

Queen's

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends of Queen's University Belfast

Autumn 2004

Patrick Kielty

The Reluctant
Performer

Supported by Bank of Ireland



3

Soapbox

Smoke-free Workplaces

11

Queen's Life

Meet the New VC

12

Convocation

Notice of Annual Meeting

17

Class Notes

Graduates' News

Welcome



Welcome to the Autumn 2004 edition of *Queen's*, the magazine for alumni and friends of Queen's University Belfast.

In this issue, *Profile* talks seriously to 'funny man' Patrick Kielty, *Feedback* publishes your views on previous articles, and *Queen's Life* meets the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Gregson, who took up office over the summer.

Class Notes again carries news from Queen's alumni around the world and details of the winners of the 2003/2004 *Graduate and Student of the Year Awards*, supported by First Trust Bank, can be found on p10.

In the centre pages, graduate association members will once again find the *Associations' Supplement* – an exclusive eight-page publication outlining the latest alumni events and member benefits. If you would like to join an association, and enjoy discounts on travel, restaurants and other entertainment, please visit the alumni website - www.qub.ac.uk/alumni/ - and click on 'associations'.

As ever, Queen's would like to know your views on our graduate communications strategy. To this end I'd be obliged if you could complete and return the survey incorporated into the mailing sheet. The closing date for the free prize draw is Monday 1 November – good luck!

If you know someone who has lost touch with their Alma Mater, or who is not in receipt of the twice-yearly *Queen's* magazine, please ask them to return an on-line update form. Thanks.

As ever, I'd welcome your views on this issue of *Queen's* and would be pleased to receive your feedback on the articles featured. Feel free to email me directly - editor@qub.ac.uk - or to contact me at the address/numbers given with your comments.

Best regards

Gerry Power
Editor

Contents

Soapbox	3
Feedback	4
Alma Matters News from the University	6-7
Profile Gerry Power talks to Patrick Kielty	8-9
Graduate & Student of the Year 2004	10
Queen's Life Gerry Power talks to Professor Peter Gregson	11
Convocation Annual Meeting	12-13
Campaign News	14-15
Class Notes	17-19
A View from Afar Ronald McMullan on life in Brazil	21
Student Scene	22

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Queen's is an informal magazine published by the Development and Alumni Relations Office, for alumni and friends of Queen's University Belfast.

Extracts from *Queen's* should not be published without the Editor's approval. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of printed information, readers should be aware that this is an alumni magazine and not an official publication. Any views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the University or the editorial team.

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Message from the Director



There is a natural rhythm to academic life and, like everyone else on campus, we are gearing up for a busy autumn. As ever, I want to share with you a sense of the road we are travelling and the places we are going in the months ahead.

The new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Gregson, has taken over, and the planning cycle to articulate the University's future direction is underway. Addressing the challenges of funding and fees will be two main issues to resolve. Queen's has earned a powerful international reputation for teaching and research, in spite of decreased funding from government over 30 years. This information is not new, though the expectation from government that new funding will come through private philanthropy is.

It is really important that funds raised philanthropically should not, and must not, be considered as a substitute for core funding. Your views on this are important as you increasingly become stakeholders in shaping our future.

Queen's is one of the top fundraising institutions in the UK and philanthropy already makes a real difference to life on campus. The Great Hall, Sporting Academies and the new Library are all examples of privately funded activities. We will continue to work hard to make giving to Queen's more rewarding for you.

This year, as the *Campaign for Queen's* goes international, we will seek to involve alumni in new overseas associations and recognise the special contribution of graduates in the US and Asia to the University. New challenges include the Appeal for Sport, the refurbishment of the PEC and a drive for scholarship funds.

Your feedback is always welcome. A new course will be set by Professor Gregson, influenced and supported by you.

Aine Gibbons
Director

Send your feedback to - a.gibbons@qub.ac.uk



What are your thoughts on Andrew Dougal's view? Do you think there should be a smoking ban in all workplaces? If you would like to share your views with *Queen's* readers, please send your comments to:

Queen's, Development & Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN

Fax – 028 9097 5188
Email – editor@qub.ac.uk

Soapbox

Sounding Off!

Smoke-free workplaces

Queen's graduate Andrew Dougal puts the case for smoke-free workplaces



Smoking in the workplace, according to the Chief Medical Officer for England, causes 700 premature deaths each year in the UK – three times the number killed by industrial accidents. In addition to these deaths, many more are made ill by passive smoking.

The air in our pubs, restaurants and workplaces is contaminated with compounds which cause not only 15 different types of cancers but heart disease, stroke and infections of the lungs. Side-stream smoke actually contains more nicotine, tar and cadmium than is inhaled by the smoker. The absence of a commitment by government to implement smoke-free workplaces means non-smokers have to breathe in over 50 cancer-causing chemicals.

Queen's Students' Union missed a golden opportunity to set an example for the rest of

Northern Ireland, and, indeed the UK, when it decided to declare the Union building smoke-free everywhere except in the bars.

This means that anyone who drinks in the Union will still be subjected to second-hand smoke. More importantly, everyone who works in the building will be protected from the side effects of tobacco except those employed in the bars. Why should their lives and health be deemed less important than others working in the University?

There is overwhelming evidence to support the call for smoke-free workplaces.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the US has classified environmental tobacco smoke as a Class A cause of human cancers, putting it in the same league as asbestos, arsenic, benzene and radon gas.

Research by the University of California indicates that men who smoke suffer twice as much wrinkling of facial skin as non-smokers. The extent of wrinkling in women smokers is three-times higher than in non-smokers. In addition to wrinkles, smokers endure crow's feet at an earlier stage and will suffer a sallow yellow-grey colouring of the skin.

Studies also show that fewer young people will take up smoking in the first place if their workplaces are smoke-free. I am sure this applies to students as well.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the US has classified environmental tobacco smoke as a Class A cause of human cancers, putting it in the same league as asbestos, arsenic, benzene and radon gas.

To find the most effective argument in favour of smoke-free public places, visit Helena, Montana. The US town introduced a smoke-free policy in June 2002 but it was forced to lift it six months later following a legal challenge. It was only then that doctors began to notice something remarkable. In the time that the town's public places had been smoke-free, heart attacks fell by half.

When these figures were presented to the American College of Cardiology's annual meeting in Chicago last year, anti-smoking campaigners rightly linked the phenomenon to the corresponding respite from second-hand smoke.

A recent report in the *British Medical Journal* suggests that regular passive smoking increases someone's risk of developing coronary heart disease by 50-60%.

Smokers argue that they have rights too. But the same argument was used before the smoke-free workplaces were introduced in Ireland and slowly, reluctantly, many smokers have come round to the idea that a smoke-free policy is a good thing after all. Trade Unions have given it strong support.

So there is no longer any excuse for failing to protect people from this killer drug. New York, Ireland and Norway have all shown the way.

The Students' Union has the discretion to prioritise the health and welfare of its staff and members above all other considerations, including profit. Surely the Union exists to advance the wellbeing of its members and staff rather than to maximise bar profits. Union officers must find the moral courage which government lacks on this public health issue.

Andrew Dougal OBE
Chief Executive
NI Chest Heart and Stroke Association
(Former Treasurer of the Students' Union, 1971)

Feedback

A Forum for your Views

Sir George Bain's *Soapbox* article, *The Fees Debate*, in the Spring 2004 issue of *Queen's*, generated several responses, as did a number of other articles in the last and previous issues of the magazine.

Market forces

Afunding crisis? What crisis? I obtained my degree as a part-time evening student, working for the then EBNI for a pitiful salary, taking care of a family and mortgage. No money to buy textbooks. However I had a strong motivation not to waste my life.

Perhaps our approach to higher education as public service for the national good, which

induces young people to consider that a university education is something that society owes them, should be reassessed.

How about a dose of market forces? That would soon tell us how many and what types of universities are required.

Herbert Eichner
(BSc Econ, 1959)
Marbella, Spain

Real crisis

Respected voices advise me that the real crisis in higher education is one of falling standards. The system encourages the inflation of A' level grades to get 'bums on seats' to meet government targets which in turn secures funding, a system hell-bent on growth in numbers before we have worked out what its purpose is and how we are to pay for it all. As more and more are crammed in to meet

recruitment targets, courses are dumbed down and many degrees are viewed by employers as devalued currency.

Alan Bridle
(BSc Econ, 1986)
Belfast

(The above is an extract from an article entitled 'The Real Crisis in Higher Education' which was first published in the *Irish News*. The full text is available at www.qub.ac.uk/alumni - by following the links Alumni Services, Publications & Magazine.)

Hijacking

Iam afraid that readers have hijacked the *Feedback* section to voice their objection to the war in Iraq. I do not feel it is the role of this publication to provide a forum for such a debate, and am slightly disappointed that letters with only passing reference to the Colonel were published.

Unless I misread the article, it was a profile of the gentleman and not of the war, and response should have reflected this.

Daniel CW Henning
(MB BCh BAO, 2002)
Portsmouth, England

Misplaced army

Regarding the *Student Scene* article, 'A world not to be missed', it surely must be a glaring misprint to state that the Terracotta Army can be found in Beijing, as it is in Xi'an - over 900 kilometres southwest of the capital!

James Kay
(MSSC, 1990)
Northern Ireland

Absolutely correct - a case of zealous over-editing I am afraid! Ed.



If you have any ideas for articles, or if you would like to comment on anything published in this issue of *Queen's*, please contact:

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email - editor@qub.ac.uk



Superfluous courses

Of course it's wrong for students to be bankrupted by fee debts incurred in a four-year course of study. Many sixth-formers will be rightly deterred from applying to Queen's or UU for this reason.

More emphasis must be placed on scrapping 'Mickey Mouse' degrees or wasteful PhD courses. Do we need medical students to do the optional BSc after 2nd

MB, which in my day (as a law undergraduate) was offered to the brighter medics?

So cast off superfluous courses, put all your eggs into one basket, and concentrate on essential degrees only.

JKM Richards
(LLB, 1971)
Wirral, England

Getting stuffed

Ithink it was George Bernard Shaw who stated that 'America and Britain are two countries separated by a common language'.

In the Autumn 2003 edition of *Queen's*, Jill McKenna, who spoke to the Golden Oldies, used the expression 'Ireland was once again stuffed'. I have not heard the verb 'to stuff' used in this context since I left Belfast 50 years ago. Perhaps GBS is right! However, those of us who

remember American troops around Belfast during 1942-45 know that they very quickly learned to understand the local accent, as we did theirs.

I find it reassuring to know that in very short order both languages are mutually comprehensible.

William Gray
(BSc, 1953)
New Jersey, USA

Proper schooling

Ifound it extraordinary that Tim Collins was pilloried in the correspondence in your Spring edition. Colonel Collins was a soldier. He did what thousands of Ulstermen have done through the ages - he did his duty.

The only problem that I would have is that his parents chose Inst. instead of Methody for his education!

David (Bruce) Campbell
(BAgr, 1953)
Harpenden, England

Advertising Feature

Make the right start - with Bank of Ireland



Graduating with some level of student debt is not uncommon these days, but as Bank of Ireland points out, help is at hand.

While you're making your future plans, Bank of Ireland's GRADUATE PACKAGE can smooth the transition from student life to the world of work and beyond.

Bank of Ireland's experience in dealing with new graduates has shown that starting a new career can bring many expenses. Register as a graduate at any Bank of Ireland branch and your preferential graduate status entitles you to an INTEREST AND FEE-FREE OVERDRAFT of up to £1000* to help you get established. You'll also be sure that you won't pay transaction fees on your current account for at least two years after graduation¹.

The graduate current account package also provides a 3-in-1 CARD* that gives you 24-hour access to your cash, a £100 cheque guarantee card and a SWITCH debit card for your convenience.

If you have an overdraft or credit card debt left over from your student days, think about turning it into a LOW RATE GRADUATE LOAN*. The special rate loans are a much more cost effective way of managing longer-term debt and help you keep a close eye on your income and expenditure.

Whether you are starting work immediately or delaying it for a while, you might think moving

out of student digs means a move back home or into rented accommodation. However, once you do start your career, Bank of Ireland's new FIRST START MORTGAGE² can allow parents to share the burden of a home purchase. This unique product, offered by Bank of Ireland across the UK, allows parents and first time buyers to pool their income when buying a property. Why pay rent when you could own your property? It could be a wise investment for both you and your parents.

Wherever your future lies, Bank of Ireland wants to provide you with lifelong financial support. Whilst we understand that the financial focus of new graduates is usually on loans, we also advise you to look to the future. Our independent financial advisers can provide guidance and advice on a range of financial planning matters such as retirement planning or protecting your income³.

With a branch on the Queen's campus for many years, Bank of Ireland is Northern Ireland's leading student Bank⁴ and therefore has extensive experience in helping graduates in the early stages of their careers. Bank of Ireland strongly advises new graduates to have their current accounts upgraded as soon as they graduate and to take the opportunity to discuss the options available with a specialist graduate officer.

Call in and make an appointment with Garth Farmer or William Wharry at the Bank of Ireland University Road branch or telephone 028 9024 5616 to discuss your financial options.

* Lending is subject to status. Written details available upon request. Terms & Conditions apply.

¹ Surcharge interest will apply if your account exceeds its permission.

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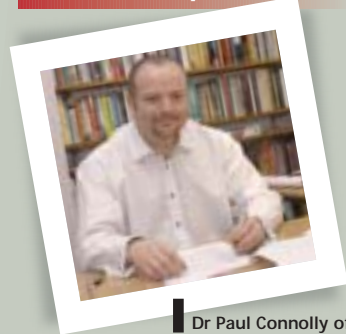
³ Bank of Ireland Financial Services is a trading name of Bank of Ireland Trustee Co. Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Registered in England at 36 Queen Street, London, EC4B 1BN. Registered No. 385057.

⁴ Research was carried out by PriceWaterhouseCoopers in December 2003.

AlmaMatters

University Round-up

Violent impact



Dr Paul Connolly of the Graduate School of Education.

Young children's experiences of the violence in Northern Ireland differ dramatically depending upon where they live, according to a new report produced by Queen's for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

For some young children, sectarian tensions and violence remain a significant part of their lives. By the age of three to four they become aware of the events and symbols associated with division, and within a few years many develop strong negative attitudes towards the other community.

Others, however, have little awareness of the violence or of the symbols and events associated with it. Many are more likely to recognise the flags of other countries than those of Britain or Ireland and tend to live in a world largely oblivious to the divisions that exist.

These are among the findings of research undertaken by Dr Paul Connolly and Julie Healy of the Graduate School of Education. In all, 276 interviews took place with Protestant and Catholic children aged three to 11 living in Belfast. The research examined the way violence impacts on the lives of children from different backgrounds and set out to understand, from the children's perspectives, how this influenced the development of their attitudes.

According to Dr Connolly - 'Children living in the same city, often in areas very close to one another, tend to share very little

else in common. Some live under the shadow of sectarian tensions and violence while others are able to go about their daily lives largely oblivious to what is going on.'

'We have found that even by the age of seven to eight, some children are already being forced to live with violence and conflict and have to deal with the anxieties and fears associated with it'.
'Efforts to increase children's awareness of differing cultures and traditions and to encourage them to respect others are important, but it is not enough. There is a need to help them make sense of their fears and experiences of violence and to begin to build up meaningful and long-term relationships.'

The full report is available at - www.research.ofmdfmi.gov.uk (click on the link for 'Publications').

Make the journey

The 42nd Belfast Festival at Queen's, the largest of its kind in Ireland, will take place from 22 October - 7 November. With a 'Journeys and Migrations' theme, Festival is inviting Queen's graduates from all over the world to return to Belfast, when the city will buzz with the widest imaginable range of art and entertainment, including theatre, dance, music, literature and comedy.

Opening Night will feature a wonderful Spanish outdoor celebration by the River Lagan on Friday 22 October. Immediately afterwards, the Opening Concert at the Waterfront Hall will present a new commission by local composer Neil Martin featuring the amazing Liam O'Flynn on uilleann pipes, accompanied by the Ulster Orchestra and Divine Comedy.

There are plenty of treats for families too as Young at Art's dates for 2004 coincide with Festival. The Ulster Orchestra

presents a special Children's Concert in the Whitla Hall and a host of leading children's authors, including Philip Ardagh, take part in an exciting new 'Adopt an Author' scheme.

Just a couple of appetite-whetting names in the Guinness Comedy section include man-of-the-moment Jimmy Carr and the amazing Dom Jolly of *Trigger Happy* TV fame.

For further information visit the festival homepage at www.belfastfestival.com where there are also details of travel and accommodation packages.

Details are also available from Graeme Farrow (tel. +44 (0)28 9097 2629) or email g.farrow@qub.ac.uk or from the Box Office (tel. +44 (0)28 9097 2626).

Mace makeover



The precious 18 carat gold mace, given to Queen's in 1909 as a celebration of its new status as a University, was back in service at this summer's graduation ceremonies after restoration at London jewellers, Garrards.

At Queen's the Esquire Bedell bears the mace in academic processions, leading the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor into the ceremony. Once the mace, which is always present during the conferment of degrees, is placed on its stand, this is the cue for members of the academic procession to remove their head dress.

A mace was originally a

weapon intended to prevail over an adversary. As long-range weapons were developed, such as the musket and the longbow, the mace was relegated to a ceremonial role. It denotes authority and the bearer of the mace in academic processions 'guards' the Chancellor in the tradition in which medieval sergeants-at-arms marched as royal bodyguards.

The head of the Queen's gold mace is set with four allegorical figures with the crest of Queen's University surrounded by semi precious stones. There is a Celtic cross finial and tapering stem with the words 'The gift of William Gibson, a citizen of Belfast 1909.' Mr Gibson's firm of Gibson & Co. Ltd was the leading jewellery firm in the UK at the time.

In a fitting coincidence, Garrards amalgamated in 1952 with a company originally set up in London by William Gibson in 1880 - the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company of Regent Street. The mace will return to Garrards later in the year, along with the University's Hart silver collection, to be placed on show in an exhibition next summer in Somerset House.

It's a bug's life!

As part of National Insect Awareness Week, zoologists at Queen's invited school children from across Belfast to experience insects and other multi-legged creatures up close and at first hand.

Over 150 Primary six pupils visited the Newforge site to inspect trap shelters and pitfall traps for slugs, earthworms, woodlice and spiders. Pupils were encouraged to collect and examine live specimens in the laboratory and some budding entomologists even brought samples home in collection jars.

Dr Archie Murchie said - 'Often we take for granted the world under our feet, so we wanted to open up the insect world to students and to show them the diversity and value of bugs.'



It's a bug's life for Jonny, Trevyn, Danielle and Matthew from Orangefield Primary School. Helping the students to 'creep with the crawlies' is Dr Roy Anderson from Queen's and Brian Black from UTV.

Environmental journalist Brian Black also attended the event and filmed the students' trepidation and subsequent participation for the *Wildlife in the City* series for UTV.

National Teaching Award

Dr Beverley Milton-Edwards, a Reader within the School of Politics and International Studies, has received a prestigious National Teaching Award worth £50,000, in recognition of her dedication to excellence in teaching and learning.



Dr Beverley Milton-Edwards

Dr Milton-Edwards is the third member of Queen's staff to receive such an Award from the Higher Education Academy. The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS), now in its fifth year, recognises and rewards

higher education teachers or learning support staff for their excellence in teaching.

Dr Milton-Edwards' nomination acknowledged her leading role in designing, co-ordinating and delivering the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, including award-winning modules in Middle Eastern Politics, with its highly innovative and internationally renowned role play. These teaching methods have been applied in other universities in the UK and Australia and have been described as 'a revolution in teaching'.

Dr Milton-Edwards plans to use the prize fund to implement a research project focusing on the impact of teaching innovation on critical pedagogy and conflict resolution in divided societies. The project looks set to include the establishment of a network of academics from institutions around the UK, as well as the use of a pilot model of pedagogic techniques.

Dr Milton-Edwards received her award from the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Higher Education, Alan Johnson, at a celebration dinner in September.

Making Science, Making News

An exciting new cross-curricular project initiated by the Graduate School of Education at Queen's is to be pioneered with secondary schools around Northern Ireland to promote interest in science and how it is presented in the media.

Entitled 'Making Science, Making News', it has been developed by the Newspapers in Science Education (NISE) group, led by Billy McClune and Ruth Jarman and comprising local secondary school teachers and University researchers.

Funding for the project has been awarded by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council.

In the innovative project, teachers of English and Science work together on a class project, in partnership with a local newspaper. Pupils will be set the challenge of choosing a topical issue, or event relating to astronomy or space exploration, and then to present it as a newspaper feature.

During the project a scientist will visit each school to discuss pupils' project topics with them. A local journalist will give the pupils practical guidance on researching a story, writing the text, making headlines and graphic design issues.

Viagra may affect fertility

Researchers at Queen's have revealed that men who take Viagra when they are hoping to start a family could be affecting their fertility.

A group at the University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology have shown that, while Viagra enhances sperm motility, it also seems to speed up the 'acrosome reaction', which normally occurs only when the sperm reaches the egg.

The acrosome reaction enables the sperm to fertilise the egg. It releases digestive enzymes that break down the egg's protective outer layer, allowing the sperm to penetrate more easily.

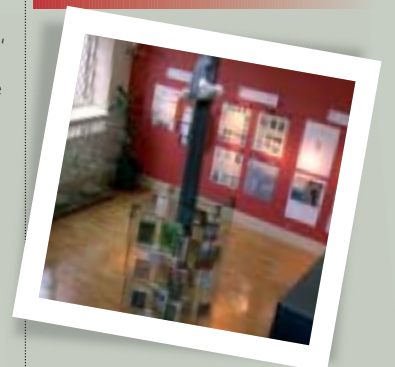
Dr David Glenn, Professor Neil McClure and Dr Sheena Lewis split 45 samples of semen, and treated half with Viagra, while the other half was used as control. Up to 79% more sperm were fully 'reacted' in the Viagra samples.

If the acrosome enzymes are released too early, as seen when Viagra is present, sperm are rendered infertile. This is backed by studies on mice showing that, in the presence of Viagra, far fewer eggs are fertilised, and fewer of the resulting embryos develop to the 'blastocyst' stage at around five days.

AlmaMatters

University Round-up

Memorabilia



Browsers on the University website will be able to navigate the Visitors' Centre web pages much more easily, thanks to a major revamp.

The new look website offers users the chance to view each item from the Centre's extensive range of memorabilia and gifts as well as detailed information on pricing and postage. The website address is - www.qub.ac.uk/vcentre

Seeing stars

The work of a Queen's astronomer, who uses the Hubble Space telescope, has been showcased by NASA. Dr Stephen Smartt is based in the School of Mathematics and Physics and in August NASA featured one of the many images he has taken in a media release.

Dr Smartt's team has taken pictures of several hundred galaxies to study the most massive stars in the universe which can be up to 100 times larger than the sun.

Using the Hubble Telescope provides amazingly detailed pictures of distant galaxies. Images from earth-based telescopes would be blurred too much by the atmosphere.

Dr Smartt completed his primary and PhD degrees at Queen's before working in the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge and the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes on La Palma in the Canaries.

Profile

Patrick Kielty

Patrick Kielty's comic CV lists some of the top entertainment programmes of the last 10 years, so it's hard to believe that he was once a reluctant performer. In an exclusive interview with *Queen's* editor, Gerry Power, PK talks frankly about making people laugh, his honorary doctorate and running with royalty.

'Queen's was the 'Holy Grail'; for a simple lad like me from Dundrum if you went to Queen's – it was bit like going to Yale or Harvard: you had done very well for yourself', said Kielty. It was a journey that was to come full circle for the County Down comedian in July when he returned to Queen's to collect his Honorary Degree.

Kielty is an affable, chatty, boyish-looking 33-year old, who revealed a real love for life when we met over coffee in one of south Belfast's fashionable cafés. Once described as 'deliciously cheeky', Kielty has all the qualities needed for a life in show business. He's quick witted, sharp as a pin, acutely observant and not afraid to speak his mind.

Patrick's great-grandfather came to Northern Ireland from County Wexford to work on the construction of the dam at the Silent Valley reservoir. He was brought up by parents Jack and Mary in the seaside village of Dundrum, where he attended the local Sacred Heart Primary School and later St Patrick's High School in nearby Downpatrick.

Kielty didn't have a performing background though his father promoted showbands in the 60s & 70s. Jack often bragged to his three sons – John, Patrick and Cahal – that he had once staged a Tom Jones concert, but it wasn't until years later, when their father was murdered and Tom Jones inserted a sympathy message in the *Irish News*, that the boys could finally believe the story.

Aged 15, Kielty got his first break in a school concert, though he admits to being a somewhat reluctant performer. 'One of the teachers, the late Pat O'Hare, who was a great personal mentor and was in charge of PE, bribed me into 'doing voices' (of Barry McGuigan and Billy Connolly among others) in the Christmas concert. He told me that my place on the school football team was at stake if I didn't! If that concert hadn't gone well, who knows where I would have ended

up', said Kielty.

Then in 1989 the impressionable young Kielty, with 'Bambi insecurity', went up to Queen's to study psychology.

'While I saw psychology as a good general degree I had no idea what I wanted to do after University', he said. 'That first year went by so quickly – I remember I won a keg of beer in a Freshers' Week talent competition in the Students' Union and an All-Ireland Freshers' Gaelic football medal. I also spent a lot of time at folk nights and drinking German Puschkin vodka!', he recalls.

'At some point I realised that comedy was a most valuable commodity, and not just for attracting female students! The late 80s and early 90s was a difficult time in Northern Ireland; people really needed to laugh', he said. 'If anything, the backdrop of the troubles gave the humour of the time a real edge and for this Northern Ireland is still envied in comedy circles.'

Following his Freshers' year in Hamilton Hall and a flat in Colenso Parade, he spent his final year in a shared house at 39 Fitzroy Avenue. Comedy gave Kielty a confidence and self-belief that he still has in buckets and which undoubtedly changed and enriched his University experience. When he left Queen's in 1992 with a 2:1 honours degree he had a very clear idea of what he wanted to do.

'At some point I realised that comedy was a most valuable commodity, and not just for attracting female students! The late 80s and early 90s was a difficult time in Northern Ireland; people really needed to laugh.'

Having performed several times in the Students' Union (and on at least one occasion getting paid £50 for it), Kielty and Jackie Hamilton – a former member of the *Moondogs* and now an executive producer in the BBC – co-opened Belfast's first stand-up comedy club, *The Empire*. That spawned a one-off BBC television special *The Empire Laughs Back*, which won him a Royal Television Society Award for Best Regional Presenter.

'We realised that there was a real market for comedy and once we found the right venue, we knew it would be successful. And Tuesday night is still comedy night at *The Empire*', said Kielty, clearly pleased that his legacy lives on.

From those early beginnings Patrick Kielty had only one career in mind. Over the next 10 years he fronted or starred in a long list of TV comedy hits, including *The Stand-up Show*, *SUS* (on UTV), *Comic Relief*, *PK Tonight*, *After the Break*, *Last Chance Lottery*, *National Lottery Big Ticket* (with Anthea Turner), *The Big Breakfast*, *Stupid Puns*, *Patrick Kielty Live* from Belfast and *Fame Academy*, the show for which he is best known in the UK.

Kielty also did six series of the networked prime time chat-show *Patrick Kielty Almost Live* and made guest appearances on, among other shows, *Give My Head Peace*, *Parkinson* and *Have I Got News for You*.

'I've had some great guests over the years, including Oliver Reed, Noel Gallagher and, very poignantly, Tom Jones, but I think *Almost Live* has now run its course', said Kielty. 'It's not always easy getting celebs to travel to Belfast, and while over 130 have appeared on the show, I don't want to start repeating the guest list, so I don't think we'll be making any more of it', he concluded.

As one door closed, another opened. Earlier this year, Kielty signed up for ABC in America (for an alleged fee of £8m) to make a game show entitled *Deal or No Deal*. While five episodes have been recorded, ABC have not yet broadcast the show. If it gets the green light, Kielty is almost certain to become 'big bucks' in the US.

Patrick Kielty's much publicised return to Queen's to collect his honorary degree was not lost on ABC top brass. Northern Ireland's 'favourite son' was awarded an honorary doctorate for services to the performing arts by Queen's Chancellor, George Mitchell. The former Senator became Chairman of the Board at The Walt Disney Company (which owns ABC) in March.

Kielty was momentarily pensive about the honour bestowed on him by his Alma Mater. 'I felt a certain measure of guilt to be honest', he said. 'Initially I thought there were others more worthy than me for such an award. I think it says more about Queen's, and what is now socially acceptable, than it says about me', he said. 'I let myself get immersed in the day and really enjoyed it. It is something I will always remember.'

In his honorary degree citation, Professor Carol McGuinness of the School of Psychology said - 'In my memory, *PK Tonight* stood out in the way it mocked and parodied the most sensitive topics for Northern Ireland audiences. It did what all good comedy does - it liberated us.'

Professor McGuinness continued - 'Today, the University wishes to recognise Patrick Kielty's contribution to the performing arts.



Profile

Patrick Kielty

Patrick Kielty The Reluctant Performer

He has become one of Northern Ireland's best known celebrities through his various television programmes. In particular, he distinguished himself by co-hosting the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Dublin last year, when his sensitive handling of this occasion won him many admirers and brought him to the attention of a world-wide television audience.

'We would like to recognise Patrick for his work – most of all, for making us laugh.'

Kielty was joined for the occasion by his mother Mary, brother Cahal and great Aunt Kate at the ceremony in the Sir William Whitla Hall. His acceptance address was notable not only for the level of laughter it brought to what is normally a very reserved occasion, but also for Patrick's emotional reference to his late father.

'I don't like my career to be defined in terms of my father's death, but as I said on the day, Dad would have been the tallest man in Ireland had he been able to be there. I was very conscious that my mum had a tear in her eye and then I noticed that several people in the front row were crying. It was a

very poignant moment for me', he said.

More recently Patrick Kielty has been seen rubbing shoulders with royalty as part of Sport Relief's 'Red Sock Day' in London, where he lined up beside the future King of England, Prince William, to run a mile for UK and overseas projects.

The irony of the occasion was not lost on a local Northern Ireland paper, which published a photograph of the event on 12 July captioned 'Paddy and the Prince!'

The initiative raised over £11m, thanks in part to Kielty's well-received contribution to the documentary *A Mile in their Shoes* broadcast in June, for which he visited India and met Vijay, one of the country's many homeless 'railway children'.

Kielty's roots are firmly planted in Northern Ireland. At present he lives off the fashionable King's Road in London, though last year he bought a house in his native Dundrum, where he also keeps a boat. He still has contact with many of his former University colleagues and indeed dined with a number on the evening of his honorary degree presentation. In his spare time,

perhaps surprisingly, Kielty admits to enjoying gardening, though his latest acquisition – a DeLorean sports car – suggests that he is not yet ready to settle down.

Currently single, Kielty still keeps in touch with former girlfriend Amanda Byram (erstwhile presenter of Channel 4's *Big Breakfast*). And he still finds time to do lobbying work for the Irish third-world charity Concern.

And how would Patrick Kielty, who allegedly has 'comedian' stamped on his passport, like to be remembered?

'For me every day is different and that's what is great about what I do. When you add it all together, you realise there's a lot in there. Maybe when it stops happening – and it certainly will, someday – then I'll have a chance to take it all in, but I guess that I would like to be remembered as a good man,' he said.

However he's remembered, Patrick Kielty will always be thought of as the guy who made us laugh.

Graduate & Student of the Year

The Best of Queen's 2003/2004



Queen'sLife

Meet Peter Gregson

Recognising excellence

The late Tyrone Gaelic footballer Cormac McAnallen was named *Graduate of the Year* in July, the first time the Award has been made posthumously.

The 24-year old Armagh-based teacher, who died suddenly in March, was described as a 'unique personality' by the President of the QGA, Alan McKelvey, who told guests that the Modern History graduate's sporting career was 'all too brief'.

Cormac received the Award for his 'high level of personal achievement, both on and off the field of sport, for leadership and for the respect in which he was held by so many'. He was an integral part of Tyrone's All-Ireland winning side in September 2003, when the county won the title for the first time.

Among those attending the ceremony were Cormac's parents Bridget and Brendan, brothers Donal and Fergus and fiancée Ashlene Moore.

Lauren Buchanan, a Geography student from Omagh, was presented with the *Student of the Year Award* at the same ceremony by the University's Chancellor, Senator George Mitchell.

After coming to Queen's in 2003, Lauren was the first student to train and lead a team for Habitat for Humanity. During the past year she ran the University's Methodist Society, completed a counselling course and served as a sub-warden in a hall of residence.

Outside Queen's, Lauren works in an after school youth club on the Shankill Road and supervises the pool area in her local leisure centre at weekends. Last summer she worked with children in an orphanage in Argentina, where she hopes to return at a later date.

The *Graduate and Student of the Year Awards* were launched in 1999 with the generous support of First Trust Bank. The Awards aim to recognise excellence, achievement or service by Queen's alumni and students, either to the University or to the wider community.



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Lauren Buchanan with Senator George Mitchell



(l-r) Alan McKelvey, Brendan, Fergus and Bridget McAnallen, Senator Mitchell, Ashlene Moore, Vincent Malone (First Trust) and Donal McAnallen.

New Vice-Chancellor looks ahead

Within minutes of sitting down to chat to Peter Gregson, just five days after he moved to Belfast, I am immediately struck by how at ease he is in his new surroundings. I wanted to find out more about the man who has taken over at Queen's; the person behind the position; the individual rather than the academic.

Peter Gregson is 46, was born in Dunfermline and has been married to Rachael since 1983. They met when he was Rachael's postman during a university vacation and became an item after both were 'reluctant attendees' at a dance in 1978. Peter and Rachael, who is a physiotherapist by profession, have three children - Eleanor (13) known as Ellie, Maria (10) and Christina or Chrissie (5).

I asked him first about what he has learnt from his children and how they reacted to moving to Belfast, as the decision to come to Northern Ireland was clearly a family one.

'Kids see everything afresh - in particular the move, which could have been daunting for them,' said Gregson. 'Like most young people of their age, they have a real eagerness for life and it's refreshing how they treat everyone equally, whatever their rank or status,' he added.

'Rachael was jointly involved in the decision for me to come to Queen's. Her father was educated in Bangor, County Down and she has relatives near Dublin. The kids, who were all born in Romsey in Hampshire, were very positive about coming here. They see it as a great



Peter & Rachael (back row) with (l-r) Ellie, Chrissie & Maria

opportunity to meet new friends,' he said.

I wondered whether, as a child, Peter had ambitions that might have predicted his future career.

'Like most boys of a certain age I had the dream of becoming a sportsman - a cricketer perhaps - but then I lost an eye when I was 13. It was not until I attended Imperial College London that I considered becoming an academic, though at first I thought I would probably follow a career in industry,' he said.

Gregson's grandfather, who was President of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in 1946, was an undoubted influence.

'I was fascinated by the variety of problems which he used to solve, especially the development of the marine gas turbine engine,' he continued. 'My greatest academic influence was my PhD supervisor at Imperial, the late Professor Harvey Flower, who was a great shaper of my scientific thinking,' he added.

'And Rachael too has influenced my life greatly; we

enjoy working together as a team and unquestionably she has helped me get to where I am today,' he said.

The conversation moved to hobbies and to what the Gregsons do to unwind.

'We do most things as a family and our last night out before leaving Southampton was to TGI Fridays,' he said with a smile. 'I enjoy gardening, tennis and sailing and we do a lot of hill-walking together. I also have an interest in photography and woodwork and have been known to make toys for my children and godchildren,' he added.

'I also enjoy reading', he continued, 'mainly biographies and historical books. Most recently I read *Geisha of Gion* by Mineko Iwasaki and Rande Brown. I like learning about different cultures and perspectives,' said Gregson.

'The family also holidays together,' he continued. 'Aside from more local camping holidays, we have travelled to the US, France, Switzerland and to Italy in recent years. Venice

would have to be my top destination,' he said.

Sticking with favourites, I asked Peter about food - fish and marmalade (Rachael made 40lbs of marmalade on the day that Chrissie was born!); music - he opts for choral and opera; and household chores - cooking (though only rarely), anything electrical and a bit of plumbing. 'Though I don't think I'll be allowed to do much of that in the Lodge!' he adds with a hearty laugh.

As the interview draws to a close I asked Peter Gregson for his thoughts on the challenge that lies in front of him.

'Queen's is very much at the heart of the community it serves, which is not something most large civic universities can claim. The big challenge for me is raising its profile further and getting the balance right between prominence on the world stage and serving the community.'

Peter Gregson clearly relishes the task ahead.

Convocation

AGM Notice



Clerk of Convocation,
Queen's University Belfast,
Belfast BT7 1NN,
Tel: 028 9097 5321
Fax: 028 9097 5188

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CONVOCATION Thursday 2 December 2004 at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Dear Sir or Madam

You are requested to attend the Annual Meeting of Convocation which will be held in the **Canada Room**, Lanyon Building on **Thursday 2 December 2004 at 8.00 pm**. Coffee/tea will be served from 7.30 pm.

Convocation will at this meeting elect a Chair, a Deputy Chair and six members of **Standing Committee of Convocation** to serve for three years. Nominations, together with the consent of the persons nominated, must be in writing, signed by not fewer than 10 members for the offices of Chair and Deputy Chair, and by not fewer than five members for the Standing Committee positions, and be received by the Clerk not later than **Thursday 21 October 2004**. The current Chairman, Ruth Hewitt, has indicated that she will not be seeking re-election. The retiring members who are eligible for re-election are:

Gordon Robert Elliott Lucy, BA – Deputy Chair

Elizabeth Anne Hunter, BSc PGCE
Jonathan James Mattison, BA MA
Ryan Graham McDowell, BA
Michelle Elizabeth McIlveen, BSc MSc PGCE
Robin Samuel Ramsey, BA
John Trevor Williamson, BA

Please note that members nominated for election are required to signify their consent in writing and, by Resolution of Convocation, to provide a biographical description for the Agenda in not more than 50 words. In order to facilitate arrangements, nomination papers for Chair, Deputy Chair and members have been prepared, and will be available from the undersigned from **Monday 20 September 2004**.

The business of the meeting will include the Report of the Standing Committee, including revised Standing Orders; and any other relevant business of which due notice is received not later than **Thursday 14 October 2004**.

Motions to be included on the Agenda should be submitted on the appropriate forms, which will be available from the undersigned from **Monday 20 September 2004**.

The detailed Agenda will be sent out not later than **Thursday 25 November 2004** to those members who have requested it on the 'Agenda request form' or in writing not later than **Friday 29 October 2004**.

All papers, including the Agenda, will also be available on-line from **Thursday 16 September 2004** at - www.qub.ac.uk/convocation

Yours faithfully

Gerry Power
Clerk of Convocation

Last Date for Procedural Steps

Issue of this Summons
Thursday 16 September 2004

Receipt of Notice of Business
Thursday 14 October 2004

Nominations: Chair, Deputy
Chair, Standing Committee
Thursday 21 October 2004

Issue of Agenda
Thursday 25 November 2004

Annual Meeting
Thursday 2 December 2004

Convocation

Summary of Annual Meeting of Convocation, Canada Room, Wednesday 3 December 2003 at 8pm

Prior to the commencement of formal business, Convocation was addressed by Professor Ken Brown, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who reported on progress at the University during the year and outlined future plans.

Minutes

Mrs R M Hewitt (Chairman) and 31 other members of Convocation were present.

I Quorum

As the attendance of 32 was less than the required number for a quorum (50), the Chairman asked the members if they wished to continue with the meeting. This was agreed, with the proviso that Senate be advised.

II Apologies

The Chairman reported that five members of Convocation, including the Vice-Chancellor, had apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

III Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 4 December 2002 were confirmed.

IV In Memoriam

The Chairman referred to the deaths of a number of members of Convocation since the last meeting. Those present stood for a moment in silent tribute to all members who had died during the year.

V Election of Eight Members to Standing Committee of Convocation

The meeting agreed that the undernoted members of Convocation be elected to serve on the Standing Committee of Convocation from 1 January 2004.

Kenneth William John Allen BSc
Andrew Gowan BA
David McCarthy BA
Kirk David McDowell BA
Stephen McIlveen LLB
David Henry McKillen BA BSc PGCE CChem MRSC
Catherine Margaret Pope BSc PhD
Jeremy William Weaver BSc PhD

VI Report of the Standing Committee

The annual report of the Standing Committee was considered with the following matters receiving particular attention:

(a) Review of the function and role of Convocation

Standing Committee had set up a working group to address the problem of declining interest in Convocation and its Standing Committee in recent years. The working group had been tasked with bringing forward a paper on proposals for the future.

(b) Revised Standing Orders

The proposed revised Standing Orders of Convocation could not be adopted because the meeting was not quorate.

(c) Clerk

The meeting noted the resignation of the Clerk of Convocation, Mr Connor Browne, after three years service. The Chairman would discuss with the University the appointment of a new Clerk.

(d) Previous Clerk

The meeting recorded its sadness at the death of Mr Paddy Doherty, Clerk of Convocation from 1986 to 1997.

VII Consideration of Motions

(i) 'Convocation notes the speculation about Agriculture and urges the University to retain the School of Agriculture and Food Science.'

(ii) 'Convocation notes the declining interest in Convocation and its Standing Committee over recent years and supports the decision of the Standing Committee to establish a working group to attempt to address this and other matters of concern.'

Convocation endorses the outline paper produced by the Working Group and encourages members of Convocation with ideas, comments and suggestions to forward them to the Clerk for consideration by the Working Group.

Convocation mandates the Standing Committee to bring proposals forward to the Annual Meeting in 2004.'

(iii) 'Convocation applauds another year of excellent examination results from Northern Ireland pupils; values the contribution of local grammar schools, while desiring a greater appreciation in society of the particular merits of every school; supports the right of schools to set entry criteria in order to promote academic excellence; and will resist change that might undermine such success.'

As the meeting was not quorate there could not be a formal debate, but the motions were discussed without adoption.

VIII Date of Next Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the next annual meeting would be held on Thursday 2 December 2004.



Queen's University
Belfast

Name: (Block letters)

Address:

Agenda Request

Annual Meeting of Convocation - Thursday 2 December 2004

Please return this reply slip if you wish to receive a copy of the detailed Agenda for the 2004 Annual Meeting.

Degree or other Entitlement to Membership

Membership Number

(Please see bottom right of address label)

NB. This slip should be returned to the Clerk of Convocation, c/o Development and Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University Belfast, BT7 1NN by Thursday 25 November 2004.

CampaignNews

Projects Update

Building a new sporting future



With two Campaign projects completed (The Great Hall and the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry) and plans for the new Library well advanced, the Foundation will now start to fundraise for sporting initiatives and the redevelopment of the Students' Union. Here, Maureen Cusdin, Director of Sport and Recreation, reports exclusively for *Queen's*, on plans for extended facilities at the PEC.

What a difference a year makes! Having reviewed its strategic commitment to sport, Queen's sporting landscape is about to change dramatically. A recent upgrade has already enhanced accessibility and improved Physical Education Centre (PEC) user safety. Included are a new passenger lift, adapted changing and toilet facilities for the pool users, and improved handrails in the spectator areas overlooking both sports halls. The diving and main swimming pools have been retiled and repainted, a unisex poolside sauna has been installed and a new hoist will allow safer access to the water.

Within months, subject to planning approval, construction will begin on a major extension to the 30-year old PEC, making it one of the best sporting and recreational facilities in Northern Ireland. It will house state-of-the-art fitness and exercise studios, provide sports science support, sports therapy and rehabilitation areas, and include

a new central climbing wall. The latest in floodlit multi-sports synthetic training areas is also planned beside the PEC. All this and a café, adjacent to a new-look reception area, will be available from 2006, and an updated computer system will provide a quicker and more customer-friendly service.

It is vitally important that every student, male and female – whatever their ability – can explore new activities, pursue a variety of sporting interests and take on challenging organisational responsibilities while at Queen's.

What is particularly exciting is the positive impact that innovative sports programmes and professional support services, emerging from these new facilities, will have on its users.

It is vitally important that every student, male and female - whatever their ability - can explore new activities, pursue a variety of sporting interests and take on challenging organisational responsibilities while at Queen's.

It is equally important that those who choose to are encouraged to be the very best that they can be. This means providing a support structure and a culture that has a 'strategic fit' with wider community and national developments.

Membership

Until now, PEC membership has been a well kept secret, even though it is open not only to students and staff but to graduates and



public members. Now an alternative annual membership scheme is to be offered in addition to the 'pay & play' option.

Graduate membership options

Pay & play £50 per annum + £1.70 admission

or Annual £190 per annum, with no admission charges & unlimited usage

Members have access to two large multi-purpose sports halls, 10 squash courts, two handball/racquetball courts, several table tennis tables, diving and swimming pools, weight training facilities, a Do-Jo martial arts area, a climbing wall, and a fitness studio and exercise rooms.

These facilities are brought to life by a wide-ranging programme of classes and courses, such as Hip Hop dance and Tai Chi, and specialist Sports Science/Medical Support services.

Sport & Exercise Science

The vision includes the new discipline of Sport & Exercise Science, which takes a holistic look at the physical, mental and personal development of students, as well as preparing individuals to succeed in competition. This is particularly relevant in the face of mounting pressure from packed timetables, exams and part-time jobs.

From day one, athletes' strengths and weaknesses are profiled to assess aspects that dictate current performance patterns. Sport & Exercise Science practitioners garner details from a range of lab tests and bio-

medical assessments to define the optimum personal development pathway. This culture of 'pre-habilitation' prevents injuries and the pain, inconvenience and lost opportunities which could otherwise ensue.

The aim is to combine individual and team development to maximise potential by helping student athletes not just to train harder, but to train 'smarter', producing performances at the upper limit of their ability.

So the Queen's ethos of 'access to quality'

applies not just to learning, teaching and research, but to the pursuit of sporting achievement, which plays such an important role in the broader education process. The University is confident that its new model of athlete development will produce more star performers like David Humphreys, Anthony Tohill and Lisa Bradley, while providing attractive surroundings and facilities for more 'ordinary' mortals.

Now that the new vision and strategy has

been agreed, exciting times are ahead. We will continue to work closely with the Students' Union and local sporting agencies to put in place the very best infrastructure to strengthen Queen's clubs and to revitalise student and wider community interest in more active and healthier lifestyles.

For further information on facilities, services and membership ring the PEC on 028 9068 1126 or check out the website at www.qub.ac.uk/pec

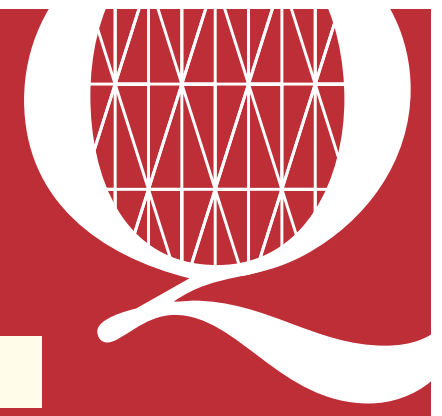
CampaignNews

Projects Update



Over 1500 library books have now been adopted by graduates, demonstrating vital support for the new Library project. For every £30 donated, the University places a bookplate in a library book in a subject of the donor's choice. Graduates may choose to inscribe their bookplate personally or have one electronically generated for them by the Development Office. Dedications may also be made in memory of a loved one.

Please adopt as many books as you can for the benefit of students - now and in the future



Adopt a Library Book

Name _____

Year/Subject of graduation _____

Address _____

Tel/Fax _____

Email _____

Contribution _____

Here is my gift of £ _____

I wish to contribute by cheque
(made payable to Queen's Alumni Fund)

VISA/MasterCard

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Card No _____/_____/_____

Expiry date ____/____

Signature _____

UK Tax Payers - Gift Aid - I would like all donations from the date below to be treated as gift aid until I notify you otherwise.

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Do you want a bookplate/s Y N

If this gift is in memory of a loved one please give details:

Is the gift anonymous? _____

Please note - you must pay an amount of UK income or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim. Remember to notify us if this no longer applies.

Please send your donation to Kerry Bryson, Library Book Fund Appeal, Development and Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN.

The Lyric Theatre presents

John Bull's Other Island

A comedy by Bernard Shaw



THE NATIVITY

WHAT THE DONKEY SAW

10th December - 15th January 2005

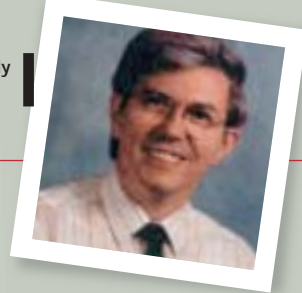
17th September - 16th October 2004



CHARLOTTE'S WEB

30th November - 8th January 2005

Alphonus Hardy



ClassNotes

Graduates' News

1940s

George G Hall, BSc (Mathematics and Mathematical Physics) 1946, BSc (Experimental Physics) 1947, has received an Honorary DSc from the National University of Ireland at Maynooth. George Hall, who is an Emeritus Professor of the University of Nottingham, is one of the inventors of modern Molecular Orbital Theory, which is at the heart of much of our current understanding of molecular bonding and structure. The citation acknowledged the many significant contributions made by Professor Hall to the fields of chemistry, physics, mathematics and education.



George Hall (right) receiving his honorary degree

Viv Gotto, BSc (Zoology) 1943, has recently published *Footprints in the Sea*, (published by Ballyhay Books - www.cottage-publications.com), an account of his life and experiences. In the book, the former lecturer in Marine Biology recalls his life as a student and lecturer at Queen's; his time in the wartime RAF, including the blitzes on Belfast and his 10-month spell on a remote coral island in the Indian Ocean, where he was briefly suspected of being a Japanese spy.



Much of the book is devoted to his post-war life as a Marine Biologist, especially his research on the tiny marine crustaceans known as copepods, on which he is a leading world authority. Viv was also an international tennis player, competing at Wimbledon five times and representing Ireland in the Davis Cup over several decades.

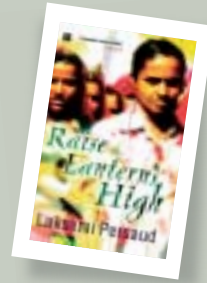
1950s

Dr Norman Taggart, BA, BD, PhD (1954-1960), published a new book entitled *Conflict, Controversy and Co-operation* in April. The book (published by the Columba Press, ISBN 1-85607-438-2) covers the story of the Irish Council of Churches between 1968 and 1972, including the first formal contacts between its member churches and the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr Taggart was President of the Methodist Church in Ireland in 1997/1998 and is a patron of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

1960s

Lakshmi Persaud, BA 1961, PhD, published her fourth book, *Raise the Lanterns High*, an exploration of arranged marriages and widow burnings, in March 2004 (Black Amber Books, www.blackamber.com; ISBN 1-901969207).



Mother of TV doctor, Dr Raj Persaud, Lakshmi was born in Trinidad and has written articles on socio-economic concerns for many years. Her short story *Saw Margery Daw* was broadcast on the BBC World

Service. Dr Persaud has written three other novels, *Sastra*, *Butterfly in the Wind* and *For the Love of my Name*.

Henry Sinnerton, BA 1962, has recently published - *Uncharted Waters* - a biography of the Progressive Unionist Party's David Ervine, one of the principal architects of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland.

Henry lived in Strasbourg after leaving Queen's, before returning to teach at Orangefield Boys' School in Belfast. He has been a member of the Royal Irish Academy Foreign Languages Teaching Commission since 1984.

(Moore Sinnerton, brother of Henry, was incorrectly attributed with authoring the book in the last issue of Queen's. We apologise for the error and for any inconvenience caused).

Medals

The Curator's Office at Queen's is looking for medals which were given as scholarships, prizes and awards by the University to former students. The Office would like to borrow the medals and intends to display the items in various University locations. Anyone interested should contact the Curator of Art, Shan McAnena, telephone 028 9097 5380.



Norman Barwin, MB 1965, was awarded Life Membership of the Ontario Medical Association and the Academy of Medicine for his 'outstanding contribution to the Association, Medical Science, Teaching, Research and Community', at the AGM of the Association in May.

Dr Barwin is currently organising a reunion for the Class of 65 and anyone interested in finding out more can contact him by email - nbarwin@hotmail.com

Alphonus Hardy, BA (Modern Languages) 1966, would welcome hearing from former colleagues, with a view to meeting up. Alphonus, whose daughter has just started studying at Queen's, can be contacted by email - al.hardy@btinternet.com

S Rosemary Rainey, BA 1967, Dip Ed 1968, has been appointed Chairman of Women's Forum, Northern Ireland, which represents some 100,000 women.



Rosemary Rainey

Rosemary retired from teaching in 1995 and is a former President and Press Officer of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. She is currently a member of the Belfast Education and Library Board and of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Roisin McAuley, BA (History) 1968, has recently published her first novel *Singing Bird* (Headline Publications, ISBN 0755308522).

Roisin McAuley began her career as a newsreader at the BBC and later worked for the *Irish Times*, *Irish Examiner*, and *The Times* before rejoining BBC to work as a reporter for *Spotlight*, *Newsnight*, *File on 4*, *Brass Tacks* and *Panorama*. She was a BBC correspondent in Argentina during the Falklands war and has made documentaries on the UK miners' strike, Animal Rights and the Intifada revolution in the Philippines.

Roisin, who is still making programmes for Radio 4, is currently writing a second novel, to be published in July 2005.



BOX OFFICE
028 9038 1081



ClassNotes

Graduates' News

1970s

Linda Dockray, (née Dennis) & **Rosemary Frayne** (née Prentice), BSc 1970, are organising a 25-year reunion for Biology, Botany & Zoology graduates of 1970 & 1971. Details are available from rosemary.frayne1@virgin.net

Dr John F B Mitchell, BSc (Maths) 1970, PhD (Theoretical Physics) 1973, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society earlier this year.

Dr Mitchell is currently Chief Scientist for the Meteorological Office and one of the world's leading experts in climate modelling. He is the third maths graduate from 1970 to be elected as FRS. Two of his classmates, Prof John McWhirter and Prof John Toland, were elected as FRS in 1999.

Further details can be found on the alumni website - www.qub.ac.uk/alumni - and follow the links to Alumni Services and Publications.

Edna Murdoch, (née Jamieson) BEd 1971, has recently returned to Northern Ireland after 30 years in England. After a successful teaching career in London, Edna trained in psychotherapy and had a private practice for 15 years. She is a founder member of The London Women's Therapy Network and has run Stress Management programmes for organisations as diverse as Channel 4 and Sussex Police.



Edna Murdoch

Edna, who now works as a psychotherapeutic supervisor and as a life coach, founded Temenos Coaching (www.temenoscoaching.com) in 2002 and The Coaching

Supervision Academy (www.coachingsupervisionacademy.com) in 2004. She would be glad to hear from former classmates and can be contacted at edna@temenoscoaching.com

Let's go trekking!

Are you interested in overseas treks? Would you take part in a trek to support sporting initiatives at Queen's? We are considering an overseas trek for alumni but need a clear indication of graduate interest to progress the planning of this event. If you find this idea appealing, contact Julie Forster (j.forster@qub.ac.uk or telephone 028 9097 3201) with your feedback.



Dr Alan Ruth, BSc 1973, MBA, MA, PhD, has been elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Stress. Alan is an occupational health psychologist and lives in County Wicklow. He is Principal Consultant with Compass Consulting, a company specialising in stress management training for organisations in the private and public sectors. Prior to this, Alan was Director and General Manager (Ireland) for an American multi-national pharmaceutical company.



Dr Alan Ruth

He is a former Irish international swimmer and was awarded a Queen's Blue for swimming and water-polo. Alan can be contacted at - compasscg@ireland.com

We would love to hear from those interested in including their news in Class Notes. Please get in touch with Gerry Power by email - editor@qub.ac.uk

Tom Brown, BA 1973, is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Brown McConnell Clark, Belfast's oldest firm of property consultants.

Tom's great grandfather Ephraim Brown started the company in 1854. He served an apprenticeship under building contractor James Cranston Gregg and helped with the construction of the then Queen's College.

Tom's uncle, the late Austin Brown, served on Queen's Senate for many years, and was involved in the acquisition of the sites for the Keir, Ashby and Medical Biology buildings.

1980s

Dr Kevin Stewart, MB BCh BAO 1982, has recently returned from the United States where he was studying techniques for teaching communication skills to doctors.

Kevin was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship in 2003 which enabled him to visit centres in Chicago, California, Baltimore and Washington DC. He hopes to be able to apply some of the techniques he has acquired to the training programmes which he now runs for doctors in the UK.

Dr Stewart was presented with his Churchill Fellowship Medallion in May at a ceremony in the London Guildhall by HRH the Duke of Kent.

Now based in Winchester, Hampshire, Kevin can be contacted at - kevin.stewart@doctors.org.uk

Rosemary Frappola, (née Beattie), BA (German and French) 1985, would like to make contact with other alumni in southern Germany, primarily in the Stuttgart and Ulm areas.

Rosemary can be contacted by email at - just_chill_out@hotmail.com

Chris Agee, MA (English) 1987, is the current editor of *Irish Pages*, a journal of contemporary

writing, now in its fourth edition. In addition, Chris recently published a second collection of his poetry, entitled *First Light*.

Chris was born in San Francisco and attended Harvard University before moving to Ireland in 1979. Widely published, Chris teaches at the Open University and is working on a third anthology, to be entitled *Next to Nothing*.

1990s

Dr David L Armstrong, MB 1990, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Society of Dairy Technology for outstanding service to the Society, of which he is the immediate Past President. The Award, at the AGM of the Society, coincided with the launch of *The History of the Society of Dairy Technology* written by Dr Armstrong.

(Incorrect details of this award were published in the last issue of *Queen's*. We apologise for the error and for any inconvenience caused).

John P Rooney, MSc (Irish Studies) 1993, has recently celebrated the publication of his first novel, *Bottling it Up*, (Blackstaff Press 2003, ISBN: 0-85640-743-7) - a wry look at male middle-aged angst in a setting of racketeering on Belfast construction sites.

For further details please visit - www.blackstaffpress.com/



John Rooney

Christopher Pressler, (previously Evans), BA (History) 1995, has recently been appointed Director of Learning Resources at Dartington College of Arts in Devon.

Christopher, who qualified as a

librarian in 1998 and worked in Birmingham and London, has recently published a novel, *Canning Circus*. He is currently studying for a PhD in Music at King's College London and is an Honorary Lecturer in Librarianship at University College London. He would be very keen to hear from anyone who studied or played music with him at Queen's, at - c.pressler@dartington.ac.uk

Gerard MacCrossan, BA (English & Psychology) 1999, was recently appointed assistant Managing Editor of the *Kerrville Daily Times* in Texas. He is currently undertaking postgraduate study at Texas State University and would be pleased to hear from former colleagues by email at maccrossan@stx.tv.com

IAESTE

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) is considering setting up an alumni group to keep former participants up to date with current developments.

IAESTE currently sends around 80 students abroad each year on paid, course-related work experience. So if you were on an IAESTE placement when you were at Queen's, or would like to find out more about offering placements, please contact Neil Martin (neil.martin@britishcouncil.org) for further details.



The University has learned, with sadness, of the deaths of the following graduates, former members of staff and honorary graduates.

Obituaries

Eric W Lowden, OBE, BA 1938, LLB 1940, died last October aged 85 at his home in England.

A former pilot in the RAF, he entered civil aviation after the World War II, where he worked until his retirement in 1977, at which point he was Deputy Chief Executive of British Airways, European Division. From 1978-82 he served on the Board of the Civil Aviation Authority. A keen sailor, he is survived by his wife Elizabeth.

Ronald Grime, MSc Chemistry 1950, died at his home in Colwyn Bay, North Wales in February aged 77. A former teacher at Sullivan Upper in Holywood, he taught at Rydal School, Colwyn Bay for over 30 years. He then spent five years as Head of Chemistry at Waterford Kamhlaba United World College in Swaziland until he finally retired in 1993.

Mr Grime is survived by his wife Gene (née Bloomer), two children and two grandchildren.

John Trevor Lewis, BSc (Mathematics), 1952, PhD (Applied Maths) 1955, died in January.

John was captain of the Boat Club in 1954 and was involved in student affairs via SRC in the 1950s. He is survived by his wife, Maureen (nee McEntee), who has a BSc and PhD from Queen's and their four children.

An extensive obituary is available at - www.cnri.dit.ie/jtl.html

Donn Small OBE, MSc 1953, died in June aged 82.

Donn Small attended the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and studied botany at Queen's between 1941-2 and 1946-47. He was a Captain in The Royal Engineers serving in the Eastern Mediterranean. He studied at the University of Edinburgh (Forestry) before joining the Colonial Forestry Service. This was followed by almost 30 years in the Forestry Commission until his retirement as Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest in 1983. He was appointed OBE in 1977 and was an Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Donn is survived by his wife

Elizabeth and three daughters.

Dr Peter Elmes, former Senior Lecturer in Therapeutics (1959), died in November, 2003 in Penarth, South Wales.

During his time as Whitla Professor of Therapeutics and Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medicine, he made fundamental observations on the health of the asbestos workers in the Belfast shipyard, confirming the high incidence of the malignant tumour mesothelioma in these workers.

Dr Elmes was appointed Director of the Medical Research Council's Pneumoconiosis Research Unit in South Wales in 1976 and continued this work as an independent consultant in asbestos related disease until his 75th year.

He received the award of MBE in 2002 for his work in historic conservation in Wales

William (Billy) McKaig, a former Chief Technician in the Geology Department, died earlier this year, aged 83. Scottish by birth, he moved to Northern Ireland after Royal Naval service during World War II. Billy joined Queen's in 1955 and worked in the then newly-built Geology Department under Professor Alwyn Williams.

Billy is survived by his daughter Heather and son Steven. (A full appreciation by former colleague Patrick Gaffikin can be found on the alumni website, www.qub.ac.uk/alumni - by following the links from Alumni Services/Publications).

Robin John Popplestone, BSc (Mathematics) 1960, has died at his home in Glasgow in April, aged 65. Further study at Manchester and Leeds universities led him to a 20-year career in robotics at Edinburgh University before he moved to University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1985. In 1990 he was selected as a founding fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

He retired due to illness in 2001 and returned to Glasgow. He is

ClassNotes

Graduates' News

survived by his wife, Kristin and three children by an earlier marriage and three grandchildren.

Gilbert Boye, MB, BCh 1966, died in 2003. He was appointed lecturer to the Ghana Medical School in 1970 and became associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacology in 2000.

Joseph Masoperh, MB 1966, has died in Ghana. The one-time vocalist for the famous Latinos band, Dr Masoperh spent his professional career in general practice and is survived by his wife Elizabeth and four children.

Robert Stitt Gourley, MSc (Econ) 1974, died suddenly in November 2003, aged 70. A well respected educationalist, he was Deputy Regional Director of the Open University in Northern Ireland until his retirement in 1997.

Mr Gourley is survived by his widow, Celia, one son and two grandchildren.

Daniel BC Taylor, MSc (Engineering) 1946, died in Wellington, New Zealand in December 2003, aged 82. A keen rower and a former student member of Queen's University Boat Club, he was selected as a member of the Irish Eight for the Olympic Games in 1948.

He lectured at Liverpool, Nottingham and Cambridge universities before moving to New Zealand where he became Vice Chancellor of Victoria University in Wellington in 1968.

Dr Taylor is survived by his wife Elizabeth and a son and daughter.

Anthony R Pugh, (former member of Queen's staff, 1959-1969) died in February in Canada. An internationally acclaimed scholar and member of the Royal Society of Canada, Professor Pugh taught at the University of New Brunswick for over 30 years.

Widely published, he was a world authority on Proust and had just finished his magnum opus, a two-volume chronological examination of Proust's manuscripts from 1909 to 1914.

A View from Afar

Your Story

If you would like to contribute to 'A View from Afar' please contact Queen's Editor, Gerry Power, by email - editor@qub.ac.uk

Brazil for beginners

Ronald McMullan graduated from Queen's in 1989 with a BA in Social Anthropology. Last October he gave up his job in insurance for a life far away from his home in Lisburn. Less than one year on, and writing exclusively for *Queen's*, Ronald clearly has no regrets.

I fell for Brazil on my first visit in 1993. The urge to return permanently never abated, so 10 years later we gave in, sold up, and made the move. My degree undoubtedly fed a natural wanderlust, and throw in a few years living and travelling abroad, a Brazilian wife and a TEFL Certificate and there was probably nowhere else I was going to end up!

Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobim said that 'Brazil is not for beginners'. Although I had holidayed there before, this is how I felt on moving to Recife (or more precisely, its sister city, Olinda) last year. I arrived at the airport with my wife Valeria, daughters Luanna & Julia and an absurd amount of luggage and began the process of settling in.

Recife is a tropical port city of 1.5 million on the north-east coast of Brazil. Whilst Rio de Janeiro grabs the glory and Sao Paulo is South America's New York, Recife's rich colonial past, deep cultural roots and artistic heritage deserve greater recognition outside Brazil.

The city lies on a coastline blessed with palm-fringed beaches and a calm azure sea and average temperatures of 25°C. The main industries are sugar cane (introduced by the Portuguese in the 1500s and still accounting for 40% of GDP) and agriculture, while tourism continues to develop.

Brazilians are known for their exuberant love of life and the north-east is reputed to be the



tropical greenery and within sound of the ocean.

Of course, it would be wrong to ignore the less positive aspects of life. High unemployment, underinvestment in education and health services, low incomes and widespread poverty are all facts of Brazilian life. Violent crime has risen dramatically in the big cities, including Recife, and personal safety is a major issue.

I love a country where people love life. One experiences this just by being here, but it's during Carnival that Brazilians really pull out all the stops. Recife and Olinda have one of the best, with over a million people taking to the streets for the opening parade. When Brazil throws a party, it really throws a party and no-one gets much sleep for a week!

Mention Brazil and most people think of football. The national team is followed passionately but Brazilians also adore the local game. Recife's best supported clubs are Sport, Santa Cruz and Nautico and I found this a great way to integrate into local society.

While I still need to improve my Portuguese, if I ever need motivation I just have to look at my seven-year old daughter, Luanna. Within three months she was communicating efficiently and is now perfectly fluent in the language.

Although it was difficult to leave family and friends, I can't say there's much else I miss. Occasionally I panic at the thought of never eating another Ulster Fry! I've been made so welcome by everyone that, although I'll always love the country where I was born, it would do Brazil an injustice to call it anything other than home.

And they've started showing live UK Premiership football on TV, so what else could a man want?

For a full version of this article visit www.qub.ac.uk/alumni and follow the links for Alumni Services and Publications

most 'Brazilian' part of the country. Climate dictates the lifestyle and is the single biggest difference between here and Northern Ireland. Socialising revolves around the beach, barbecues with family and friends, or a leisurely meal on the terrace of a seafront restaurant.

language schools in the region, set in the residential suburb of Casa Forte. The college offers English to students of all ages, although the majority are children and teenagers, and most already attend private schools for their general education. While I also teach Business English to adults, my students are mainly teenagers at upper-intermediate level. The historic centre of Olinda was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982. Set on hills overlooking Recife, its steep cobbled streets, with their art galleries, cafés, bars and restaurants, wind their way amongst baroque churches and monasteries, pastel-coloured colonial houses and peaceful squares, all set amongst lush

While I still need to improve my Portuguese, if I ever need motivation I just have to look at my seven-year old daughter, Luanna.

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StudentScene

The Queen's Experience

GAA Academy

Queen's has launched a major programme to give the best possible sporting chance to Gaelic stars of the future. As Dr Robert Gamble of Queen's Sport & Recreation Services reports, the new GAA Academy is part of the University's vision for student sport.

This latest initiative aims to develop the student experience to include opportunities at both performance and recreational levels. The venture follows the success of the Rugby Academy, launched in 2002, which has already resulted in a number of achievements, including a 1st XV in promotion contention in Division III and the development of a women's rugby squad.

Funds for the Academy, which is to be named after the legendary Sean O'Neill, were generously given by former GAA members through a telephone campaign.

The Academy will support the development of men's and ladies' football, hurling, camogie and handball, and is a partnership between Queen's, the five student clubs and the Ulster GAA Council. Based at the PEC, a development co-ordinator is due to be appointed in the coming academic year.

Among those who took part in the Academy's launch in early June were the renowned GAA commentator Michael O'Muircheartaigh and the current GAA President Sean Kelly.

The Academy was warmly welcomed by the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir George Bain, who said 'Queen's is proud of its rich sporting traditions and its commitment to sporting life. The University has a long and distinguished sporting record, providing many champions over the years at intervarsity, national and international level.'

'We believe that sport is an integral part of what we call the Queen's Experience - the

University's term for the invigorating blend of the elements that make for a rewarding student life. Initiatives such as the Gaelic Academy are crucial to that success. Its creation is a major step towards our goal of becoming the premier sporting university in Ireland,' he added.

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Queen's tradition in Gaelic football is a long and proud one, and the GAA Club is one of the most vibrant and successful in the higher education sector. In 1959 they lifted the Sigerson Cup – the most prestigious prize in intervarsity Gaelic football – for the first time, following this with a further victory in 1964, while their most recent success was two years ago. And Queen's graduates have played their part in the winning Armagh and Tyrone teams at the last two senior All-Ireland finals.

The Academy will offer Gaelic sportsmen and women the opportunity to train with top-class coaches and to benefit from specialist advice and support, through the University's Sport and Recreation Services department.

The move has also been welcomed by the GAA. John Devaney, the Association's representative on the Academy's Development Committee, said 'The Academy is a unique concept, coming at an opportune time. Its strength lies in the fact that it is relevant to everyone who has an interest in, or competes in, Gaelic games. It combines coaching, sports science, high performance and achievement as well as recreation, management and administration. The very fact that it is based on campus allows us to marry sport with the advantages of academic research and expertise.'

Snippets

Smoking ban

Student authorities have introduced a ban on smoking in the Union building, though the four bars on the premises are to be exempt. Users will be unable to light up in the café, dining areas, shops or offices, in a move aimed at improving facilities for students, staff and visitors.

The ban will bring the Union into line with other Queen's work and teaching areas and is likely to add to the growing calls for a total veto on smoking in all public buildings in Northern Ireland.

Mary from Dungloe

Queen's Politics and English undergraduate, Lisa McKelvey, has picked up the prestigious *Mary of Dungloe* title. The 20-year-old drama, music, dance and sports enthusiast beat contestants from all over the world. She is the first 'Mary' who actually comes from Dungloe in the 37 years of the contest.

Winning formula

A team of 14 Mechanical Engineering students has scooped a top prize in an international competition to design a racing car.

The Queen's students won the 'Top Performing UK Team' and finished in sixth place overall out of a field of 67 competitors at the 2004 Formula Student Competition in Leicestershire.

The contest challenges students to conceive, design, build and compete in a single-seater racing car over three days.

Dental success

Final year dental student, Justin Barnes, has won a major international prize for his work on wound healing. Justin picked up the Hatton Award, the most prestigious award bestowed upon student researchers, at the annual meeting of the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) in Honolulu in April of this year.

The 23-year-old previously won the prize for the Irish Division of the IADR and beat stiff competition from all international divisions of the Association for his work entitled 'Preferential healing in the Oral Mucosa'.

Blues Dinner

Former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir George Bain (left) with Gaelic footballer, netball and basketball player Caroline O'Hanlon, winner the 2003/2004 Sports Achievement Award, pictured with Derek Wilson, Area Manager for Ulster Bank (right). The Annual Blues Dinner, which is supported by Ulster Bank, took place in June and celebrates student excellence in sport through the presentation of University Blues. In all, 20 sports and over 100 students were present for the Gala Evening.



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LEAVING A LEGACY

Queen's University has changed your life...the lives of your family and community. A legacy to Queen's helps us continue to change lives; funding medical research, endowing fellowships and scholarships, building library resources, supporting capital projects and promoting student welfare. Even the most modest legacy can make a difference, ensuring Queen's has the resources to maintain its world-class standing and meet the challenges ahead. Leaving a bequest to Queen's, after providing for family and friends, is the highest honour the University can receive. For those who have done so, it was their way of thanking Queen's for giving them so many opportunities. Your gift can create opportunities too.

If you are thinking about making a will and would like more information, please contact Kerry Bryson, Head of Alumni Relations, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN on 028 9097 5322 or email k.bryson@qub.ac.uk