should describe the verbal creativity of Gerard Manley Hopkins as 'a masculine forging rather than a feminine incubation', reminding us therefore by his criticism as well as by his poetry that in the midst of death we are in life.

### Seamus Heaney: A life

- 1939** 13 April, Seamus Justin Heaney born in Mossbawn near Castledawson
- 1951** Seamus wins scholarship to St Columb's
- 1953** Family moved to Bellaghy
- 1957** Accepted into Queen's to study English
- 1961** Graduated with first class BA Arts degree
- 1965** August, Seamus married Marie Devlin
- 1965** Heaney's first book, *Eleven Poems*, published for Queen's Festival
- 1966** Faber and Faber publish his first major volume *Death of a Naturalist*
- Appointed lecturer at Queen's
- First son, Michael, was born
- 1968** Second son, Christopher, born
- Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize
- 1969** *Door into the Dark* published
- 1972** Left Queen's to take up teaching post at Carysfort College, Dublin
- Wintering Out published
- 1973** Daughter Catherine Ann born
- 1975** *North* published
- EM Forster Award
- 1979** *Field Work* published
- 1980** *Preoccupations* published
- 1981** Inaugural electee into Aosdána
- Visiting professor at Harvard University
- Joined Board of Field Day Theatre Co.
- 1982** Awarded honorary doctorates by Queen's and Fordham University, New York
- 1984** *Station Island* published
- His mother, Margaret, died
- 1987** *The Haw Lantern* published
- 1991** *The Cure at Troy* published
- 1995** Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1996** *The Spirit Level* published; wins Whitbread Awards poetry prize
- Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres
- 1997** *Saoi of Aosdána* published
- 1999** *Beowulf* (translation) Whitbread Prize
- 2001** Golden Wreath of Poetry
- Electric Light* published
- 2004** Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry opens
- 2005** Irish PEN Award
- Portrait by Tai-Shan Schierenberg unveiled in Great Hall, Queen's
- 2006** *District and Circle* published
- TS Eliot Prize
- 2007** Irish Times 'Poetry Now' Award for *District and Circle*
- 2008** Lifetime Achievement Award, Queen's
- 2009** David Cohen Prize
- 2010** *Human Chain* published
- Opened The McClay Library at Queen's
- 2011** Irish Times 'Poetry Now' Award and Griffin Poetry Prize for *Human Chain*
- Bob Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2012** The Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry Lifetime Recognition Award

### Extract from a speech by Seamus Heaney on the opening of the McClay Library at Queen's, 6 July 2010

Ever since that first moment of acclamation on the stage of the Whitla Hall, I have had reason to be grateful for other and ever more significant honours that Queen's has bestowed on me, so it's a privilege this evening to return the favour somewhat, to salute and celebrate the alma mater as she adds this marvellous new McClay Library to her premises, to her promise and to her prestige.

The building symbolises and realises the ambition that inspired Allen McClay's efforts as Chairman of the Queen's Foundation and the efforts of his successor Tom Lynch, the ambition to give what Shakespeare might have called 'a local habitation and a name' to their dream of a transformed campus, a campus that would be a beacon tower of new possibility and ongoing confidence in the University's educational mission.

Language, literature, learning, the lure and indeed the lair of the library – in the course of my undergraduate years here, those were things that changed me for life, and they remain to this day essential to the pursuit of a liberal education. However much the technology may have changed in the meantime, the library remains at the intellectual and creative centre of any university. Many of the words associated with it have rich and primal associations. Just to speak of 'holdings' or 'stacks' is to be reminded how indispensable a library is to the garnering and guarding what is most treasured in the culture and most necessary in the pursuit of knowledge.



Lady Heather McClay with Seamus Heaney

The dim outback of shelves and catwalks was very different from the stacks I had grown up among – haystacks and cornstacks higher than the house, harvest holdings, you might say, garnerings of straw and grain. But the stacks in the library still performed a similar function to those in the haggard, for just as the farmer could withdraw hay or straw by the armful and carry it off for fodder or bedding, so the student could emerge with his or her armful of books, fill up the slips at the desk and keep them for a fortnight to extract whatever nurture that was stored in them for mind or imagination.

# A CANDLE IN DARK NIGHTS

With over 50 years of history behind it, the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's has lured the renowned arts programmer and producer Richard Wakely back to his alma mater as Festival Director. As the editor of *The Graduate*, Gerry Power, found out when he caught up with him over the summer, Richard's main challenge is to continue to attract artists of stature from home and abroad to Belfast.

Richard Wakely is one of the most creative, well-respected and driven individuals on the international arts scene. A career spanning more than 30 years has seen him involved in drama, dance and film around the world. Past engagements have included curating and producing pieces for Cork and Liverpool during their time as European Capital of Culture. He has produced, co-produced and transferred 18 productions to London's West End and New York's Broadway, and toured award-winning performances not just in the UK and Ireland but throughout Europe, Asia and South America.

"Being appointed Director of the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival is both an honour and a privilege," Richard told the University earlier in the year.

"My mission is to continue to bring the world's best performers, known and unknown, to the stages of Belfast, to challenge preconceptions about the arts, create compelling new experiences, and to ensure Festival can increasingly open its arms to audiences at home and across the world."

Richard Wakely was born in Nottingham in 1959, the son of Richard Senior - a manager of the Woolwich Building Society in Coleraine - and mother Beryl. The family moved to Belfast when he was just one year old, where he later attended Grosvenor High School, before coming to Queen's to study Geography in the late 1970s.

"I was very interested in geography and wanted to explore the cultures and the peoples of other countries in an academic way," explained Richard.

Richard Wakely,  
Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's Director

"I became involved in Queen's Festival and in the student Fringe Festival, which were the only real outlets for culture and arts in Northern Ireland at the time. It's fair to say, thanks to the likes of Michael Barnes and Betty Craig, that Queen's was a candle in dark nights in the late 70s," he added.

**"IF I COULD SUM UP  
FESTIVAL 2013 IN  
JUST THREE WORDS  
THEY WOULD BE -  
CONTEMPORARY,  
PARTICIPATORY  
AND RELEVANT..."**



"I really appreciate the great pastoral care I was afforded by the Deans and others. This greatly influenced the future direction of my career - indeed of my life - as I would just have dropped out of university otherwise," said Richard.

"I was always much more comfortable in the drama theatre than in the lecture theatre," said Richard. "As a student I spent much of the autumn months volunteering in the box office where I learned so much from Michael and Betty. Festival then was more than a series of cultural events aimed at the student populous - it was an education in itself, and enabled me to view life outside University."

Back in the 1970s, the Belfast Festival at Queen's and the Fringe Festival - were unique and courageous. Fringe was the first arts organisation

to bring across a professional gay theatre production (Gay Sweatshop), something Richard recognises was an important cultural action at the time. Festival also taught him how to look after artists - how to treat them respectfully - and how, in those difficult times, these artists became the best ambassadors for Belfast.

After graduating in 1982, Richard worked professionally in the arts in Northern Ireland before recognising that he needed to gain experience further afield, to investigate arts and culture from other perspectives.

"One of the most profound and formative theatrical moments of my life was getting the last ticket for the final night of *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching towards the Somme* in Hampstead Theatre. Poignantly written by Frank McGuinness, it was a brilliant production and has had a lifelong effect on me. Most surreally, however, though totally unconnected, I was offered the post of General Manager and started work at the theatre just a few weeks later! Those nine years at Hampstead were the happiest of my life."

Richard, by then partnered to fellow dance and theatre producer Teerth Chungh, moved back to Ireland as Managing Director of Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 2000. After managing the National Theatre of Ireland for several years, he went on to curate a major, two year cultural exchange programme between Ireland and China, the seeds for which were sown at his alma mater.

The Abbey holds an important place in Richard's heart with his now late grandmother having regaled him in his youth with stories of attending opening nights there. In more recent years, he has developed a love for contemporary dance and, in 2007, co-founded an annual platform of new dance from Ireland at Dance Base as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Richard has also produced for several choreographers and dance companies at home and abroad, and remains a member of the Board of Directors of Dance Ireland.

The grounds for Richard's return to Northern Ireland were prepared with the rebirth of the Lyric Theatre. As consultant on that project, he collaborated with visionaries like Sid McDowell, Professor Sir George Bain, and Lyric Chairman, Mark Carruthers.

Apart from having to curate a programme in just eight weeks, the main challenge was the small matter of the economy - the squeeze on public and personal finances - a challenge that Richard is quick to acknowledge.

"I appreciate that there has been a huge decline in disposable income in recent years and am working to make Festival more accessible to all pockets."

"We have lots of free performances planned for 2013 and will charge very competitive prices, with for example, our international theatre programme at no more than £16 a ticket. There are also plans to take Festival around the city and out to audiences, rather than expecting them always to come to us. I am pleased to say that *Ars Nova* of Copenhagen - the critically acclaimed Danish vocal ensemble - will be staged at St Gerard's on the Antrim Road, so by utilising different venues we are inviting patrons to rediscover their own city," said Richard.

**"MY MISSION IS TO  
CONTINUE TO BRING  
THE WORLD'S BEST  
PERFORMERS...TO THE  
STAGES OF BELFAST"**

"If I could sum up Festival 2013 in just three words they would be - contemporary, participatory and relevant," said Richard. "Undoubtedly, the Opening Concert with José Carreras is a wonderful coup for Belfast and to end things in style we have the Ulster Orchestra performing Strauss and Wagner in the closing concert. But the re-establishment of a revitalised and intimate Music Club (a nod to the Guinness Spot of years gone by) with its roots based in alternative music from the likes of Carminho, Eric Bibb and Hem, ticks a number of boxes and is certainly worthy of being called a highlight."

A successful Festival is not just about the numbers. "There's no single measure of success," said Richard. "It's more a combination of things - tickets sales, the levels of engagement, audience response, the continued support of our funders, the ability to attract artists of stature, particularly from abroad and the reaction of the media."

And there are roles in the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's for students and for alumni as well. "I would love to see more graduates getting involved by signing up as Festival volunteers. You never know what new artist or performer the experience might introduce alumni to."

Collaboration, partnership and audience involvement are central to this year's Festival, and should ensure that the annual arts smorgasbord will provide even more diversity than usual. With Richard at the helm, we're in for a fun ride!

For details of this year's Festival and how to become a Festival volunteer, go to [www.belfastfestival.com](http://www.belfastfestival.com) or telephone the box office on +44 (0) 28 9097 1197. For details of all Queen's events go to [www.whatsonatqueens.com](http://www.whatsonatqueens.com)



# together we can go beyond



Queen's ambitious fundraising campaign was launched in 2012 to raise £140 million over five years. Read on to discover some of the highlights of the last 12 months' achievements which are helping Queen's to "Go Beyond!"

## CENTRE FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE

Construction of Queen's £32m Centre for Experimental Medicine (CEM) on the University's Institute of Health Sciences campus on Jubilee Road, opposite Belfast City Hospital, is well underway.

The Centre is a key focus of Queen's ambitious £140m Beyond fundraising campaign, which will provide philanthropic funding to support research of global significance and importance. The four-storey building will be adjacent to the existing Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology to encourage joint working and discovery between researchers.

Almost half the funding for CEM (£15m), came from The Atlantic Philanthropies, the University's largest ever single donation. Additional backing has been received through a series of grants and philanthropic donations from the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund, The Wellcome Trust, The Wolfson Foundation, The Sir Jules Thorn

Charitable Trust, the Insight Trust for the Visually Impaired and The Queen's University of Belfast Foundation.

When it opens for business in 2015, CEM will provide accommodation for some 330 members of staff specialising in research into finding cures for eye disease and diabetes, and the development of a global programme to aid understanding of the genetics of complex chronic diseases.

Speaking as construction got underway on the site earlier in the year, Professor Patrick Johnston, Dean of the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences said: "This new Centre will be a key driver for change in a range of health and biotechnology activities in Northern Ireland and further afield. Today's announcement that construction is due to begin is good news for everyone in Northern Ireland as we can all look forward to benefiting from improved diagnosis and treatments of debilitating diseases."



QUEEN'S HAS  
OVER 250  
BUILDINGS; 97 OF  
THESE ARE  
LISTED

## WATCHING WHAT WE EAT!

Professor Chris Elliott, Director of the Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's, has been appointed to a new Food Economy Task Force aiming to boost the UK's food economy through world class collaboration. He joins 15 leaders from business, universities and government in the Task Force to be chaired by Justin King, Chief Executive of Sainsbury's.

This is the latest high-profile appointment for Professor Elliott, who earlier in the summer was chosen by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Health to lead an independent review of Britain's food system, in light of the widespread horsemeat scandal earlier in the year.

The review will focus on consumer confidence in the authenticity of all food products and any weaknesses in supply networks which could have implications for food safety and public health. Professor Elliott and his team will look at the causes of the systemic failure that enabled the 2013 horsemeat scandal, the roles and responsibilities of businesses throughout the food supply chain to consumers, and how to support consumer confidence.

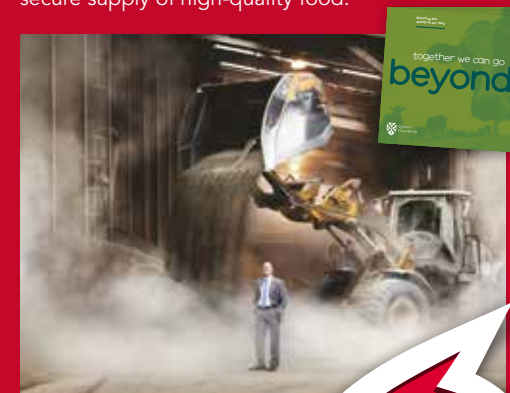
The review began in early June and will take up to a year to complete. Interim findings will be submitted in December and a final report by spring 2014.

The Food Economy Task Force, launched by the National Centre for Universities and Business, has been set up to ensure that business and university activities are aligned to get maximum economic

impact for the UK globally and to keep the country at the forefront of food security.

Speaking about his most recent appointment, Professor Elliott said: "Food production is a truly global and highly competitive business. The UK must produce the highest quality graduates that will understand the complexities and opportunities of operating in the global marketplace. The establishment of the Task Force is an important step in the further development of vital industry-academia partnerships."

The £33m Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's was opened in March by Philip Clarke, CEO Tesco PLC, to improve global food security through the establishment of an international 'food-fortress' in Belfast. It will be a key partner in national and global efforts to provide the world's growing population with a sustainable, safe and secure supply of high-quality food.



MORE THAN  
1,200  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS STUDY  
AT QUEEN'S

## TORONTO GRADUATES GATHER

Almost 50 alumni and guests attended a reception at The University Club of Toronto in May, hosted by Queen's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Peter Gregson, and Mr Tony Russell, an eminent Canada-based alumnus.

Professor Danny McAuley (right), of the Centre for Infection and Immunity, gave a presentation on acute lung injury and on his ongoing collaboration with St Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Among guests was Dr Kenneth Gorman (left, with his daughter Rachel Harvey), a class of 1956 medical graduate, who worked in diabetes research in Toronto with the late Dr Charles Best, one of the discoverers of insulin.





## ELITE SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES



### ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAMME

BELIEVE IN EXCEPTIONAL



Queen's University  
Belfast

QUEEN'S  
SPORT

Queen's Sport has launched an Elite Athlete Programme (EAP) to provide exceptional prospective students who compete at the highest level in sport with a platform to achieve both sporting and academic goals.

Benefits include a significant contribution towards fees, accommodation and international competition costs throughout the athlete's university journey. Also available through the initiative is:

- access to sporting scholarships and bursaries
- academic support, mentoring and career advice
- lifestyle management
- catering and nutritional budget
- expert coaching and the very best in athlete support services.

Starting this October, the new programme package is estimated to be worth up to £8,000

per student per year, based on achievement. It is hoped the initiative will also help to promote and develop Sporting Academies and Clubs at Queen's by the attraction of elite athletes. Recipients will act as University Ambassadors when participating in Queen's recruitment initiatives throughout their time on the programme.

Among inaugural EAP award recipients are

- Katie Kirk, BSc Food, Quality, Safety and Nutrition - Irish U23 800m athletics champion
- Tiernan Oliver, LLB Law with French - Irish National Rowing Champion
- Lorcan Dow, BSc Psychology - Irish Exiles U18 rugby captain
- Laurence McGivern, BSc Accounting with French - London Paralympic finalist S19 100m backstroke

QUEEN'S  
GRADUATES HAVE  
GIVEN OVER  
£20m SINCE 2013;  
HELPING QUEEN'S  
'GO BEYOND'

## SUCCESSFUL TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN FOR MEDICAL FUND

Medical undergraduates were part of a dedicated team of student callers who undertook a telephone fundraising campaign in support of the recently established Queen's Medical Fund.

The campaign resulted in £32,000 being pledged over the next three years which will help to provide additional summer studentships in Research Centres in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, and to offer support to intercalating students.

Among those who shared their experiences of life as a Queen's medic with alumni was third year, Natalie Catherwood, who went on to undertake an eight-week summer studentship in the Regional Genetics Laboratory in Belfast City Hospital. "I really enjoyed contacting the graduates, hearing their stories and even getting a few tips on how to survive medical school," said Natalie. "I feel privileged to have been offered this studentship as

I know there are a limited number available, but hopefully the Queen's Medical Fund will help to ensure that many more students can have this opportunity in the future."



Queen's Medical Fund Student Callers  
(Natalie Catherwood front right)

## TO THE FUTURE...AND BEYOND!

Thanks to Queen's Annual Fund and NIE, a team of students is about to embark on a project to revamp one of Ulster's most famous exports.

Ten top engineers at Queen's will soon begin transforming the iconic 1980s DeLorean car into a roadworthy 21st century electric vehicle. It is expected to take the students until summer 2015 before the old petrol system has been removed and replaced with an electric one.

The initiative, the first of its kind in the UK, is billed as 'providing students with a practical project to learn about electric vehicle technology and new smart electric technologies.'

Led by lecturer and researcher Dr David Laverty, the project was one of 20 to secure funding this year from Queen's Annual Fund which, with the

help of donations from graduates and friends, enhances the student experience.

To find out more about the Annual or Medical Fund, please contact Natasha Sharma on +44 (0) 28 9097 3928 or e-mail [natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk](mailto:natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk)



NIE scholarship students  
Neil Johnston and Orla Martin  
at the launch of DeLorean project

## DRUG DISCOVERY PARTNERSHIP

A £13m partnership was announced in September to accelerate local cancer-focused drug discovery. As part of the project, Queen's and Almac Discovery are to schedule a phase one clinical trial for ovarian cancer, involving the first novel cancer drug fully developed in Northern Ireland.

Involving up to 60 ovarian cancer patients, the drug being trialled was created as a result of an earlier collaboration between Almac Discovery and the School of Pharmacy's Professor Tracy Robson.

Explaining about the trial, Professor Robson said: "This latest trial involves a new treatment for cancer known as ALM201, which rather than attacking tumours directly, prevents the growth of new blood vessels in tumours, starving them of oxygen and nutrients, and thereby preventing their growth. It targets tumours by an entirely different pathway to those treatments currently approved."

At the same time it was also announced that a new CCRCB/Almac Discovery joint programme in Cancer Drug Discovery will bring researchers from Queen's Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology and scientists from Almac Discovery together to translate research discoveries into treatments for patients.

The two projects represent a total investment of £13m, with £7m of support offered by Invest Northern Ireland, which includes part funding from the European Regional Development Fund. As a result of the joint programme, 17 scientists from Almac Discovery have been seconded to

CCRCB in an industry-led venture. The discovery team will work to identify parts of tumours which are susceptible to treatment by cancer drugs and to then develop the new drugs to target them. The new programme is being led by Professor Tim Harrison, Vice President of Discovery Chemistry with Almac Discovery. As part of this partnership, Professor Harrison has been appointed McClay Chair of Medicinal Chemistry at Queen's for the next three years.



Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster with Alan  
Armstrong, CEO Almac and Professor David Waugh,  
Director, CCRCB

To find out more about the Beyond Campaign, or to request a brochure, contact Norma Sinte on +44 (0) 28 9097 3114 or e-mail [n.sinte@qub.ac.uk](mailto:n.sinte@qub.ac.uk)

[www.queensfoundation.com](http://www.queensfoundation.com)

# RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Each year, hundreds of postgraduate students at Queen's engage in a wide range of research projects which ultimately affect the lives of people - not just in Northern Ireland, but further afield. From exploration of the earliest European civilisation to the development of drug regimens for those with cardiovascular disease, the research is as diverse as it is important. In Research Showcase a number of current postgraduates outline their work and its wider impact.

## Magda Foreiter

Queen's University Ionic Liquid Laboratories

In April 2013, ionic liquids were voted the Great British Innovation of the 21st century. Queen's University Ionic Liquid Laboratories Research Centre (QUILL) is at the forefront of UK excellence.

QUILL is a well-proven industry/university co-operative research centre, which gathers more than 50 scientists on site, including Magda Foreiter.



"I joined QUILL as a PhD student (under Professor Ken Seddon) to explore chiral ionic liquids - one of many branches of ionic liquids science. Ionic liquids are 'green solvents' with negligible vapour pressure and reusability, which save our planet from pollution by replacing old nasty agents traditionally used in industrial processes."

Magda has had an opportunity to work closely with QUILL's industrial members, including PETRONAS in Malaysia. Members not only provide funding, but ultimately set the trends for future research according to the actual needs of their industry.

"It was a great and unusual experience for a PhD student in chemistry, which builds up a great confidence in your research", Magda said. Having this support, she has attended numerous scientific meetings in the UK and US presenting her work and networking with other scientists in the ionic liquids field and beyond. She is currently Chair and principal organiser of the Gordon Research Seminar on Green Chemistry to be held in Hong Kong next year.

## Pamela Linden

School of History and Anthropology

Pamela Linden, who graduated from Queen's in 2003, has returned to the School of History & Anthropology to research Jewish identity and community in Belfast, 1914-53. Her PhD is funded by DEL and is supervised by Professor Peter Gray.

As Belfast's first non-Christian minority, the city's Jewish community provides a unique position from which to examine religious and cultural identity in



Pamela with Professors Peter Gray (left) and Tony Kushner

the newly established state of Northern Ireland, addressing broader themes of assimilation and political participation.

Of particular interest was the discovery of archival material relating to the activities of the Belfast Jewish Refugee Committee prior to and during WWII. The material was included in a collection held in Jerusalem and had not been consulted prior to Pamela's research. The correspondence provides insights into the response of both the Jewish community and the Northern Ireland Government to the hundreds of applications made by Jewish refugees seeking to leave Nazi occupied areas of Europe.

Her research has also enabled Pamela to work on an exciting project to place a copy of the personal correspondence of Belfast's longest serving Rabbi, Jacob Shachter, on permanent loan to Queen's Special Collections. The Shachter papers now form the centre of a Jewish Studies collection in Special Collections, making an excellent addition to Ross-Rosenzeig and Rosenfield papers already held there.

## Sara Boyle

School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology

Sara Boyle is a third-year postgrad in the Past Cultural Change Cluster in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology. Her research pulled together a huge archaeological survey carried out by her supervisor, Dr Caroline Malone, and has identified several thousand small archaeological sites on the island of Gozo (Maltese Islands). Sara's and Dr Malone's research in Malta has just resulted in a grant of €2.49m from the European Research Council to Caroline, to trace the environmental context and social dynamics of the Maltese Temple Culture - the first European civilisation.

Sara told *The Graduate*: "My PhD research has explored the archaeological study of settlement within a small island setting. The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology provided a comprehensive methodological



MORE THAN  
6,000  
POSTGRADS  
STUDY AT  
QUEEN'S

framework which has enabled my research to move from a consideration of the artefactual remnants of settlement activity, to their composition as settlement sites, and their place within the broader dynamics of settlement systems.

"The Maltese Islands, and island of Gozo in particular, provided an excellent opportunity to put this framework into practice: the megalithic monuments of the islands' prehistoric era have captured the imaginations of scholars for centuries, leaving the wider prehistoric landscape poorly understood and disconnected from the impressive archaeology of the major prehistoric sites.

"Not only has my research established the most complete record of prehistoric settlement activity yet known for the Maltese Islands, it also provides new insight into human-environment interactions within a Mediterranean island setting and offers a methodological framework which can be applied to the investigation of past populations within any region and across any time period."

## Helene Bovy

School of Biological Sciences

Helene Bovy started her PhD research in January 2012, so is a recent addition to the Ecology, Evolution, Behaviour and Environmental Economics research cluster in the School of Biology. Under the supervision of Professors Jaimie Dick and Mark Emmerson, Helene's research focuses on invasive species impacts, and more precisely, methods for predicting these impacts.

Biological invasions are a recurrent theme in ecology and have been listed as one of the top threats to biodiversity. While the magnitude of impact can vary, they can be extremely costly, both environmentally and economically; in Europe alone, they are estimated to cost over £10 billion a year.

Speaking about her work with invasive species, Helene commented: "The Grey Squirrel is decimating Red Squirrel populations, and Japanese Knotweed can significantly damage



infrastructure. By finding methods to accurately and efficiently predict impacts of invasive species, resources can be better allocated and prioritised in order to facilitate their management and eradication."

Helene's PhD is funded jointly by a Queen's University Award and the Controlling Priority Invasive Species and Restoring Native Biodiversity (CIRB) project. The latter, headed by Professor Christine Maggs, is a £2.6m project launched at Queen's in February 2011, looking at ways to control and possibly eradicate harmful invasive plant species from river catchments in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

"My involvement with CIRB is allowing me to investigate one of the trickier sides of ecology, as all species and environments are directly and indirectly linked. My research is contributing to the much needed experimental data to understand how to better predict invasive species' impact on multiple levels."



## Matthew Wilson

### School of Pharmacy

Matthew Wilson is a final year PhD student in the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Practice Research Cluster in the School of Pharmacy, though he first graduated from the School of Chemical Engineering with a first class honours in 2007.

Matthew spent a year pursuing sporting interests before joining local medical device company, TG Eakin, as a Research Associate through a Queen's operated Knowledge Transfer Partnership or KTP.

With his sights firmly set on high-level research he applied for a Department of Education and Learning (DEL) funded PhD project working under the direction of Dr Gavin Andrews and Professor David Jones. His project involves the development of novel oral drug delivery systems (tablets) that offer the possibility of combining two or more drugs in a single formulation.

The project utilises the expertise of hospital



pharmacists, material scientists and engineers to improve the major issue of non-compliance of dosage regimes associated with cardiovascular patients.

Matthew explains: "Cardiovascular disease (CVD) patients often face the issue of noncompliance of dosage regimes, due to the high number of tablets prescribed and the time(s) of day at which they are to be taken. Various drugs are administered in the morning whereas others perform better when taken in the evening when cholesterol biosynthesis is at its peak. This dosage regime often leads to patients forgetting to take medication, thus missing a dose."

In providing such a platform, patient compliance, clinical outcomes and management of CVDs may be improved. Through the use of advanced extrusion technologies developed at Queen's, multi-layer solid dosage forms will be manufactured that will offer immediate release and controlled release of two drugs in a single solid dosage form.

## Kate Johnson

### School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology

Kate Johnson is a member of the Environmental Change research cluster lead by Dr Chris Hunt, Reader in Palaeoecology and Director of Research, Environmental Change in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology working with Professor Keith Bennett.

Kate is studying the genetics of different populations of monkey-puzzle trees in the Andes, Argentina. Monkey puzzle trees are very important to the ecology of the mountainous southern parts of South America. She is also studying their fossil record, through subfossil pollen grains preserved in lake deposit sequences.

"My research is investigating recent environmental change in northern Patagonia. I have had two months of field work during my PhD, collecting leaves from the monkey puzzle tree and sampling



sediment from lakes for analysis.

"The vegetation in the region has been widely affected by recent volcanic events that have left large quantities of volcanic pumice in the region. The monkey puzzle tree has thick bark to protect it, and has therefore survived in central Argentina and Chile for thousands of years. Glaciations have also shaped the landscape and vegetation, with the monkey puzzle tree surviving in ice-free areas not dissimilar to its current range", said Kate.

Until now, little was known about how patterns of distribution of the monkey puzzle tree have changed in response to climate change and how they might behave in response to global warming. Kate's work will show how the different populations of these trees have responded in the past to periods of climate change, enabling predictions about their future behaviour to be made.

For details on all Queen's research go to [www.qub.ac.uk/home/ResearchandEnterprise](http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ResearchandEnterprise)

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



'Graduate employability is a primary concern for students and addressing this will be a priority during my term as President.' Promises outlined in Niall McShane's spring manifesto are one thing; making sure that Queen's students stand out in an increasingly competitive job market are another, as Gerry Power, editor of *The Graduate*, found out when he spoke to the new Student President.

Finance graduate Niall McShane took over the reins as President of the Students' Union on 1 July 2013, having served two terms as Vice President. With ambitions for a career in finance from the outset, he spent his degree placement year in Queen's Finance Office, which also gave him a unique insight into the running of the University. As such there is very little the affable Co. Armagh man doesn't know about the machinations of student life, or of the relationship between the University and the student body.

"My best memories of Queen's would have to be the friends I made throughout my studies. I really enjoyed nights out with those from my course as part of the Finance Society and playing for the Gaelic Football Team," said Niall.

"During those four years the campus changed so much – the transformational McClay Library sprung up in a corner of Botanic Gardens, looking instantly like it had been there for years, and the Dub – now Queen's Sport Upper Malone – changed beyond all recognition, giving Queen's Clubs a home to be proud of," he added.

Niall, during his time as a student, played for both the Freshers and Sigerson Gaelic football teams. He also served as the Club's treasurer, an early indication perhaps of his career aspirations and he now returns home to Cullyhanna twice a week to play football for St Patrick's GAA Club where he is currently a Committee member.

He grew up on his father's farm with his two brothers and his sister. Perhaps it was inevitable that he would study at Queen's as his mother

Yvonne and brothers Mark and Connor are also graduates.

"I really enjoyed my time as a student and was keen, when the opportunity came around and having served two terms as Vice President Clubs and Societies, to put myself forward for election as President."

Having been elected with over 1,600 votes, Niall represents the views of all 23,000 students to the University, the Media and to external bodies, so that positive change can be achieved on the issues that affect Queen's students.

## "THE TOP THREE ISSUES FOR STUDENTS REMAIN THE POUND IN THEIR POCKET, EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS AND THE QUALITY OF THEIR EDUCATION."

"I am committed to engaging with all students and to making a real difference, and with the experience as Vice President behind me I believe that I can."

With current financial pressures, the cost of accommodation and the ever challenging prospects of students getting a job once they

graduate, Niall faces a tougher situation than many of his forerunners. Students today can expect to leave Queen's with, on average, £20k debt.

"University is so much more than just getting a degree, which, in many ways, is taken as a given. Job prospects are enhanced by the extracurricular activities undertaken while students are here and which help their CVs to stand out. It is important that students do whatever possible to develop their personal profiles while they are here."

## "I AM COMMITTED TO ENGAGING WITH ALL STUDENTS AND TO MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE."

Niall's immediate predecessor as President was Jason O'Neill who, by any measure, had two very successful years in office. With the Students' Union now in what has been described by one observer as a 'good place' – currently ranked fifth in the UK (Times Higher) and the best in Ireland – Niall will have his work cut out.

"Jason really started things rolling," said Niall, "and I want to continue that momentum and build on his firm foundations. The Students' Union can justifiably aspire to being the best in UK and if our endorsements by third parties, such as the National Student Survey, continue and we can show that we have made a real difference to current students, then being No 1 is an achievable aim."

The last six years have seen a huge transformation in the Students' Union, starting with a major refurbishment of the University Road building in 2007 which brought a dull 1960s construction bang up-to-date both internally and in its appearance. The Union is still as important as ever, giving advice, offering representation, providing innovative initiatives and programmes for over 20,000 students and encouraging involvement and engagement.

MORE THAN  
8,000 STUDENTS  
ARE MEMBERS  
OF A CLUB OR  
SOCIETY

And former students can still play a vital part in the life of the University, as Niall is keen to point out.

"Graduates of Queen's have experience that current students are really envious of, so there's clearly an important role for alumni in the Students' Union of today. We are always on the lookout for volunteers for our Enterprise Unit to assist in student development, to sign up as mentors or even to address students as guest speakers at careers events," said Niall.

"As part of a new employability campaign I plan to run an 'inspiration series' for current students where graduates share their skills, stories and experiences with today's students – giving them the confidence to be the leaders of tomorrow. That's certainly something I'd be keen to hear from interested graduates on."

"If alumni feel they can help inspire students to achieve more, then I'd love them to get in touch. Or if anyone would like a tour of the Students' Union – and a chance to reminisce on former days – I would be delighted to show them around."

When he finds time, if he's not kicking a football that is, Niall enjoys reading autobiographies, cycling or genning up on the latest thinking in entrepreneurship and social enterprise. But how does he see things panning out after his year as 'first citizen'?

"I am still keeping my options open, but would perhaps like to join a business development consultancy. Longer term, I would quite like to run my own business," Niall added confidently.

Niall McShane describes himself as personable, dedicated and committed and he is clearly all three. With these important attributes he is very likely to achieve everything he sets out in his time in office and in the years afterwards.

If you would like to help the Enterprise Unit or visit the Students' Union building, Meaghan Lyons can connect you with Niall - email: [m.lyons@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.lyons@qub.ac.uk) or telephone +44 (0) 28 9097 3135.



Securing the right job has never been more critical for graduates. Ian Moore, Head of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, suggests that an alumni mentor can be a crucial stepping stone to career success.

According to many leading companies, Queen's students are among the most employable entering the national graduate job market. However, opportunities in Northern Ireland are the most competitive in the UK with only 25% of graduate employers offering posts here compared with 84% in London and roughly 50% in all other regions. And to make matters more difficult, a huge 33% of all graduate jobs go to individuals who have already worked for that employer.

To boost employability, a new Alumni Career Mentoring Scheme was launched at the University

93% OF 2011-12  
GRADUATES WERE  
IN WORK OR STUDY  
SIX MONTHS AFTER  
GRADUATION

Investment banks are believed to offer the highest graduate starting salaries (over £45k/annum), but even the average graduate salary in the UK is now reported to be £29,000\* - a figure that might impress many older graduates. There has been no increase in the average salary, however, for the last four years despite graduates leaving university facing rising living costs and with increased levels of student debt.

\*High Fliers Research Limited (2013) - The Graduate Market in 2013





**Niall Watters, BSc International Business with Spanish 2013; Student Mentee 2013.**

"I finished studying at Queen's this year and recently started a new job as a Revenue Analyst in Amadeus IT Group SA in Madrid, Spain which is a bit of a leap for a boy from Culloville in Co Armagh. But I think my whole experience in the mentoring scheme has been fantastic. It gave me the confidence to get this job and I have really learned a lot.

"My mentor, John Murtagh, has been absolutely brilliant and has done so much to provide me with the best information, whether it be about courses, graduate schemes or even newspaper articles that he

felt would be of benefit to me.

"John has opened my eyes and has not only encouraged me, but has also inspired me to keep striving to achieve the best that I possibly can. For a man with such a busy schedule to take the time to get in contact with me in the way that he has, I am truly grateful.

"This is a brilliant programme, very beneficial. I am delighted I took part in it and would advise any other student offered the opportunity to participate to grab the chance with both hands."

in 2011 to provide students with opportunities to engage with inspiring alumni who have used their Queen's degree as a platform to success. Students can use participation in the initiative as part of their evidence towards a Degree Plus award.

In brief, a mentor is someone with first-hand experience of the world of work who serves as a trusted confidante and guide over a period of time. For those being mentored (often referred to as mentees) the benefits are obvious – expert advice which helps them get ahead in their career. For the mentor it is a way of giving something back (in this case to Queen's) but they may also get involved to develop their skills as a manager or business leader. So a true mentoring relationship works in both directions – the mentor learns new ideas from his/her mentee just as the student receives timeless wisdom from those who have gone before them – much like Daniel and Miyagi in the Karate Kid movies of the 1980s.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency has demonstrated through career destination surveys that those who study Humanities courses often face the greatest challenges in securing graduate level employment. The Queen's mentoring initiative therefore targets (though not exclusively) those students in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences who are open to considering some of the wider career options available to them in areas such as management, consultancy or other 'any discipline' opportunities.

Interested students and alumni make a formal application to the scheme and are then provided with training before being 'matched'. During the

mentoring process, matched mentors and mentees engage in a series of four positive and constructive conversations about the student's career and employability enhancement plans. While time commitment from the alumni mentors is negligible, the impact on their mentees is potentially immeasurable.

**The experience was really useful. We discussed the skills that I already had but didn't realise. The mentor helped me to pull achievements and professional qualities out of part-time work and group projects. I learnt how to 'sell my stuff'!**

(Student Mentee, 2012)

It is already common for alumni who are high achievers to return to Queen's to share their experiences and motivations with current undergraduates. Events, including guest speakerships, career alumni information sessions and fast-track networking evenings are all opportunities for students to learn and graduates to 'give something back'.

Mentoring, however, now offers alumni (usually those five to 20 years into their career) the chance to interact personally with a specific student and help plan their future success.



**John Murtagh, BSc Business Administration 1995, Global Head of Operations (FQS Capital Partners LLP); Alumni Mentor 2012 and 2013.**

"We all recall as students that we thought we knew it all. It was only when we were about to graduate that we realised how little we really knew about the big, bad world we were about to enter.

"From working in firms where mentoring is part of the culture, I have learnt how beneficial a mentor can be. It can often be the smallest of life lessons that can make the biggest of differences and I'm sure most of the alumni reading this will think 'if I had someone help me when I was graduating then I would have done things differently'.

"A good mentor offers simple, but effective advice suggesting avenues that the graduating student hasn't thought of; he or she not only guides, but broadens horizons.

"When the University introduced the scheme I was keen to be involved. It has certainly been an excellent experience and I would recommend it to other Queen's alumni. The students I have mentored have been keen to learn and acted upon the advice that I was able to offer them and it is so rewarding to work with them when they have such enthusiasm and drive to succeed."

**It was a very enjoyable experience. I was proud to continue my links with the University and delighted to share my own career experiences. Reflecting on my own practice was as useful for me as for the mentee.**

(Brian McGilloway, School Teacher and Alumni Mentor, 2012)

Students have been amazed by the personalised support and guidance given to them by alumni working in the specific career they aspire to.

**I am going to New York this summer and will meet my mentor, while I am in town. She is going to introduce me to her contacts and they might also help me. It is incredible when I think about it and what could potentially come from this!**

(Tony Houston, Student Mentee, 2012)

Alumni mentors from an amazing variety of industries have already participated from all corners of the globe including Northern Ireland, London, New York and Asia. In fact, the levels of alumni experience, achievement and expertise have surpassed the expectations of participating students.

### Could you help?

If you are interested in supporting this, or other career initiatives to help students, please contact Meaghan Lyons (email: [m.lyons@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.lyons@qub.ac.uk) or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3135) and ensure we have your latest employment information by updating your *personal update form*\* on the alumni website [www.daro.qub.ac.uk/feedback](http://www.daro.qub.ac.uk/feedback)

We endeavour to provide students with the best mentor to suit their aspirations, so the more offers of help we receive from alumni (and the more we know about your career achievements) the better the support we can provide students.

\*NB You will need to be logged onto the alumni website to fill in the form so if you have not already registered at <https://daro.qub.ac.uk/login>, please do so first.

**25,000 PEOPLE  
ON LINKEDIN  
CITE QUEEN'S IN  
THEIR PROFILES**

# VOLUNTEERING - GIVING TIME AND TALENT

Alumni Officer, Meaghan Lyons explores all the ways graduates can get involved. She celebrates award winner Dr Clive Black, and talks to long-time Queen's volunteer, Dr Marion Gibson and to the most recent recruit on the Queen's Graduates' Association Committee, Feargus McCauley, to find out what motivated them to become involved.

## Graduate Volunteer of the Year



Dr Clive Black with Norma Sinte

Dr Clive Black, one of the UK's top five stockbroking analysts in food and drug retailing, has won the inaugural Graduate Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dr Black graduated in 1985 with a BSSc in Human Geography and in 1991 with a PhD. He is an active member of Queen's City Leadership Group which organises and funds internships for top Queen's students in leading London city firms and in Liverpool and Edinburgh where Clive's company, Shore Capital Stockbrokers, has offices.

In March, Dr Black was instrumental in securing the participation of Tesco CEO Philip Clarke at the opening of the University's £33m Institute of Global Food Security. He is also a strong supporter of Queen's Chief Executives' Club – the University's direct link with local captains of industry – where he was a keynote speaker last November.

Speaking at the Awards, Norma Sinte, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, said:

*"I am delighted that Clive's commitment to Queen's has been acknowledged. For his active and direct support of current students and for helping to put Queen's - and the Northern Ireland agri-food sector - on the map, he is a worthy recipient of this Award."*

As graduates of Queen's you have experienced first-hand the transformative nature of a first class education. Graduation in itself need not be the end of your connections with your Alma Mater; on the contrary there are many ways to stay involved and to make a real impact. For example, the University is inviting its alumni to share their knowledge and skills to help preserve the quality of that education for future generations.

## Provide a student internship

To find out more about hosting an intern in London, Dublin or New York contact Rachael Sands (email: r.sands@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3233).

## Mentor a student

You can offer help and advice to a student considering working in your profession. For more information contact Meaghan Lyons (email: m.lyons@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3135).

## Talk to prospective students

Queen's recruitment team needs your presence at fairs around the world to help inform prospective students about life in Belfast. Contact Meaghan Lyons to indicate your interest (email: m.lyons@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3135).

## Speak at an event

Speakers are required for events both on-campus and wherever we have chapters. Contact Meaghan Lyons (email: m.lyons@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3135) for more information.

## A token of gratitude



Dr Marion Gibson

Dr Marion Gibson's volunteer history spans back to the early 1960s, when her late husband, a vicar, was appointed to a busy parish in East Belfast. Recently married and a new mother, she volunteered her time and experience gained as a student nurse in many church and community roles. Her husband's untimely death

from cancer in 1975 forced Marion to restructure her life as a one parent family and, in turn, to return to her studies.

"I had no professional qualifications but had acquired certificates in Child Playgroup work as a means of enhancing my role in the Parish amongst young mothers," said Dr Gibson. "Later a post as a playgroup assistant working with vulnerable children who had a range of disabilities and who were socially disadvantaged added to my practical experience of supporting people who had been traumatised, made me determined to become a professional social worker."

Dr Gibson obtained her Master's in 1989, after a gruelling regime of studying in the evening while employed full-time. She vowed never to study again, but soon jumped back in for more. "My son provided the challenge I needed to do my Doctorate. He said to me, 'Maybe you should keep going as at your age, your brain might seize up!'" added Marion. Her research focused on the provision of psychological support to those who respond to the needs of people in the aftermath of traumatic incidents.

Marion first joined the Queen's Women Graduates (QWG) in 1989, signing up because she wanted to

stay associated with Queen's and to pay back in some way for her indebtedness to the University.

In May 2013, Dr Gibson was elected President of the Irish Federation of University Women for a term of three years. She had previously served on the Queen's Graduates' Association committee for eight years.

Volunteering with QWG has also led to Dr Gibson travelling extensively to attend International Federation Conferences throughout Ireland, Europe, and Australia. Her most recent trip was to Istanbul in August 2013 to represent the Irish Federation amongst the 500 international delegates.

"I like challenges and enjoy working with people by using my training and experience in a volunteer capacity, even though this desire has taken me into many difficult situations at home and abroad," said Dr Gibson. "I give of my time as a volunteer as a token of gratitude to all who have helped me in the past and who continue to support and encourage me."

## In the service of others



Feargus McCauley

Feargus McCauley, BSc Business Administration 1996, is a Senior Manager at Allstate in Belfast. Though not actively engaged as a volunteer until April of this year he was elected Vice President of the QGA at its most recent AGM.

For Feargus, his road to the Vice Presidency started at

There are many ways to volunteer from mentoring a student to offering a venue for an event. Whatever you choose, giving something back will make a huge difference and a big impression.

For further information on Queen's volunteering programme, contact Alumni Officer Meaghan Lyons (email: m.lyons@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3135).

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

## Submit your profile

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

## Organise a reunion

The Development Office offers support to volunteers organising class reunions by providing mailing lists and guidance on venues. Contact Adele Ward (email: a.ward@qub.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 5289) if you are thinking about a reunion.



a dinner which recognised London 2012 Olympic Gamesmakers. "It all began at last year's Charter Day Dinner," said Feargus. "I got into conversation with several members of the QGA committee and as I listened to them speak with such pride and excitement, I decided it was time to get directly involved."

"What motivates me most is helping others to realise their potential and to do that as part of a great team," he said.

Hitting the ground running, Feargus has already been proactively involved in developing the Association's programme.

"There has been a frenzy of activity over the last few weeks as we map out our strategy and events for the next couple of years. I'm very excited at what is being planned and really look forward to being able to promote the University, whilst maintaining many of the great traditions the QGA has built since its inception."

Feargus brings 15 years of experience in the local IT sector to the QGA table, having held a number of technical and managerial roles. In an industry where tight deadlines and quickly changing circumstances mean always having to have a 'Plan B', adaptability is a prerequisite. And it's a skill Feargus hopes he will bring to his role as VP.

"I think that flexibility in both approach and understanding often leads to a positive result," said Feargus. "This is definitely a skill which can be put to many uses outside of the day job. I'd also like to think that I have developed finely tuned people skills, enabling me to encourage and to get the best out of people – something which is very important in a committee situation, where you're always looking for ideas and for those with the dedication and commitment to make those ideas a reality," he added.

"Getting elected as Vice President of the QGA was a very humbling experience," Feargus continued. "It's already introduced me to a great many people with a diverse range of skills, interests and life experiences, all of which are very enriching. And with the contacts you make," he added, "you'll always have someone to call on for a chat no matter what challenges life throws at you!"

As veterans of volunteering will attest to, giving something back is not just a one-way street. For most there are many personal gains to be made and Feargus, even in just a few months, is already feeling the benefits of his involvement.

"I feel a renewed sense of energy and fulfilment, which has carried over into my working life and has often provided new perspectives on old situations. So volunteering for Queen's really does pay off!"

"Volunteering allows you to play a continuing role in the development of the University. The best thing about it is that there are so many different ways to volunteer – there really is something for everyone. For me personally it's great to have a continuing involvement with an institution that provided me with some of the most fulfilling and enjoyable years of my life," he concluded.

### Conclusion

Feargus McCauley and Dr Marion Gibson are just two of hundreds of alumni already engaged with Queen's in a voluntary capacity around the world. Whatever your talents, and whatever time you can give, there are countless opportunities to get involved and to make a real difference. Giving back is a 'win win' for everyone involved with real benefits for volunteers and the University alike. Remember, you could be the next Clive Black and it might just be fun too!



# CONVOCATION LECTURE

Thursday, 21 November 2013  
at 7pm in the Canada Room/Council Chamber

**Speaker: Professor Stephen Smartt**

**Lecture title:**

*The origin of life in the centre of stars*

Professor Stephen Smartt is the Director of the Astrophysics Research Centre in the School of Maths and Physics at Queen's. He has worked at the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes and held a Fellowship at Cambridge. Professor Smartt's research is into supernovae and the deaths of massive stars using the Hubble Space Telescope and some of the largest ground-based telescopes in the world.



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## QUEEN'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS GET CONNECTED

Joining entitles you to a growing list of benefits, including access to the alumni network through national and regional alumni chapters and a calendar of social events.

### Notice of Annual Meeting of Convocation

The Convocation Lecture will be followed by the Annual Meeting of Convocation.

The Agenda for the Annual Meeting and the forms to submit a motion to the Annual Meeting are available on the Convocation website [www.darq.qub.ac.uk/convocation](http://www.darq.qub.ac.uk/convocation) and from the Clerk.

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

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

Dr Heather Anderson, Clerk of Convocation, c/o School of Pharmacy,  
Medical Biology Centre, 97 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7BL  
Email: [convocation@qub.ac.uk](mailto:convocation@qub.ac.uk)

# HILLSBOROUGH: THE TRUTH



Phil Scraton is Professor of Criminology in the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, in the School of Law at Queen's. In 2010 he was appointed by the UK Home Secretary to the Hillsborough Independent Panel. Professor Scraton led the Queen's-based research for the Panel, and was the primary author of its 395 page report on the 1989 disaster that claimed the lives of 96 men, women and children. Writing exclusively for *The Graduate*, Phil Scraton outlines his role in the widely acclaimed Report, one year after its publication.

Early on 12 September 2012, I arrived at the Anglican Cathedral in my home city of Liverpool. It was quiet, save for a few early rising journalists preparing for the arrival of families whose loved ones had died at Hillsborough Stadium on 15 April 1989. In the Well of the Cathedral the scene was set for the presentation of the findings of the Hillsborough Independent Panel's Report first to the families and then to the media.

I thumbed through the 395 pages of the Report for the first time. A few weeks earlier its contents were on my laptop, shared only between Panel members, the research team and those providing essential technical support for its production. Now the hard copies were awaiting distribution to the families first.

As the families and survivors arrived the atmosphere was solemn, expectant yet nervous. For 23 years they had campaigned relentlessly to access the 'truth' of the disaster, its context and the abject failures of the inquiry and investigation that followed. Ninety-six men, women and children were killed at Hillsborough, but many more died prematurely as a consequence of their suffering – both physical and psychological.

## The Tragedy

Liverpool v Nottingham Forest was an FA Cup semi-final attended by over 50,000 people. Owned by Sheffield Wednesday FC, Hillsborough was a neutral venue hired by the Football Association, licensed by Sheffield City Council and policed by the South Yorkshire Constabulary. Fans arrived, were searched, briefed and escorted to the

stadium under police supervision. Yet the aged turnstiles malfunctioned. Crowd management by the police and stewards combined complacency with incompetence. A crush at the turnstiles was relieved by opening an exit gate to admit fans into the stadium.

They walked unregulated down a 1 in 6 gradient tunnel feeding two central pens and were unaware that both pens, fenced to the side and front, were already full. There was no way back and the compression was vice-like. As the match kicked-off people went down underfoot, a barrier collapsed leaving a tangled mass of bodies.

Police officers on the perimeter track failed to respond and those at a distance misread the struggle for life as crowd disorder. Bodies were dragged through the two narrow perimeter fence gates and laid on the pitch. Fans tore down advertising hoardings as makeshift stretchers. Only 14 of the 96 who died were taken to hospital.

## The Research

The causes and circumstances of the tragedy immediately were contested. I was commissioned to conduct primary and documentary research into all aspects of the disaster. The research team attended all proceedings, conducted documentary analysis and interviewed those directly involved. It led to three comprehensive reports published in 1990, 1995 and 1997 and my widely-acclaimed text *Hillsborough: The Truth*.

The initial research exposed serious flaws in the inquiries and investigations including: review and alteration of police statements; compromised processes of investigation; insufficient analysis of inherent dangers and foreseeable risk; inadequacies in the coronial process; disputable medical and pathological evidence regarding the circumstances of the deaths. At each stage, my research with the bereaved and survivors established their profound dissatisfaction with the inquiries, investigations and inquests.

At the 20th Anniversary Memorial Service, Culture Minister Andy Burnham committed the Government to seeking release of all documents

and materials held by public agencies relating to the context, circumstances, aftermath and investigation of the disaster. I drafted the Hillsborough Family Support Group's proposal, *Hillsborough: Truth Recovery, Acknowledgement and Resolution*. In January 2010, the Home Secretary appointed the Hillsborough Independent Panel chaired by the Bishop of Liverpool. Its key objective was to demonstrate through research, how the disclosed material added to 'public understanding'.

I was appointed to the Panel and led the research team at Queen's University. We were supported by specialist archivists at Sheffield City Archive and the National Archives. I worked closely with the Panel's health specialist, Dr Bill Kirkup, on the emergency response, medical treatment and pathology research. The Panel acquired disclosure of unredacted documents from 85 contributing organisations and negotiated access to all relevant Cabinet and Government documents.

## The Report

The Report's 153 key findings established: the foreseeable, dangerous condition of the stadium; the primary structural causes of the disaster; the failures in policing and emergency response; the flawed pathology and medical evidence; incomplete criminal investigations; the review and alteration of police and ambulance service statements; the insufficiency of the inquests; and, the purposeful manipulation of the media by senior police officers.

Presenting the detailed findings in the Cathedral I confirmed that from the documentary analysis it was clear that fans played no part in causing

the disaster and I revealed precisely how those in authority sought to shift responsibility by alleging drunkenness and violence.

## The Outcomes

The Prime Minister responded immediately from a packed House of Commons apologising on behalf of the Government and nation for the 'double injustice' of Hillsborough – the disaster itself and the failures in its investigation. The Panel's research had produced the 'truth', he stated, and 'justice' should follow.

Within months a criminal investigation was established to consider potential prosecutions. New legislation was fast-tracked enabling it to progress and the Independent Police Complaints Commission embarked on an unprecedented investigation into police conduct focusing on 2,000 police officers. In the High Court, the Attorney General secured the quashing of the accidental death verdicts and new inquests were ordered. They begin in March 2014.

In the subsequent House of Commons debate on the Report Andy Burnham stated that the Queen's-based research had contributed 'a huge service not just to the Hillsborough families but to this country'. He anticipated the unique research approach 'with the emphasis on disclosure, not adversarial argument', had pioneered 'a model for resolving other contested issues arising from our past'.

Professor Scraton was awarded the inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Impact Prize in December 2012 and has recently been short-listed for the national THES 'Research Project of the Year' Award.



The Hillsborough Independent Panel Report can be read at: [hillsborough.independent.gov.uk/report/](http://hillsborough.independent.gov.uk/report/)

'Hillsborough: The Truth' (3rd edn) is published by Mainstream.





Des Moore, First Trust Bank (left), Ramona, Alex and Canice Nicholas with Professor Sir Peter Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor

## THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS

Integrity, honesty, and a strong work ethic are some of the secrets behind the success of entrepreneur and television 'Dragon' Ramona Nicholas. Talking exclusively to Gerry Power, editor of *The Graduate*, the 1998 BSc alumna, who cites Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg and Net-a-Porter founder, Natalie Massenet among her role models, talks about self-belief, what motivates her as a boss, and what she sees as most important for those considering a life in business.

"I knew from a very early age that I wanted to become a pharmacist and have my own shop. It's not about the money element - well obviously I always wanted to be financially secure - but I knew I wanted to be my own boss, and help bring others on to be the best that they could be."

The 2013 First Trust Bank Queen's Graduate of the Year, Ramona Nicholas (nee Wylie) lives in Bundoran in Co Donegal, but grew up in the Tyrone village of Ardboe. Now a familiar face on Irish television she is the only female panellist on RTÉ's 'Dragons' Den' - and the youngest to date - and was the first Irish female entrepreneur on 'The Secret Millionaire' on RTÉ, which also aired last year on Channel 4. As a highly successful business woman and co-owner (along with husband Canice, also a Queen's graduate) of Cara Pharmacy, Ramona is a strong role model

not just for budding entrepreneurs, but for young women and science graduates alike.

"I would like to see myself as someone who is a good leader - fair, approachable and motivational - someone whose strong work ethic inspires my team members to push themselves to be the best they can."

Ramona set up the Cara Pharmacy Group in 2002 with husband Canice. The name combines the first

**"I KNEW FROM A VERY EARLY AGE THAT I WANTED TO BECOME A PHARMACIST AND HAVE MY OWN SHOP. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY...I KNEW I WANTED TO BE MY OWN BOSS."**

two letters of the couple's forenames and is also the Irish for 'friend'. Together with son Alex, the couple live a short distance from the Cara central warehouse in Ballyshannon from where Ramona and Canice run the chain which now employs over 150 people.

The group has enjoyed extensive expansion and now comprises 15 businesses across six counties

- 13 pharmacies and two Cara Home stores - with a combined turnover of around €25m and plans for future expansion. The latest store, in Galway, opened in September.

Under her direction the group has won numerous awards and was a 'Deloitte Best Managed Company' in 2012 - a title which Ramona plans to hold on to in 2013 and 2014 with a view to achieving the Gold Standard in 2015. Cara has also been a finalist in a number of Irish business awards and the company's Co Cavan pharmacy won the 'Retail Store of the Year 2012' in the recent Cavan Tourism Awards.

**"I CANNOT SAY ENOUGH ABOUT MY TIME AT QUEEN'S - IT WAS WITHOUT DOUBT THE BEST OF MY LIFE"**

As Ramona points out, being a success in business is not just about having a good idea. A proper business strategy and a realisation, backed by research, that there is a gap in the market, are vital. "Ideas can be very loose, but are used every day in terms of innovation when it comes to running a business, so it's more about the core business concept than an idea at the start. A plan with projections, cost analysis, and marketing ideas are paramount before going to ask for funding."

And Ramona acknowledges that Queen's also played an important part in her success.

"I cannot say enough about my time at Queen's. It was without doubt the best of my life. Our class was small - fewer than 60 - so we all knew each other, and our lecturers, really well," she said.

"We had so much fun yet we also knew how serious our education was. Queen's is recognised as one of the world's leading universities and the skills I learned there have stood to me throughout my life. Plus the friends I made at Queen's - who were part of my world during and after University - are now lifelong friends."

Ramona suggests that you have to work every hour - to put your heart and soul into it - if you want your business to become a success. And while she says that women often find it harder to break into the world of business, Ramona suggests instead that women need to 'release the fear' and do what they have always dreamt of doing.

"Running a business is certainly more difficult for women, but I feel women should have more self-belief and confidence in themselves, and not

hold back just because of what others might say. Statistics show that it takes longer for women than men to prove themselves in the corporate world, but I think that will change."

Ramona attributes her success to hard work, determination and rejecting rejection, and sees self-belief as critical, not just for women. Success, she says, starts in the head with the belief that whatever you are doing, you can do it. 'Dream it, create it, do it, be it' - often attributed to another of her business role models, TV mogul Oprah Winfrey - is a mantra she lives by. She believes too that rejection is an integral part of business.

"You have to accept knocks in business. Understand that whatever has happened, happened for a reason, and there's always something better coming your way. It can be difficult to have self-confidence when you are starting out, but one small success leads to another and everything builds on itself. If you are giving your business 100%, then you must believe you can do it."

As a result of her appearance on 'The Secret Millionaire' Ramona was invited to become a dragon on 'Dragons' Den' on RTÉ. Over the 10 episodes in Series 5, she invested almost €160,000 of her own money in projects as diverse as a trolley bags initiative, a feminine products company trading as Ready Girls, and a magazine targeted at students.

That publication, *Walton Magazine* (named after Irish noble prize-winning scientist Ernest Walton), is targeted at those taking and teaching STEM subjects - science, technology, engineering and maths.

Ramona has long been an advocate of STEM and believes this subject range holds out the best employment prospects for today's teenagers. Speaking at an Enterprise and Innovation Week event in Sligo in March, she outlined her belief that science, technology, engineering and maths were the most relevant subjects in the current economic climate and encouraged those present not to be put off by what others say or think when deciding on a career path.

"The future of employment is in technology and science, and I suppose if I was being asked for advice, these would be the subjects I would recommend. Digital is going to play such a part of the future generation," she said.

QUEEN'S  
RESEARCH HAS  
'SPUN OUT' 50  
COMPANIES,  
CREATING  
1,000+ JOBS



Taking a particular interest in online retailing and the role of social media in promoting modern day business, Ramona's expertise encompasses the fast moving consumer goods sector, luxury and high-end retail, home and giftware, and many services including healthcare, skincare...and, of course, pharmacy. She herself is also passionate about marketing, consumer trends, event management, strategic planning, and much more.

And if she wasn't in the FMCG sector where would she see herself?

"There are a number of businesses that I think I would love to get involved in. I am still very retail driven and I think Cara Home has certainly brought a new element to the company. I'd like to think that I could turn my hand to a number of different things - I enjoy coaching, and business coaching is something I'd like to do on a one-to-one basis in the future."

Passionate about advancing the cause of young women in business, Ramona is clearly an innovator and a champion of entrepreneurial spirit. At 35 she has already made a substantial contribution to the community and to business, not just as an employer and an investor in new business, but as a philanthropist and in a voluntary capacity at Queen's.

Queen's University Management School runs a number of courses and initiatives for those in business. Go to [www.qub.ac.uk/mgt](http://www.qub.ac.uk/mgt) for more.

Nominations for Graduate of the Year will open in March 2014. We welcome personal applications or those made on behalf of other alumni you feel have made a difference.

## MY TIME AT QUEEN'S

In this issue of My Time at Queen's graduates and former staff of the University share their recollections of Seamus Heaney.

**Patrick Hicks, MA 1995** – "I met Seamus Heaney a few times while I was a student there and he left a deep imprint on my creative life. I know there are many, many, writers out there who feel the same way. I'm proud to say I went to the same institution that he did."

**Edward Cartin, BSc Economics, Chief Executive Qubis Ltd, 1985-2004** – "Some of the imagery from Seamus Heaney's early poems resonates with me; similar background from a farm in Co Derry, then from the scarp of St Columb's to the fine lawns of Queen's.

"When I met him in 1975 he seemed content to be known as a poet but still cautious.

"In 'The Ministry of Fear', a quite biographical poem, the quotation

"Those hobnailed boots from beyond the mountain  
Were walking, by God, all over the fine  
Lawns of elocution"

refers, I believe to his coming up to Queen's. For me the image was hard to resist."



**Susan Doris-Obando, LLB 1997** – "It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Seamus Heaney, an immeasurable talent, who generously shared his time by speaking at the QUAL Annual Dinner at Middle Temple Hall, London, in November 2002 (during the Presidency of Dr Olive Robinson). His presence was greatly appreciated and speech much enjoyed. The event was packed to capacity."

**Kevin Langley, PhD Physical Chemistry, 1970** – "It was a privilege to be at Queen's in 1967 and breathe the same air as Seamus. Once when I was at a debate in the Students' Union he sat down beside me and said "Hello Kevin how are you?". I have no idea how he knew me. I was not even in the same faculty. Of course I knew who he was because my friends who took English thought he was a god."

**Elizabeth Doherty, (nee McNulty) BA 1963** – "I recall Seamus was President of the CSS, based in the QUB Catholic Chaplaincy, in 1959/60. Students were attracted by tea and biscuits for tuppence.

"I graduated in English in 1963. The English department was small. My boyfriend (now husband) was also a St. Columb's past-pupil. Seamus's then girlfriend and I shared a flat. I remember him as charming, warm, articulate and hugely intelligent.

"In Dublin, Seamus was one of four speakers representing Queen's Colleges in the former Irish House of Lords in 1995. We were privileged to have him, a Nobel Laureate, as guest of honour at the 1996 QUAD dinner."

**Heather Penden (nee Redmann), Class of 2001/2002, New Orleans** – "When attending Queen's in 2001, I was first introduced to Seamus Heaney's work and consider him an inspiration. Although I am living now in Rhode Island, USA, I do hope one day to return to Belfast and study at his namesake Poetry Centre, even if just informally.

"I am sympathetic for the University community's loss and I thank Queen's for the introduction to Mr Heaney. Both his work and Queen's hold a place in my soul of deep thoughtfulness and spiritual reverence."

**Professor Sir Peter Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor 2004-13** – "Rachael and I well recall, with awe and excitement, our move to Queen's in 2004. Do you think we will meet Seamus Heaney? – just one of our many questions! Like the rest of the world we admired him greatly as a poet – the accessibility of his words and his lyrical metre. We knew of his close association with Queen's, but we knew too that he now lived in Dublin and was in hot demand by universities, publishers and audiences around the globe.

"Once at Queen's our hopes were to be realised on countless occasions – presentation of the Beowulf papers, unveiling his portrait, Festival, Charter Day Dinner, opening the McClay Library, the Centenary Stanza – and many more. But like everyone else, it was not the meeting but the getting to know Seamus and Marie as friends that touched our lives so profoundly.

"The world is the richer from Seamus' words. Those of us lucky enough to know him will never forget his charisma, his humour, his warmth and his love for everything around him – his family, his friends, his Ireland. We trust that a touch of that humanity which poured from Seamus' being will rub off on each of us."

Thank you to those who contributed to My Time at Queen's. More recollections are available on our website and you can submit your own at [www.daro.qub.ac.uk/time](http://www.daro.qub.ac.uk/time)

\*NB You will need to be logged onto the alumni website to fill in the form so if you have not already registered at <https://daro.qub.ac.uk/feedback>

### For Alma Mater, by Seamus Heaney

His fresher's face, his fresh-stamped student card,  
The glue not set, the course not set: I stare.  
Pro tanto quid? Yet what can he afford?

Under the Great Hall's portraits, it's still hard  
At this stage not to wonder how he'll fare,  
This fresher with his fresh-stamped student card.

Then Great Hall turned exam hall where he entered.  
First Arts. First Honours. Finals. For each year  
Pro tanto quid? For now he can afford.

"Re-enter," said the interviewing board,  
"Take up your notes and be a lecturer  
And cancelled henceforth be your student card."

He re-enters. He exits. His reward  
A Sabine farm and freehold in Clanmore.  
Pro tanto quid? O all he can afford.

Now course is set and face set by the word.  
What then? What's this? Honoris causa? Doctor?  
Whose was that fresh face on your student card?  
Pro tanto quid? O all you can afford.

(Presented to the University on the occasion of the launch of the Campaign for Queen's in 2001)



# CLASS NOTES

Thanks to everyone who took the time to contribute to our Class Notes section. Unfortunately we are limited by the space available so apologies if your entry has not been included. However, all class notes are posted on our website: [www.daro.qub.ac.uk/classnotes](http://www.daro.qub.ac.uk/classnotes)

## 2000s

**Bregeen Campbell, BSc Business Information Technology 2012**, was part of a cohort on the prestigious US-NI Mentorship programme which got together in New York this year to attend the American Ireland Funds Young Leaders event. The occasion honoured actor Chris O'Dowd with the Irish Spirit Award and Peter Ryan, Deputy Irish Consul General to New York with the Community Service Award.

Bregeen, on placement with The Coca Cola Company in Atlanta, was selected from more than 160 applicants to participate in the programme, which is now in its fourth year. Established in 2010 by the former economic envoy to Northern Ireland Declan Kelly (an honorary graduate of Queen's) it is supported by the American Ireland Fund and Northern Ireland Science Park CONNECT programme.



**Clare Scullion, MSc (Physics) 2012, and Brendan Kettle, MSc (Applied Maths and Physics) 2011** are part of a group of physics PhD students from Queen's who will be travelling to a school in Moshi, Tanzania to install solar panels to help power the school library. The group will spend time with teachers in St Amadeus Secondary school and donate educational material

so that the project has a lasting benefit.

Recently awarded a Higginson Leadership Award (worth £1,000) from Queen's, Clare and her colleagues have a £10,000 fundraising target! To find out more contact Clare ([cscullion57@qub.ac.uk](mailto:cscullion57@qub.ac.uk)) or Brendan ([bkettle01@qub.ac.uk](mailto:bkettle01@qub.ac.uk)), visit [www.facebook.com/TanzaniaAID](http://www.facebook.com/TanzaniaAID), or go to [www.gofundme.com/tanzaniaaid](http://www.gofundme.com/tanzaniaaid) to make a donation.

**Fiona Bennington, MEng Mechanical Engineering, 2011** is creative Design Engineer at Fast Engineering Ltd. In her role, she has developed a product – FASTAP – which has been nominated for three awards.

FASTAP is the world's first 1 minute emergency water distribution system, enabling Aid Relief Agencies to deliver water to disaster affected communities more efficiently and hygienically. The heart of the system is a new design of tap stand based on a tripod concept which is assembled and factory tested before despatch.

The device won the Irish Times Innovation Award in March (coincidentally on World Water Day) and picked up a Community Excellence Award from Antrim Council in June 2013. It was also nominated for Index Design Award, said to be the biggest and most important design award in the world.

**Daniel Ostendorff, MA Modern History 2009** has recently taken up the post of Assistant Professor of History & Political Science at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. Speaking to

*The Graduate* Daniel said: 'I am so very grateful for my time at Queen's, for how it has formed and shaped me as an academic and for the way it prepared me to move both on to Oxford for my DPhil and now into an academic faculty position.'

**Martin Reilly, BA Modern History, 2000**, became Mayor of Derry in June 2013. An SDLP Waterside councillor since 2005, he is originally from Roslea, Co Fermanagh. Martin previously sat on the board of the Patient and Client Council and the board of directors of the Derry Visitor and Convention Bureau.

His term of office sees Mayor Reilly representing the citizens of Derry/Londonderry at the height of the UK City of Culture celebrations.



**Mark McMaw, BSc Environmental Planning, 2000** returned to Queen's in 2009 to study theology. He graduated with a Master of Divinity (MDiv) in 2011 and is presently completing ministerial training for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at Union Theological College, Belfast.

In addition to his studies Mark has commenced as the assistant minister at Kirkpatrick Memorial Church in Belfast.

**James McAteer, MSc Physics and Astro-Physics, 2000, PhD Astrophysics and Planetary Science, 2004**, who is an assistant astronomy professor in the solar research group at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, has won a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award. He will receive \$750,000 over the next five years to study how energy is stored and released on the sun.

He told *The Graduate*: "As both an undergraduate and PhD graduate at Queen's, I have a lot to thank the University for, in particular Professors Keenan and Mathioudakis for all their help with my career, and in being awarded this grant."

## 1990s

**John Rogers, Medicine 1997**, was part of the QUB Alumni team which won the Belfast Marathon relay in May, repeating their win of 2011. The team was composed of former Queen's Athletics Club and Harriers members: Joe McAllister (PCGE 2007), now a teacher at St Malachy's; John Rogers (Medicine 1997), a Consultant in Sport and Exercise Medicine and team doctor to the Great Britain Endurance squad, Paul Pollock (Medicine 2010), a doctor in Belfast City Hospital, Noel Pollock (Medicine 2002), a Consultant in Sport and Exercise Medicine and team doctor for the Great Britain Athletics team, Andrew Dunwoody (Environmental Biology 1999; Environmental Engineering 2000) a Senior Environmental Engineer, Arup in London.

## 1980s

**Paul McHugh, BSc 1984**, of Slemish College in Ballymena has won The Award for Headteacher of the Year in a

Secondary School in Northern Ireland in the 2013 Pearson Teaching Awards.

Dr McHugh has been involved in the development of Slemish College since its inception and opening in 1996, and is a passionate advocate for integrated education.

The Pearson Teaching Awards were established by Lord Putnam CBE in 1998 and are managed by the Teaching Awards Trust, an independent charity. The Trust's mission is to celebrate excellence in education. The Teaching Awards are sponsored by Pearson International.



**Tom Christie, BSc (Chemical Engineering) 1981**, has been named NEA Area Implementation Director for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and will be responsible for in-region requirements gathering, communication, training, data readiness, user acceptance testing and implementation. Within the global NEA team, Christie continues to have accountability for the Order to Cash and Supply Chain Planning teams, and Sadara integration. Christie relocated to Horgen, Switzerland early in 2013.

**Aoibhinn O'Kane, (nee Mulhern) BEd 1980**, from St Patrick's College in Maghera (where she has worked for 33 years) has won The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School in Northern Ireland in the 2013 Pearson Teaching Awards.

Aoibhinn was shortlisted from a record number of over 24,000

nominations made by pupils, past and present, parents and colleagues. She will join fellow winners at the UK final of the Teaching Awards on 20th October, filmed in London and broadcast by the BBC.

## 1970s

**Deirdre Mageean, BSSc Social Studies 1975**, has been appointed provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Cleveland State University (CSU). The role, which she took up at the start of July, will see her serve as CSU's chief academic officer and chief operating officer. Professor Mageean was formerly dean-in-residence at the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington, DC and Vice Chancellor at East Carolina University.

Professor Mageean's research has focused on historical patterns of migration, population-environment interactions and the policy implications of demographic change.

**John Copelton, MSc Pure and Applied Physics 1971**, has retired from Queen's but has been busy creating an online magazine for the active retired. Visit [www.exploringretirement.co.uk](http://www.exploringretirement.co.uk) for articles on staying mentally and physically active and helpful tips and advice.

## 1960s

**Dr Geraldine Carville OBE; MA 1969**, is an eminent historical geographer and a Justice of the Peace. She was awarded an OBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours List for international achievement in her field of academic research and commitment to community service. The Honour was awarded at an investiture in March 2013 at Buckingham Palace.

After graduating from Queen's with a BSc (Hons) Geraldine

chose teaching as a profession. She took up a post in St Michael's Grammar School and was later appointed as a vice-principal. She continued with part-time studies obtaining a BA and an MA.

Since 1970, Dr Carville has published 14 books and over 20 research journal articles, and has given lectures and broadcasts throughout Europe and the USA. In 1989, Pope John Paul XXIII awarded her the Bene Merenti Medal and Diploma for her work on Irish Monasticism. In 2011, the University of Wales, Swansea awarded Dr Carville a Senior Doctor of Letters in recognition of her research and literature.

She is currently working on another book, for the centenary of The Knights of Saint Columbanus.



**Derek Cottney, BSc Mechanical Engineering 1968**, is currently employed by Bombardier and is living in East Belfast.

**Kathleen Webb, BSc (Pharmacy) 1967**, is actively involved with HOST, a national charity which links international students at universities in the UK with British residents who invite students to their homes.

Queen's has recently joined HOST and Kathleen is keen to ask alumni if they might volunteer as hosts.

"However much they enjoy their studies in the UK, international students often feel the loss of meaningful contact with family

and community life beyond the university. This is where HOST steps in – linking students with volunteer hosts who offer one-off invitations.

"We have been hosts for about eight years now and really enjoy it. We have met lots of interesting young people from all over the world, including Sri Lanka, Singapore and Taiwan, many of whom are still in touch with us. We learn as much from them about their countries as they do from us. HOST is a great way of extending knowledge and understanding of different cultures and making friends."

HOST UK promotes friendship and understanding by arranging for international students to spend a day, a weekend or Christmas (normally three nights) in a UK home. Every invitation is a one-off, there is no ongoing commitment to the student unless that is something which both parties want.

Since it was set up over 75,000 students have enjoyed 'local' UK hospitality, and many describe their HOST visit as one of the most valuable experiences they had while studying here.

More invitations are always needed, whether in Northern Ireland or anywhere in the UK. If you would like to give this a try, please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or contact Betty Flanagan - the Voluntary Regional Organiser for HOST in Northern Ireland Betty Flanagan - [bettyfl@hotmail.com](mailto:bettyfl@hotmail.com).



Kathleen Webb and An Chi Chen from Taiwan, a PhD student at Leeds University.

**Dr Muhammad Akram Khattak, PhD Inorganic Chemistry 1965**, spent most of his career in the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), retiring as Chief Scientific Officer in 1995 with more than 70 research papers and patents published in National and International Scientific Journals.

In recognition of his services and scientific achievements he was awarded the 'Tamghai Imtiaz' (Medal of Excellence/Honour) – a national Presidential Award – in 1992, for averting a major catastrophe by diffusion of incidentally formed explosive material in Adamjee Chemical Works at Nowshera – one of the cities of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa province of Pakistan.

Currently working as a Visiting Professor at Abasyn University, Dr Khattak told *The Graduate* he suspects he was the first student at Queen's from the Khyber Pass!

## 1950s

**Desmond Archer, MB BCH BAO 1959**, Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology at Queen's, was presented with the 'Lifetime achievement award for outstanding contribution to Ophthalmology' by Moorefield Alumni Association in January 2012. This is only the second Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the worldwide Moorefield Alumni.

Professor Archer was the inaugural Sir Charles Blackmore Chair in Ophthalmology at Queen's, holding the position from 1972-2001.

His clinical and research teams at the University Department of Ophthalmology pioneered the use of radiation therapy for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) complicated by abnormal subretinal vessels. He initiated a highly regarded training programme and developed the University's Eye Research

Laboratories which have subsequently become the Centre for Vision and Vascular Science.

**Mike Gordon, BSc (Electrical Engineering) 1958, MSc (Electronics) 1961** described his return to the University this year for the Golden Reunion as 'an extraordinary experience!'

"Firstly, I met again with David O'Dowd, known at University in the fifties as 'Diarmid', but now resident just up the road from me in Sydney, in Brisbane. David was followed by James Dick who attended Ballymena Academy with me. And, out of the blue, up popped Dr Denis Hopkins, also from Ballymena, a friend of my brother Harry, who also graduated from Queen's in the late fifties.

"Denis' father was our family doctor in Ballymena. A wonderful man with all the empathetic attributes sought in the modern doctor, with the possible exception of his chain-smoking! My brother had attracted a little adverse attention when in response to an accusation from the Professor of Economics, Professor Isles - whose origins were in the Apple Isle of Tasmania (same surface area as Ireland but one tenth of the population!) to the effect 'Gordon - you're sleeping!'

Harry replied, 'Yes, Professor, possibly because you're boring!' Needless to say the honours degree Harry sought was not forthcoming!"

**Marshall Eakin, MB BCH BAO 1956**, entered Queen's in October 1949 and was president of the Students' Union in 1956, the year of his graduation.

Dr Eakin was a GP for 25 years, following which he was Medical Advisor at the Central Services Agency in Adelaide Street, Belfast. In 1990 he was the medical advisor for GPs at the Northern Health and Social Services Board based at County Hall, Ballymena; he retired in 1998.

An honorary life member of the British Medical Association his outside interests include angling for trout and salmon, golfing, and gardening, in that order.

Marshall was widowed in January of this year after 53 years marriage, when his wife Mavis who was a Royal Victoria Hospital SRN (1957) died.

**Robert (Robin) Gray Shanks, BSc Physiology 1955, MB BCH BAO 1958, MD 1963, DSc 1969, LLD 1999**, has had an exceptional career in the world of medicine having held the posts of Lecturer, Professor,

Whitla Professor, Dean of Medicine, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Acting-Vice-Chancellor at Queen's.

Most of Professor Shanks' professional and scientific work was spent on the discovery and description of beta blocking drugs which earned him an international reputation. His research was primarily carried out at Queen's, where the Department of Therapeutics and Pharmacology was recognised worldwide for its research on beta blocking drugs.

Robin was the first person to administer beta blocking drugs to man, was the co-discoverer of propranolol - the most widely used beta blocking drug for the last 50 years, and the first person to discover the selective beta blocking drugs which are now the basis of treatment of many diseases.

He has received five degrees from Queen's including an honorary Doctor of Laws and was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy - a rare honour for a Doctor of Medicine. He was also honoured by Her Majesty the Queen when she conferred on him the CBE in recognition of his work on beta blockers.

## Calling all Young Scientists!

The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition will celebrate its 50th birthday in January 2014. In preparation for the celebration, BT is calling on all past entrants, visitors, teachers, judges, partners and supporters to connect with the exhibition again and send their Happy Birthday messages and memories via a virtual birthday card, Facebook and Twitter.

The birthday card is accompanied by a new digital archive created by BT, which displays unique material and iconic moments of the last 49 years of the exhibition. In addition, the archive also includes indexed exhibition guides, forming a searchable database of students that competed in the programme.

The archive is available at [www.btyoungscientist.com/archive](http://www.btyoungscientist.com/archive) and BT is calling on Queen's alumni to share their memories by going to [www.facebook.com/btyste](http://www.facebook.com/btyste), or use #btyste50 on Twitter to send birthday wishes.





# NEW BOOKS

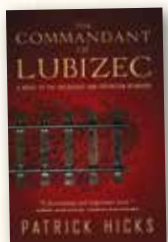
## FOR, BY AND ABOUT QUEEN'S GRADUATES



**Irvine Grey, Bachelor of Theology 2008, Master of Philosophy 2012** has written *Two by Two – the Shape of a Shapeless Movement*,

which has emerged as a result of academic research into a religious movement that had its beginnings in 1897 in Nenagh, County Tipperary. Irvine undertook detailed investigation and research into a movement that refuses to take a name, examining and analysing its history, sociology and theology and the claims that they are the sole guardians of the gospel and that their preachers are in direct succession from the apostles ordained by Jesus Christ.

The book is available from [www.irvinegrey.com](http://www.irvinegrey.com)



**Patrick Hicks, MA (Irish Writing) 1995**, is now a professional writer in the United States. His first novel *The Commandant of Lubizec* is to be published

by Steerforth/Random House in March 2014.

The novel is set in the death camps at Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor.

Aside from having his first novel accepted for publication Patrick has also had his sixth poetry collection, *Adoptable*, picked up for publication by Salmon Poetry (Ireland) in late 2014 and his first collection of short stories, *The*

*Collector of Names*, will appear with Schaffner Press in early 2015.

Nominated for the Pushcart Prize, Patrick was recently a finalist for the High Plains Book Award, the Dzanc Short Story Collection Competition, and the Gival Press Novel Award. His work with PBS's "Over South Dakota" was nominated for an Emmy. He has won the Glimmer Train Fiction Award and is the recipient of a number of grants, including individual artist awards from the Bush Foundation and the South Dakota Arts Council.

He is currently Writer-in-Residence at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota as well as a faculty member at Sierra Nevada College. Visit [www.patrickhicks.org](http://www.patrickhicks.org) for more details.



**Pete Hamill, BSc Physics and Astrophysics, 1998** is a consultant, facilitator and coach with an international background in leadership and organisational development. He

is author of the book, *Embodied Leadership: the Somatic Approach to Developing Your Leadership*.

The book sets out to show how many of our current popular perceptions about leadership don't necessarily help. What we now know from neuroscience, biology, philosophy and years of research, shows how working through and with the physical body can develop leadership potential further. It is a practical and progressive take on leadership that is highly relevant to how we work today and the

daily issues we face, bringing together modern thinking as well as ancient philosophies.

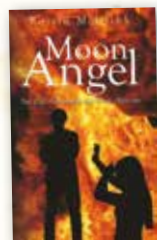


**Deirdre Cartmill, BEng Electrical Engineering 1989, MA Creative Writing 2002** will be publishing her second collection

of poetry *The Return of the Buffalo* this autumn.

Deirdre spent a year affiliated with the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry. She has received a number of Literature Awards from the Arts Council, has been shortlisted for a Hennessy Literary Award and was a finalist in the Scottish International Open Poetry Competition.

Deirdre's poems have appeared in *The Blackbird's Nest* (Blackstaff Press), and have been widely published in magazines and journals including *Metre*, *Poetry Ireland*, and *The Sunday Tribune*. She has also written for film, television and radio.



**Roisin McCrink, BA English and Philosophy, 2012** is currently studying for an MA in Arts Management at Queen's.

Having launched her first book, *The Fight for Silence* in April 2012, Roisin published her second book in November 2012, *Moon-Angel: Ink, Old Parchment and Pink Blossom*, which is the first in a new trilogy.

# OBITUARIES

**Dr Ralph Maurice Hampstead Malone, MB, BCh, BAO, died on 13 May 2012**  
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Born in 1924 and raised in St. Kitts, British West Indies, Ralph Malone received his BSc from Sir George Williams College, Montreal and later graduated in Medicine from Queen's University Belfast. He returned to Barbados to practice Obstetrics and Gynaecology and married in Toronto in 1969. The couple moved to Canada with their two young daughters in 1974, then relocated to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1999.

Ralph was an advocate for the Family Planning Association, working with the organization for many years. He enjoyed flying light aircraft and instructing student pilots in his spare time and will be fondly remembered for his compassionate attitude, kindness, sense of humour, love of travelling, painting, photography, fishing and patron supporter of The Arts and heritage museums. He is survived by his wife (Dr. Elizabeth Oliver-Malone), children (Ann Louise and Sharon), their partners, and his four grandchildren.

**Charles (Charlie) Gibson Lowry, MB, BCh, BAO died on 1 June 2012**  
Outstanding family doctor

Charlie Lowry was born in Limavady and, graduated from Queen's in 1944. At University he was active in rugby (where he captained the 'A' team) and tennis, earning his colours (Half Blue) in the latter. After qualifying he spent 18 months at Templemore Avenue Children's Hospital with a view to specialising in paediatrics but decided on general practice.

In 1950 he married Patricia (Paddy) Agnew and together they had three children Rob, Jan and Mark. He took a great interest in the local community being a committee member of the Bellaghy Development Association and a keen member of the Bellaghy Historical Society. It was through his persistence that Bellaghy Bawn was preserved by the Historic Monuments Department of the DOE.

Charlie was an example of a life well lived, an outstanding family doctor who put his patients first, thoughtful, kind and possessed a wonderful dry sense of humour. He enjoyed the love and support of his wife of 61 years and his children.

(Obituary by Brian Lowry, cousin).

It is with sadness that we bring you obituaries and appreciations of some of those graduates who are no longer with us.

**Ivan Connor, died on 29 October 2012**  
Former President and Secretary of the Queen's University Association, London

Arnold (Ivan) Connor, born in New Jersey, USA on 13 July 1931, was raised in Belfast where the family returned just before WWII. He obtained a BSc (Econ) from Queen's in 1958 before a career in local government, including Director of Social Services in the London Borough of Barking, beckoned. On retirement he moved with wife Dorothy to Westgate-on-Sea, Kent.

Ivan was a stalwart Council Member of the Queen's University Association, London for 50 years and deeply committed to Queen's. He was Honorary Secretary for over 20 years, became President in the late 1990s, and later served with distinction as Vice President.

**Dr Robin Harland OBE, died on 17 November 2012**  
Senior Medical Officer at Queen's University, 1970 – 1991 and Honorary Graduate

Robert Wallace (Robin) Harland was a huge figure in Queen's student medicine and sport for over 20 years. Born in 1926, he studied medicine at Queen's and graduated in 1948.

Following periods in Durham and then the Royal Maternity Hospital Belfast (where he met his future wife May) and military service as RMO to the Royal Tank Regiment in Germany he returned to Queen's as Senior Medical Officer in 1970.

At Queen's Robin established an injuries clinic for the University sports clubs and was so closely linked to sport that he was subsequently elected President of the Rugby Club and as a Life Member of the Gaelic Football Club. He was selected as Medical Officer to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council and attended five successive games between 1978 and 1994. His contribution to sports medicine was recognised by the award of an OBE in 2009.

Retiring in 1991 Robin retained links with Queen's serving on Senate between 1992 and 2001. He received an honorary doctorate from Queen's in 2002. He is survived by his four sons Wallace, Paddy, David and Simon.

(A full obituary by Michael Cullen can be found at [www.fsem.co.uk/](http://www.fsem.co.uk/))

**Richard James Mowbray Elliott, died on 8 December 2012**  
Pioneering broadcaster and community activist

Mowbray ('Mo') was born in Kilkenny in 1919. The family moved to Bangor, Co. Down, where his friendship with the girl next door turned into romance. They married in 1948, and were together for 62 years.

Mowbray read Electrical Engineering at Queen's and on graduating he lectured at the University in communications before joining the BBC as an engineer where he remained until 1979 when he reached mandatory retirement age.

Mowbray then started to play important roles in many voluntary organisations, serving the community both locally in East Belfast and nationally. He is survived by his seven children – sons Michael, Christopher, Tony, Paul, Timothy and Simon, and daughter Gillian – and 11 grandchildren.

(A full obituary by Michael Elliott can be viewed on the alumni website)

**William George Henry Quigley, died on 3 March 2013**  
Civil Servant, Director and Honorary Graduate

Sir George Quigley graduated with a first-class honours degree (BA History, 1951) and a PhD in history in 1955. After a distinguished career in the civil service he became Chairman of Ulster Bank, (a subsidiary of Nat West, later Royal Bank of Scotland), served for 10 years as a non-executive director on the main board of Nat West and retired in 2002 as Chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland Pension Fund.

His roles in public life in Northern Ireland included chairmanship of the NI Economic Council and The Royal Group of Hospitals. He was president of the Economic and Social Research Institute and of the International Trade Institute of Ireland. Sir George served as a director of Short Brothers (now Bombardier Aerospace), joining the company in 1989 and becoming chairman in 1999.

He received honorary degrees from Queen's (LLD 1996), the University of Ulster and The Open University and in 2007 he was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy. Sir George is survived by his wife, Lady Moyra.

**Eamon Gerard Murphy, actor, died on 26 August 2013**  
Star of *Batman Begins* and *Spooks*

Born in Newry on 14 October 1948, Gerard Murphy had an illustrious career on stage and in film. Educated at the Abbey Christian Brothers'

grammar school in Newry he graduated from Queen's where he studied music, psychology, literature and anthropology, in 1969.

Gerard Murphy made several films, including *Waterworld* (1995) and *Batman Begins* (2005), and appeared in many television productions, notably in *Vanity Fair* (1998) and in the BBC's *Spooks*. But it as a stage performer that he will be best remembered with the Glasgow Citizens Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Exchange in Manchester.

Opening the new Barbican theatre as Prince Hal in *Henry V*, Parts I and 2 in 1982, he appeared in the first RSC season at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, four years later. He played alongside many notables of the British theatre including Dame Judi Dench, Glenda Jackson, Joss Ackland and Sir Patrick Stewart. He is survived by his sister Deirdre and his brother Brian.

Additional and longer versions of obituaries can be found on the alumni website – [www.daro.qub.ac.uk/news](http://www.daro.qub.ac.uk/news) – by following the links to obituaries. If you would like to submit an obituary for online publication please contact the [editor@qub.ac.uk](mailto:editor@qub.ac.uk).

Among other graduates and former staff who are no longer with us are the following:

✠ **Dr Edith Newman Devlin MBE, Honorary Graduate, died on 2 July 2012**

✠ **Dr Maeve Binchy, Honorary Graduate, died on 30 July 2012**

✠ **Mr Raymond Skilling, Graduate and Founder Member of the Foundation Board, died on 10 October 2012**

✠ **Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Graduate and Honorary Graduate, died on 22 December 2012**

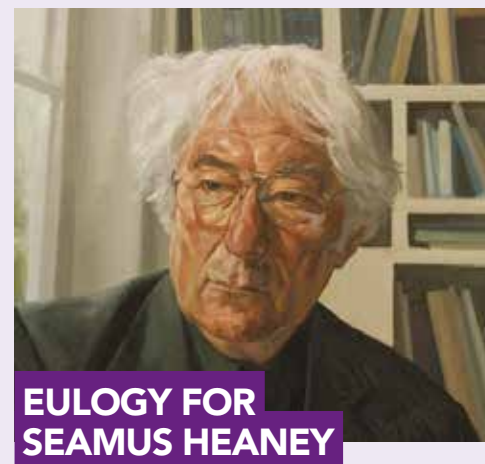
✠ **George Oswald (Ossie) McKee, Former President of West Coast USA graduate association, died on 13 January 2013**

✠ **Dr Margaret Irish (nee Morrow) MB, BCH, BAO 1961, died on 19 February 2013**

✠ **Sir Philip Foreman, Member of Senate 1993-2001, and Honorary Graduate, died on 23 February 2013**

✠ **Jean Cochrane, QWG member, died on 25 March 2013**

✠ **Raymond Flannery, Graduate and Honorary Graduate, died on 2 May 2013**



When I arrived yesterday morning at Belfast International Airport I offered the border official my US Passport. He asked me about what I did in the US. I was a teacher. I taught poetry. He looked at me and said, "You must be devastated this morning, then."

Something about the frankness of this response, its unvarnished aspect, reminded me of a phone call I made to the Heaney household one night years ago. Maybe 30 years, now. The phone was answered by one of the boys. Michael, I'm pretty sure. He was a teenager at the time. Having known him since he was a kid I was glad to have a chance to have a chat and hear what he was up to. After a while, Michael ventured, "I suppose you'll want to speak to head-the-ball?" Not being a parent at the time, I was a little taken aback by the familiarity, perhaps even the over-familiarity, of this nomenclature. Even if Michael didn't call Seamus "head-the-ball" to his face (which I'm pretty sure he didn't), I realise now that it was a very telling moment. It was a moment that suggested a wonderfully relaxed attitude between father and teenage son, one I now see as highly difficult to establish and maintain.

The Seamus Heaney who was renowned the world over was never a man who took himself too seriously, certainly not with his family and friends. That was all of us, of course. He had, after all, an unparalleled ability to make each of us feel connected not only to him but to one another. We've all spent many years thinking about his poetry. We'll all spend many more years thinking about it. It's the person rather than the poet I'm focusing on today. The person who did everything con brio, 'with vigour'. This was, after all, the Seamus Heaney who repurposed Yeats's description of a bronze chariot in his poem *Who Goes With Fergus?* and referred to his BMW as a 'brazen car'. However the Seamus Heaney we're

here to celebrate today might be described, 'brazen' is hardly a word that comes to mind. Anything that smacks of ostentation would be quite inappropriate. As would anything that smacks of meanness of spirit. A word that might come to mind is 'bounteous'. And, while I'm in the realm of the B's, maybe even 'bouncy'.

This last may seem a bit strange, but I have a distinct memory of playing football with Seamus, Michael and Christopher somewhere in or around Glanmore. When I say 'football', I need to be clear, particularly when this might well have been back in an era when soccer was perceived as a foreign game. Let's put it like this. This was not a game in which Seamus's talent for heading the ball was ever called on. It was Gaelic football, and I have to tell you that I speak as someone who's been shoulder-charged by Seamus Heaney. He bounced me off like snow off a plough. He rebuffed me. Benignly, though, 'benign' is another word that comes to mind.

Actually, 'benign' is somewhat inadequate. 'Big-hearted' is coming closer. On the subject of the heart, when Seamus was fitted with a monitored electronic device a few years ago he took an almost unseemly delight in announcing 'Blessed are the pacemakers'. Seamus's big-hearted celebrity attracted other celebrities, of course. Movers and shakers always attract movers and shakers. Was it a young Michael (or a young Christopher, perhaps?), who was introduced to a couple of dinner guests and inquired of each of them in turn, "What is it you're famous for?" To return to Seamus's capacity to act con brio, I don't think I've ever seen another human being, with the possible exception of Usain Bolt, move with such speed and accuracy as did Seamus when he heard the then toddler Catherine-Ann cry out in distress after falling in the yard. He positively sprinted, swept her up in his arms, brought her to a safe place.

It was Seamus Heaney's unparalleled capacity to sweep all of us up in his arms that we're honoring today. Though Seamus helped all of us develop our imaginative powers we may still only imperfectly imagine what Marie is going through. She above all recognises that other great attribute of Seamus Heaney. I'm thinking of his beauty. Today we mourn with Marie and the children, as well as the extended families, the nation, the wide world. We remember the beauty of Seamus Heaney – as a bard and, today, in his being.

Reproduced with the kind permission of Seamus Heaney's friend and fellow poet, Paul Muldoon. Paul is also a Queen's graduate and former Oxford Professor of Poetry. He paid this tribute at the Nobel Prize winner's funeral in Dublin.



# The Lanyon Society

A Living Legacy



As a psychology graduate (Queen's of course!), I am interested in understanding human behaviour, and how, in my role as Legacy Officer, I can better comprehend the psychology of legacy giving. Why are some individuals inspired to support charities in their will, while others don't? Is it that the subject matter is sensitive or is it a lack of awareness of charitable legacy gifts?

Recent research published in *Non-profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* shows that when individuals are asked questions like those above, neuroimaging results suggest that bequest contemplation (as contrasted with current giving) engages 'visualised autobiography' regions.

Once prompted, people start to think about the way they might be remembered. They ask themselves - which charity should I support? How best can I help them? What impact might my gift make?

I'd like to share three graduate legacy gift stories, and to outline how their 'visualised autobiography' led them to give a legacy that created a memory which wrote their future story.

*Susan Wilson*

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Legacy Officer  
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Queen's  
Foundation

## WRITING FUTURE STORIES

**Catherine Lynas, deceased, in memory of her son, Dr John Ford Lynas**  
To support students of Biochemistry



Dr John F Lynas

John Lynas graduated in Biochemistry in 1991 and went on to lecture briefly in Biomedical Chemistry before his untimely death aged just 32. Catherine wanted John to be remembered and the family name to live on in perpetuity, and set up a percentage gift in her will to support students studying Biochemistry.

Undergraduate students beginning their studies next year will benefit from the gift.

LAST YEAR LEGACY  
GIFTS TOTTALLING  
£300,000 SUPPORTED  
RESEARCH, FACILITIES  
AND STUDENT  
HARDSHIP

**Des Clarke, in memory of his wife Angela**  
To Cancer Research and Engineering



Des Clarke at the Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire

When Des Clarke, a graduate in Mechanical Engineering (BSc 1968), lost his wife to cancer in 2012, he decided to leave a gift to support the work of world-renowned researchers in the University's Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology (CCRCB) working with colleagues in Engineering.

Des visited Queen's for the Golden Reunion in June from his home in Australia, and told me: "I hope there is an opportunity for the CCRCB and my old faculty to combine their research and innovation skills to develop a simple and effective pain management system to alleviate the discomfort associated with cancer."

In addition, Angela's name and Des's act of giving will live on in the future. And what's more, his gift will allow many families living with cancer to live on.

Des, Catherine and James all visualised the future and planned how they'd like to see the final chapters in their own autobiographies to be written. Then they made it happen.

For others though, perhaps the gap between thinking of charitable legacy giving (or visualised autobiography) and actioning those thoughts is much too wide to contemplate. Or maybe it seems like a minefield of further questions - how to word a gift, how much to give or who to give to?

My experience tells me that it's best to keep things simple. After loved ones have been remembered, a percentage gift (a few percent might not seem

**Professor James Dunwoody, deceased, - The Dunwoody Scholarships**  
To support students of Engineering, Mathematics or Physical Science.



Professor Sir Peter Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's with Professor Dunwoody (right)

During his lifetime, I was very fortunate to get to know Professor Dunwoody who graduated in 1957 with a BSc in Mechanical Engineering. He explained to me his motivation for setting up the Scholarships:

"Initially, I wanted to inspire pupils from my old school to think about a career in Engineering, Mathematics or Physical Science. In addition, Queen's played a very large part in my professional and personal life. As the beneficiary of a Scholarship myself, I understood first-hand the benefits of helping gifted students who may not have the resources to support a University education, so I wanted to give something back.

And today's difficult economic climate will obviously affect the decisions of eligible students considering going to Queen's, so I hope that those who can, will give a little to help support such individuals".

like much but often is of huge impact to small charities) can make a huge impact to a charity and much of the difficult contemplation is avoided. And of course, it's always good to seek the advice of a legal professional, just to keep things right.

If you could ensure your name, or that of a loved one, could live on, would you choose to do so? Have you any thoughts on how you would want to be remembered?

For further information on leaving a legacy to Queen's, contact Susan Wilson on +44 (0) 28 9097 3162.

# SPORTS' REPORT

## HISTORIC CUP WIN



In its 19th year, Queen's Ladies GAA Club finally delivered on the huge promise of recent years with an emphatic victory over perennial O'Connor winners Dublin City University (DCU) at Waterford IT in March.

Queen's made it into the final after a dramatic semi against reigning champions University College Cork where a last minute goal by Caitlin Malone and a period of extra time saw them eventually winning by one point.

In the final, televised live on TG4, Queen's met DCU who were appearing in their fourth final in five years. The Belfast side romped home 4-10 to 1-9 enabling a joyous team captain Sinead McCleary to lift the O'Connor cup for the first time in the Club's history.

The Ladies GAA Club has worked diligently towards this milestone over the past two years. Coaching structures, awareness within schools and team preparation have all been enhanced through the Sean O'Neill GAA Academy.

Thanks also to the Managing and Coaching staff of James Daly, Barry Flynn, Aidan Lennon and Leo Duffy and to sponsors McAleer & Teague, Queen's Annual Fund, Centra (Stranmillis), Pizza Hut Delivery (Ormeau Rd) for additional support.

## BOAT RACE 2013

In the largest ever Boat Race, 20 crews took to the River Lagan in June for the Ramada Plaza Belfast University Boat Race 2013. The event proved a major success with spectators and competitors alike enjoying an exciting day and making the most of the early summer sunshine.

Men's and women's crews from all over Ireland competed for the top honours. Queen's Men's Senior eight triumphed over University College Cork in the main 2,000m event winning by 1¼ lengths. Queen's Ladies lost out to Trinity College Dublin by 2½ lengths in their 2,000m final.

This year's Boat Race was a first for the 'Lunch on the Lagan' fine dining experience at a new Corporate Enclosure supplied by the impressive 'Green Room' at Ramada Plaza, Shaw's Bridge, and inspired by the Henley Royal Regatta.



Guests enjoy the sunshine at the Ramada Plaza Boat Race

## KEEPING SCORE

Queen's Sport secured support from the University's Annual Fund towards the cost of an electronic scoreboard catering for high-profile rugby, GAA and soccer fixtures at Upper Malone.

The scoreboard was installed just prior to the World Police and Fire Games in early August, with many of the main events taking place at Queen's. It is fully digital and can display scores across all of the three main codes along with sponsor and venue notifications.

## GAA 2014 FESTIVAL

The University's GAA Clubs have secured the right to host the Ashbourne, Sigerson, Fitzgibbon and O'Connor Cups - an ambitious and unique initiative never before undertaken by any university in the same academic year.

The marquee events for camogie, football, hurling and ladies football respectively will be staged at Queen's over five weeks in February/March 2014.

In partnership with local business, local authorities, the University and the GAA, Queen's is combining all four competitions in a Festival of University GAA, attracting top colleges from the island of Ireland and a number from Great Britain.

The Festival will also include a programme of events celebrating sport at the University, student achievement, the GAA and Belfast as a host city.

To bolster GAA Academy fundraising in what will be an extraordinary year a Telethon Campaign is planned in late October 2013.

## ON THE CREST OF A WAVE!

Queen's crews performed well at this year's National Rowing Championships in August with two gold medals in the Men's Novice Coxed 4s and the Women's Novice 8s and a narrow defeat in the Senior 8 race.



To enable Queen's to compete at the very highest levels of rowing in Ireland and UK requires substantial annual investment for fleet refurbishment and the purchase of boats. In addition to the commitment made by the University, Queen's Rowing Alumni continue to support the Head Coach and recently contributed over £5,000 towards refurbishing Club 8s and Singles and a further £3,500 to cover accommodation costs for the 2013 National Rowing squad.

## RUGBY ON FORM

It has been another successful year for the Queen's Men's and Women's Rugby teams. The men had 10 players linked with Ulster Under 19s and 20s and 4 with the Ulster Ravens, while Iain Henderson was involved with both the senior Ulster and Irish squad. The First XV maintained their status in a very competitive Ulster Bank All Ireland League Division 2A and were victorious in the CUSAI Interspersed 7s competition.



Women's Rugby is going from strength to strength with the team now unbeaten for over two years in Ulster. The list of achievements includes All Ireland League Division 2 Champions, Rosie Stewart Ulster Cup Champions, CUSAI Interspersed 7s Champions and the Abbey Insurance Ulster ladies 10s competition. Ten players were also selected for Ulster and Irish Squads.

## LADIES' HOCKEY IMPRESSES

Ladies' Hockey have cemented their position in the top tier of Ulster Hockey emerging into one of the top young sides in Ireland. The First XI placed fifth in the Ulster Premier League, reached the semi-final of the Ulster Shield and were narrowly defeated by UCD in the final of the Interspersed Chilean Cup. The Club continue to supply national squads with two players selected for the Irish Interspersed Squad and four for the Ulster U21s.

Queen's Hockey has never been healthier. Junior squads continue to impress with the Second XI winning Junior League two and the Third XI the Junior League earning promotion for the fifth year in a row winning the Minor Cup in the process.



10,000+ SCHOOL CHILDREN USE QUEEN'S SPORT FACILITIES EACH YEAR

For more information on donating to Queen's sport contact Natasha Sharma on +44 (0) 28 9097 3928 or e-mail [natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk](mailto:natasha.sharma@qub.ac.uk). Catch up on sport at [www.qub.ac.uk/sport](http://www.qub.ac.uk/sport)



# COMING BACK, CATCHING UP!

OVER 2,300  
ALUMNI  
ATTENDED  
EVENTS IN  
2012-2013

Alumni events and reunions are very special times for graduates, giving thousands each year the chance to come back to campus and reconnect with old friends, to learn something new, catch up on the latest news from Queen's, or simply to have a bit of fun with former acquaintances. Each event is an opportunity to continue your connections with your alma mater after you graduate; each reunion is a unique occasion to meet up with old friends and to see how the campus has changed.

And whether you are a recent alumni wishing to attend a careers event, public lecture or are returning from overseas for a significant class reunion, your University always looks forward to welcoming you back!

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Ladies Hockey 50-year reunion



Then

Queen's Ladies Hockey First XI of 1962/63 held a 50-year reunion last October. Starting with a champagne reception then lunch, memorabilia was shared and the years fell away to reveal a strong sense of camaraderie.

The First XI won the Inter-varsity Chilean Cup and were runners-up in the Ulster Shield. On the team were several former Ulster Schoolgirls, a number who would go on to serve on Ulster and British teams and two internationals.

After a visit to Cherryvale Playing Fields the group was shown around the Queen's Sports Complex at Upper Malone. A tour of the McClay

Library - appropriate as three of the group are retired Librarians - finishing with dinner at the Hippodrome Restaurant in the Grand Opera House followed by 'The Mouse Trap'.

The next day saw a visit to the Titanic Exhibition and an afternoon hop-on/hop-off bus tour of Belfast, rounding off two days of fun and enjoyment.

### Success in the city

Almost 40 current law undergraduates enjoyed a unique opportunity to hear from a number of successful Queen's Law alumni based in London and Belfast on how to get ahead in the legal world.

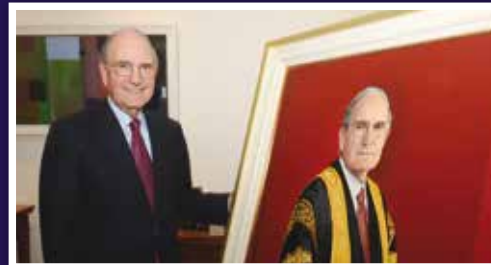
The expert panel, chaired by Dr David Capper from the School of Law included Michael Doran (partner in White & Case, London), Therese McCarthy (Corporate Solicitor at CMS Cameron McKenna, London), Paul Tweed (Belfast-based Media and Dispute Resolution lawyer, Johnsons) and Declan McKeever (Vice President and Associate General Counsel in JP Morgan, London).

After the panel discussion both students and alumni participated in a lively Q&A session which was then followed by a networking opportunity.

### George Mitchell unveiled

A portrait of Senator George J Mitchell, Chancellor of Queen's from 1999 to 2009, unveiled at an event at the official residence of the British Consul General, Mr Danny Lopez last October. The former

Special Advisor to President William J. Clinton on Ireland, Senator Mitchell was joined by friends and family members for the occasion which was jointly hosted by the Consul General and by Sir David Fell, Pro-Chancellor of Queen's and Chair of the University's Senate.



### RM Jones Lecture

The first of this year's two RM Jones Lectures took place last November at the University's Riddel Hall campus. His Excellency Kamlesh Sharma, Chancellor of Queen's was the keynote speaker in a panel discussion which focused on the internationalisation of Northern Ireland's economy.

The lectures are funded by a bequest received by the University in 1972 from the estate of Dr Robert Miller Jones, former Principal of Royal Belfast Academical Institution (Inst), a graduate, Honorary Graduate and Senator of Queen's.

The following day, William Crawley again chaired proceedings when an audience primarily composed of pupils from local schools were present to hear from the University's Chancellor and to discuss matters with a panel of students.

### Speed mentoring

Ten Queen's alumni and 30 current humanities students attended the inaugural 'Speed mentoring' event held in the Great Hall in February.

Alumni from a variety of fields, including journalism, marketing and supply chain management, each shared valuable experience and insight with students from across a range of subject disciplines.

Generously supported by the Queen's Graduates' Association - the evening was a huge success with both mentors and 'mentees', proving that there was an appetite for events that connect current and past generations of alumni in a structured, speedy - and fun - format.

The next Speed Mentoring evening is being planned for February 2014.

### Camp Bastion reunion



Four Queen's graduates held a unique medical reunion in February in Camp Bastion, the main British military base in Afghanistan.

The medics are all part of 204 (NI) Field Hospital (V), a unit currently running what is reputed to be one of the busiest and best trauma units in the world.

### Using social media

QFT was the venue for over 40 students and recent graduates in April to hear the latest tips on using social media from industry experts - and Queen's graduates - Phil Watson (LinkedIn) and Tracy Dempsey (Soul Ambition). The facilitator for the evening was another graduate, Dawn Baird of Sensei, who has worked extensively with small businesses and individuals to help them communicate better online.

Among key tips shared on the night were: don't cut and paste your CV onto an online platform like LinkedIn; always use a professional profile photo and get recommended by people you've helped. Live tweets from the event were shared by staff member Helen Dixon.

### New York Business Observation Programme

The US Consul General in Belfast hosted a pre-departure reception in May at Danesfort for seven Queen's undergrads travelling to the US over the summer.

The students were the first group to undertake a two-week placement with leading financial firms in New York as part of the University's City Scholarship Business Observation Programme, aimed at giving those interested in pursuing a career in global finance a unique insight into the running of multi-national Wall Street firms.

### Engineers gather

Civil, Aeronautical, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering alumni who graduated between 1962 and 1964 took part in a Golden Reunion dinner in the Great Hall at Queen's in June.

While a number travelled from New Zealand, Australia and Canada the majority of attendees were from Northern Ireland, though several also made the journey from Scotland and England.



A guided tour of the main campus included the impressive McClay Library where guests viewed the CS Lewis Room, almost 50 years after the writer's death in 1963. Also on the itinerary were visits to the David Keir and Ashby Buildings.

The following day, a large contingent took the train to Derry/Londonderry, the UK City of Culture, where they walked the new Peace Bridge to the Guildhall, climbed up onto the historic walls and ventured to St Columb's Cathedral and the First Presbyterian Church.

*(Report submitted by Professor Adrian Long)*

## Golden reunion 2013 - a sparkling success!

Over 150 graduates from the classes of 1957-67 gathered at Riddell Hall in June for the main get-together of this year's Golden Reunion. Among

those attending the event – part of The Gathering 2013 – were 30 medics from the Class of 1963 and 60 former residents celebrating the centenary of Riddell Hall – the erstwhile residence exclusively for female students, recently reopened as the University's hub for business.



After lunch, graduates from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Ghana, Germany and Switzerland were given a keynote 'state of the university' address by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Peter Gregson.

A highly entertaining Literific debate rounded off a sparkling afternoon when the house was asked to consider the motion 'The future ain't what it used to be'. On Sunday, almost 40 graduates enjoyed a 'Belfast bap' for breakfast followed by a tour of Titanic Belfast, while on Monday a guided tour was on offer highlighting the key changes to the main Queen's campus over the last 50 years.

For information on organising Events and Reunions contact Adele Ward (email: [a.ward@qub.ac.uk](mailto:a.ward@qub.ac.uk) or tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 5289)

## Forthcoming Events

All forthcoming events are listed at [www.daro.qub.ac.uk/events](http://www.daro.qub.ac.uk/events). Here are three examples.

### 'The origin of life' - Convocation Lecture



The 2013 Convocation Lecture will take place on Thursday 21 November 2013 at 7pm in the Canada Room/Council Chamber. This year's speaker is Professor Stephen Smartt, Director of

the Astrophysics Research Centre in the School of Maths and Physics at Queen's, will address guests on the topic 'The origin of life in the centre of stars'.

Stephen Smartt's research interests focus on supernovae and the deaths of massive stars and for the last decade he has been searching for the progenitors core-collapse supernovae in images of galaxies taken before explosion. He has held positions at the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge and the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes on La Palma.

The Lecture will be followed by the Annual Meeting of Convocation, full details of which can be found at - [daro.qub.ac.uk/convocation](http://daro.qub.ac.uk/convocation) - or from the Clerk of Convocation ([convocation@qub.ac.uk](mailto:convocation@qub.ac.uk)).

**Charter Day Dinner in the Great Hall 22 November 2013.**

**An exhibition opens in the Naughton Gallery, 27 February 2014 showcasing the work of Architect and Queen's Alumnus Peter Rice.**

# ALUMNI BENEFITS

We meet many graduates each year. One thing we often hear is 'I never knew you did that!' So we dedicate this page to highlight the special advantages available to alumni.

## UNIVERSITY BENEFITS

- Free support is offered by the University's Career and Employability Services Team
- Access the wealth of printed resources in The McClay Library with discounted graduate membership
- Keep informed of all the latest course information and consider further study to enhance your CV
- The Lanyon Building could be a wonderful backdrop to celebrate your big occasion. Graduates and those close to the University have the exclusive right to marry here!
- Get discounts on PEC membership and on further study

## CONNECTIONS

- There are over 140,000 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, benefit from a network of connections and a range of social activities

## SHOWING YOU CARE

- We welcome your help to ensure that Queen's continues to deliver an exceptional student experience and offers crucial solutions to world problems through its pioneering research
- Financial gifts can be made to the Queen's Annual Fund, to a major campaign project or by leaving a legacy to Queen's (pp 44-45)
- Volunteering is a valuable way to support Queen's. Advocacy, career mentoring, providing feedback, organising events, supporting student recruitment or committee leadership are just some of the ways you can give back (pp 23-27)


## COMMUNICATIONS

- All alumni receive this annual magazine, *The Graduate*, which delivers the latest news about the University and the alumni network and highlights the latest alumni opportunities
- The alumni website offers you the chance to manage your own personal information online
- We send a regular eGraduate electronic newsletter to provide additional information throughout the year to all those who have supplied us with a contactable email address
- You can also share your news and views, and not only through the social networks. Personal updates can be published in the magazines or online in the Class Notes, My time at Queen's, obituaries and news sections
- You can now access a host of Queen's videos online by visiting [www.qub.ac.uk/qtv](http://www.qub.ac.uk/qtv)

## INVITATIONS

- Reunion support is available for anyone wondering about planning their own special reunion event.
- The Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's celebrates its 51st year in 2013 we offer special discounts for alumni.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Online social networks are a relatively new addition to the communications mix but you will find Queen's alumni groups on
-  Queen's LinkedIn groups offer professional support to over 20,000 pre-registered graduate users
-  Facebook provides social interaction via the recently launched Queen's University Belfast Alumni Office page
-  Twitter gives bite sized updates and announcements. Queen's has a dedicated alumni twitter feed #QUBAlumni and an additional institutional feed #QueensUBelfast

VISIT [WWW.DARO.QUB.AC.UK/BENEFITS](http://WWW.DARO.QUB.AC.UK/BENEFITS) FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CALL +44 (0) 28 9097 3100



# LEAVE A LEGACY

“  
At Queen's we are leading  
the fight against vision-related  
diseases, helping many people  
retain sight that otherwise would  
be lost. Philanthropic gifts such  
as legacies allow us to invest  
more in developing new ways  
to treat and prevent vision loss  
”

**Professor Usha Chakravarthy**  
Ophthalmology & Vision Sciences

If you would like to speak to someone about leaving a gift  
in your will, please contact Susan Wilson, Legacy Officer  
Development and Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University,  
**T:** +44 (0) 28 9097 3162 **E:** [susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:susan.wilson@qub.ac.uk)

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