

QUEEN'S today

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2005

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

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Class of 2005

Blue belle
Zoe Salmon

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The best view of Belfast!

As Domestic Bursar at Stranmillis University College, Christine Nesbitt is no stranger to visiting conferences. A Catering Administration graduate of the University of Ulster, Christine has been at Stranmillis for 11 years and was appointed Domestic Bursar in 2001.



Christine Nesbitt

Christine and her team are responsible for the full range of housekeeping and catering services provided for conferences, which now form a regular part of the out-of term business at Stranmillis. Christine explains the importance of bringing conferences to Belfast and the support available from BVCB.

'My colleague, Norman Halliday, who is Director of Corporate Services at the College, is a founder member and enthusiastic supporter of the Association of Managers in Higher Education and Colleges (AMHEC). Norman suggested to the AMHEC committee that the 3-day annual conference in 2006 should be held in Belfast.

After an overnight visit to the College by the executive committee,

who were pleasantly surprised at how convenient it was to travel to Belfast and to the College, it was unanimously agreed that the conference should come to Northern Ireland for the first time.

'The AMHEC Conference is one of the most prestigious in the third level education sector and Stranmillis staff look forward to welcoming the Association's members to the College next year. Key business matters discussed at previous conferences has included tuition fees, cost effective reward strategies, governance, benchmarking and a code of conduct for governors.

'Following the meeting with the AMHEC executive committee it was clear that local knowledge would influence the conference discussion

topics and visits to historical sites. So to ensure that visitors would get the best view of Belfast we contacted BVCB.

'BVCB have been extremely helpful, providing useful information on city tours, hotel room deals, sponsorship contacts and local musicians and very valuable promotional booklets for every conference delegate. The assistance has been refreshing, in that the attitude from BVCB staff has been 'what can we do for you' which gives me great confidence that a group of this importance will be dealt with professionally and will leave having had a good impression of Belfast'.



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QUEEN'S today

Message from the Editor

The revamp of the alumni magazine has taken account of the views of the many graduates who took part in focus groups or completed survey forms in recent months, and to whom special thanks are due. The new-look *Queen's today* recognises that over 60% of our graduates are less than 40 years of age, with different communication needs and expectations.

Queen's communications with its graduates has moved on. The spring publication is now in a shorter newsletter format, while the autumn issue has been expanded to give a wider view of life at *Queen's today* – which also happens to be the title of the new magazine!

Added to this, the Class of 2005 became the first to be offered 'email for life' and we continue to circulate the latest news to association members, donors and others in our quarterly e-bulletin.

The new-look *Queen's today* offers more graduate news (pp.9-11, pp.26-30) and takes a closer look at life at the University on a faculty basis (pp.12, 16 & 20), while retaining a healthy smattering of nostalgia (p.44). In this issue Derick Bingham highlights Queen's links with CS Lewis (p.38), Blue Peter's Zoe Salmon is the profile subject (p.6) and Robin Ramsey explains the role of Convocation (p.24).

I am delighted to announce that *Queen's today* has received corporate support from Ulster Bank. In this and subsequent issues of the magazine, readers will receive details of a variety of products which I am sure you will find of interest.

And remember, you can keep up to date with all the latest graduate news from Queen's by visiting the website – www.qub.ac.uk/alumni

Comments on the new magazine format would be most welcome (to editor@qub.ac.uk) or in writing to the address given.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gerry Power
Editor



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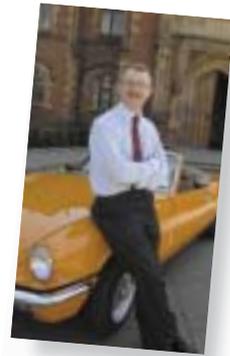
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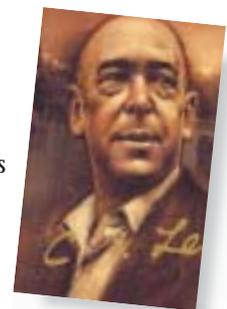
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Blue Belle

From the moment the conversation starts it's clear that Queen's law graduate, Zoe Salmon, is a focused and bubbly individual. She loves life, adores London and clearly cherishes her new job. As the 30th presenter on the BBC's *Blue Peter*, and the first new member in four years, Zoe has every right to be upbeat. *Queen's today* editor, Gerry Power, caught up with Zoe at her apartment in south west London in August.

'I really love my job; it's been a complete whirlwind since I started. Working on *Blue Peter* is a dream come true for me,' said Zoe. 'Blue Peter is a television institution which has withstood the test of time. Like most kids I grew up watching the programme and it's a real honour now – if somewhat surreal – to be part of the team'.

At just 25 years old Zoe now has the prospect of a lucrative career in television ahead of her. *Blue Peter* is well known as a fertile nurturing ground for talent and Bangor-born Zoe is set to follow in the footsteps of some of TV's most famous names – John Noakes, Anthea Turner, Valerie Singleton and, of course, the late Caron Keating who presented the show for four years in the late eighties.

Zoe made her debut on the long running flagship children's magazine programme on 23 December 2004. But the busy and exciting life of a TV presenter is far removed from her roots in Bangor, where Zoe was one of a family of four. She has two sisters – Lara and Naomi – and one brother Julian.

'I had a fantastic upbringing and until I moved to London I always lived in Bangor. I have a very close family though they are not at all over protective and were

very supportive when I left for London,' said Zoe.

Zoe's dad, Joe, worked in the carpet industry all his life, formerly as MD of Northern Ireland Carpets and latterly in the retail sector. As a result Zoe has acquired a lengthy list of random facts about carpets, which no doubt will come in useful in the *Blue Peter* studio where the presenters face endless challenges.

'My mum didn't work, which meant I never had a child-minder when I was young. I was always very involved at school and wanted to do loads of things. So I was in the school choir, played in the hockey team, joined the Brownies and the Girl Guides and I even won a handwriting cup!'

The young Zoe Salmon attended Kilmaine Primary School not far from the family home on the outskirts of Bangor. The National Curriculum award winning school, which is soon to be demolished to make way for a new building, welcomed back their most famous alumna earlier this year.

'It really was a great school and I was delighted to be back there a few weeks ago as a guest speaker, though it was funny how much smaller the place seemed', Zoe added.

From the age of eleven, Zoe attended Bangor's all girl Glenlola Collegiate School. In the evenings she did amateur dramatics and tap dancing, two skills that were later to play a big part in her *Blue Peter* audition.

'Glenlola was very competitive, with so many girls all striving to be the best', said Zoe. 'This really suited me as I was very keen to succeed. And when I was there all I wanted was to go to Queen's to study law. My parents hadn't attended university but it was something I knew I was destined to do'.

Still living at home, Zoe enrolled in the law school at Queen's in October 1998. As an undergraduate she didn't take part in many extra curriculum student activities, preferring instead to concentrate on her studies. Her favourite tutors included Norma Dawson and John Stannard, both of whom are still working in the school.

'I was a real geek at the time; always in the library studying. I really hated exams and so I felt I had to concentrate on not failing. Perhaps I should have taken up a sport and entered into university life a bit more, but I really wouldn't have had it any other way', Zoe said.

Zoe's social life revolved around part-time modelling and at the end of her first year at Queen's she entered the Miss Northern Ireland contest. By her own admission, she was 'really shocked' to win! Runner-up to Zoe on that occasion was Orlaith McAllister of Big Brother 2005 fame, with whom she still keeps in contact.

Though Zoe bagged several prizes including a sun holiday, the use of a jeep for twelve months, a modelling contract and a range of designer clothes, she was prevented from entering the Miss World pageant as Northern Ireland's parliament was not sitting at the time. ➡



After a year out to attend to Miss Northern Ireland duties, Zoe resumed her law studies and graduated in 2003 with a respectable 2:1 honours degree. Just over a year later and a postgraduate qualification under her belt from Queen's IPLS (Institute of Professional Legal Studies), Zoe started work in a Belfast solicitor's office.

'The year as Miss Northern Ireland got modelling out of my system and I was really keen to use my brain. All I wanted was a career as a solicitor, which I had strived so hard for while I was at University', Zoe told *Queen's today*.

However, after a couple of years as a trainee solicitor working on personal injury cases in Belfast and with a well-paid legal career ahead of her Zoe was ready for another challenge. It was then that she spotted an anonymous advert in the *Belfast Telegraph* for a TV presenter.

'While I am sure it must sound strange, I asked myself if I wanted to be a solicitor for the next 30-35 years. Was this all there was to life? The position seemed to be asking for all the random skills and experience I had built up while at school and university, so I applied', she said.

While Zoe initially thought the job was based in Northern Ireland, it soon became clear that more was at stake. The rigorous auditions took place in four stages over several weeks and concluded with a complete mini-programme which required her to conduct an interview with regular Blue Peter presenter Matt Baker whilst jumping on a trampoline!

In the months since, Zoe has travelled to Japan (where she spent four weeks), Iceland, Germany and Austria. She spent a day as a teacher, tried her hand (unsuccessfully!) at

street luge (a kind of one man bobsleigh done lying on a wooden or metal board not much bigger than a skateboard), constructed a raft and recently filmed in the Blue Peter garden for the first time. She's a dab hand with sticky back plastic, regularly works up to 18 hours a day – but she loves it all!

'I feel very privileged,' said Zoe. 'I am so lucky to be in the job I am in. The travel is amazing, I love working in the Blue Peter studio (which is my second home) and I never complain about the long hours - well hardly ever!'

Blue Peter, which is crammed with information, topical items and performance, was first transmitted on 16th October 1958. And while the famous theme tune (entitled **Barnacle Bill**) is still the same, the programme has had to change with the times. Now broadcast every weekday it has five regular presenters (Konnie Huq, Matt Baker, Liz Barker, Gethin Jones and Zoe), three dogs (Lucy, Meg and Mabel), two cats (Kari and Oke) and a tortoise (Shelley).

As a regular face on Blue Peter Zoe now finds herself a role model for a generation of youngsters. 'It's wonderful knowing that for many young children we are role models. You have a real responsibility and in a way have to set an example as so many kids get really attached to the presenters,' Zoe told *Queen's today*, though she admitted that she had never thought of having children herself.

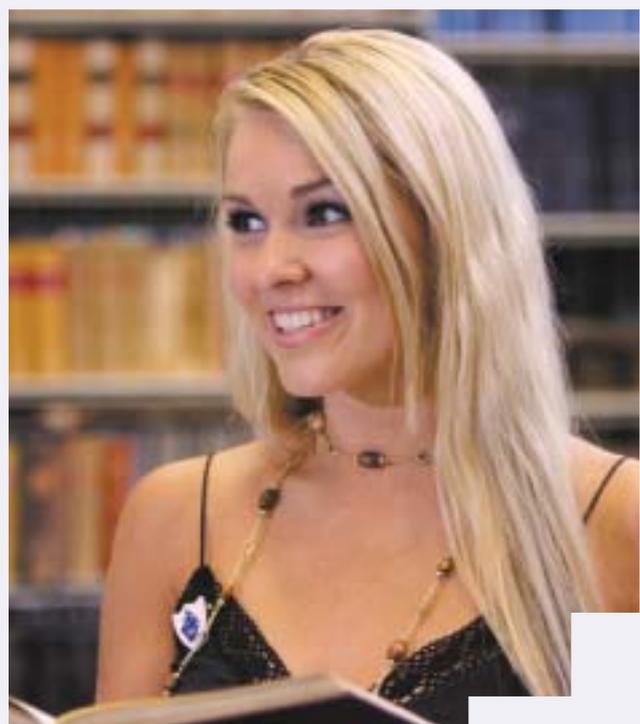
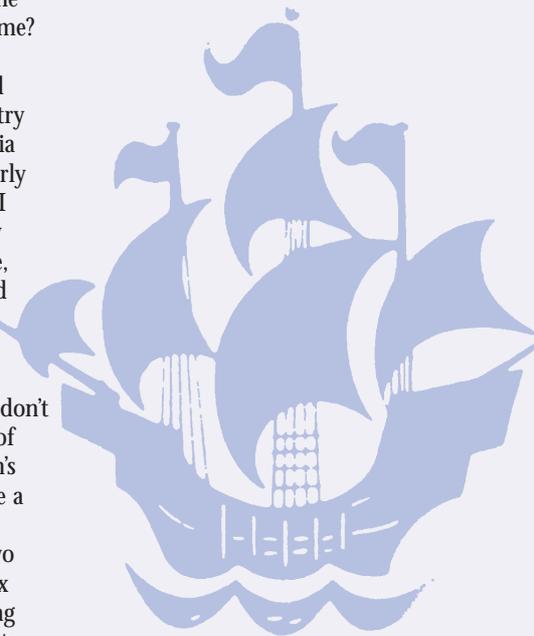
'I am so busy at the moment I haven't had time to think of marriage or having a family, though several of the current Blue Peter presenters are married,' she said. Clearly, however, Zoe hasn't ruled the idea out. 'If the right guy came along, I think I could just about squeeze time in for a boyfriend', she added with a hearty laugh.

And what of her future in television – where does she see herself in five years time?

'Television is a tough and highly competitive industry and while I love the media world, for me it is still early days. I don't know yet if I could cut it as a Saturday night presenter', said Zoe, who earlier that week had completed a photo shoot for *OK!* magazine.

'Traditionally, presenters don't stay more than a couple of years on any one children's programme. While I have a hectic schedule, I have managed to do one or two other things in the last six months including fronting Northern Ireland's input to Eurovision's 'Making your Mind Up'. I suppose I could pick up a legal career again, though ideally I'd love to work on Blue Peter forever! It really is too soon to say where I'll be in a few years time', she added.

With her boundless energy and endless enthusiasm, coupled with her versatile talent and a face that clearly fits, Zoe Salmon is surely destined for a lengthy spell in the limelight. ☑



2000s

Jennifer Gault, BSc Nursing 2003, and husband Jonathan are proud to announce the arrival of triplets – 2 girls and a boy – born on 14 December 2004. She can be contacted at gaulty74@hotmail.com



Jennie McCullough, BSc Computer Science and Business Administration 2003, was the producer of the musical *Hippos in the Shower* which played two sell-out shows in the Old Museum Arts Centre. In addition she is setting up her own promotions agency working with local bands and hosting events such as musical and arts exhibitions. She can be contacted at jennie@airhead.co.uk

Aladdin Ahmad Alqudah, PhD in Dentistry 2002, was sponsored by Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to do a PhD at Queen's. After graduation he returned to Jordan where he is employed by JUST as assistant Professor in Restorative Dentistry. He married Mirai in September 2002 and in December 2004 they had a son named Ahmad. He can be contacted at qudahaladdin@hotmail.com

Craig Bowers, BEng Electronic and Software Engineering 2002, married Courtney McCandless on 17 June at Carryduff Presbyterian Church, just 3 days after their 10th anniversary together. He can be contacted at smokinmojofilter@hotmail.com

Vanessa Burrows, MA in Irish Studies 2002, is entering her last year of law school at American University in Washington DC. She works

in the General Law and Advice Division of the Federal Election Commission, a US regulatory agency that oversees public funding of Presidential elections and enforces campaign finance laws. She was recently elected Senior Articles Editor of the *Administrative Law Review*. She can be contacted at vanessa_burrows@yahoo.com

Marianna Corvan, MSSc Human Rights Law and Criminal Justice 2002, is definitely not engaged or married yet! She has a new job working as a Law Clerk for an Immigration Attorney in downtown San Francisco. She can be contacted at mariannacorvan@yahoo.com

Marlene Doherty, BA Politics and History 2002, has completed a TEFL course in Barcelona and is currently teaching English in Spain. She can be contacted at marlenedoherty@hotmail.com

Sharon Duggan, BEd Religious Education and English 2002, has been in Seville since graduation and is currently working in a private bi-lingual school, teaching Religion and English. She is thoroughly enjoying the lifestyle and plans to stay there in the long-term. Sharon would recommend it to any teacher either as a career break or as a change of lifestyle. She can be contacted at duggansharon@hotmail.com

Daingerfield Henley, BA English and Drama 2002, attended the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School where he completed his classical training. From England he moved to Manhattan and acted in several successful Shakespeare productions, including playing Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. He currently resides in Kuala Lumpur where he teaches English and acts in a Commedia del Arte Company. A pan-Asian sitcom is in the works. He can be contacted at Shokwave67@aol.com

Leilanie Stewart, BSc Archaeology and Palaeoecology 2002, worked as an archaeologist for a year after graduating. She then applied for a job as a teacher in an English school in Japan. Melaine left Belfast in November 2003 and arrived in Osaka where she was transferred to a small rural town called Tottori on the Northwest coast. Since then she has been teaching both adults and children. In May she was promoted to Branch trainer and manages eight teachers – a lot of administration work as well as teaching! She can be contacted at leilaniestewart@hotmail.com

Zhengen Ren, PhD in Computer Science 2002, is pleased to announce the birth of a son, David, who was born in Belfast Royal Hospital on 12 May 2004. He can be contacted at z.ren@qub.ac.uk

Hung Jen Wan, MA 2002, is currently studying for a PhD at the Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver, US. He can be contacted at jen1031@hotmail.com

Andrew Kenneally, MA in Comparative Ethnic Conflict 2001, is currently working for the Boston City President, Michael F Flaherty, as his Director of Policy and Communications. He is hoping to go back to school for an MBA or JD. He can be contacted at andykenneally@yahoo.com

Margaret Murtagh, BA Politics 2001, is working as a youth inclusion administrative officer at the Hackney Youth Offending Service, which targets young people who are at risk of anti-social behaviour, social exclusion or offending behaviour. Margaret finds this thoroughly rewarding - mentoring young people and giving something back to the community.

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

Tariq A Sami, MD 2001, has been appointed Consultant Urological surgeon with special interest in urological oncology at the prestigious Birmingham City Hospital. He can be contacted at taspagbb@aol.com

Faleh Sawair, PhD in Dentistry 2001, is now Assistant Professor in Oral Pathology in the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Jordan. He is also the Assistant and the Supervisor of the Internship Programme as well as a Consultant in Oral Pathology in the University of Jordan Hospital. Faleh is still single and missing Queen's! He can be contacted at sawair@ju.edu.jo



Jennifer Doyle, BSc Mathematics 2000. After a few years in accountancy Jennifer decided to put her degree to good use and is currently teaching Maths at a private school in South London. She loves teaching and would recommend it to anyone as a career. She can be contacted at jd01129@hotmail.com

Anne Fallon, BSc Psychology 2000, is travelling to Uganda in August with a contingent of 50 volunteers led by Paul Collins as part of the 'Self Help' challenge. As a reward for raising €5000 Ann will experience white-water rafting on the River Nile. However the main aim of the trip is to meet those who have benefited from monies donated to the charity. She currently works as a

Careers Advisor in Dundalk Institute of Technology and her latest fundraiser involved the male lecturers dressing in wigs, skirts, tights and a bit of "lippy" to run alongside some female members of staff in this year's Women's mini-marathon in Dublin on 6 June.

Anne can be contacted at fallonann@hotmail.com

Michael J Griffin, BEng 2000, has just started a new job as a pilot with CityJet. He had formerly been a cadet with Aer Lingus. He can be contacted at captgriffin@hotmail.com

Barbara Henderson (née Blackburn), BEd Business Studies 2000, is teaching at Devenish College, Enniskillen. Having studied a Professional Certificate in Management through the Open University she is progressing into the final year of an MBA in Business Administration at John Moores University, Liverpool. Barbara can be contacted at rolybarbara@henderson312.freeserve.co.uk

Martin O'Kane BSc Physics 2000, and **Nasrin Khosravinezhad** made University history when they became the first couple in 160 years to get married at Queen's. The graduates first met when Martin helped Nasrin complete an application form for a part-time job at Queen's.

Martin and Nasrin were married in the University's Harty Room in July, watched by around 100 friends and family, in a Baha'i ceremony. They now live in Edinburgh where Martin works for the Royal Bank of Scotland and Nasrin is a podiatrist.



1990s

Naomi Jones, BA 1999, is working with a Christian mission agency in South Africa, and plans to be there for at least 4 years. She can be contacted at Naomi.Jones@aimint.net

David McLeish, BSSc Information Management 1999, has worked for Segue for 4 years and is currently a Senior Support Consultant. At the time of writing he advised that he was looking forward to becoming a father in July 2005. He can be contacted at dee_mc_leish@hotmail.com



Sandra O'Brien-O'Dwyer, BSc Sociology and Politics 1999, has completed a PGCE and is currently teaching in County Kildare. She married Karl in February 2005. Sandra would like to hear about other Queen's graduates particularly past member of the Ladies Gaelic Football Club and can be contacted at smob72@hotmail.com

David Whitla, BA Modern History and French 1999, emigrated to the United States in 2000 where he married June Oppelt of Pittsburgh in 2002. He currently resides in Indianapolis where he teaches at Covenant Christian High School. In December he became the proud father of a daughter, Katheryn Hope. David is currently pursuing an MDiv degree from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh PA. He can be contacted at whitlaboy@hotmail.com

Elaine Bowen, BSc Biological Sciences 1998, is teaching at Carrickfergus Grammar School and has been married for two and a half years to Jason. She can be contacted at ezjb28@yahoo.com

Claire Logan, BSc (Econ) 1998, married fellow Economics student **Mark Looney** on Easter Monday 2005.

Bryan Tipping, MSc Information Management 1998, is a Business Improvement Specialist. He can be contacted at bryan.tipping@bt.com

Andrew Beck, MB BCH BAO 1997, married Jen in 2003 and they have a son Matthew who was born in April 2005. Andrew is currently working as a Sessional GP. He can be contacted at Andrew.w.beck@ntlworld.com

Melanie Cree, BA 1997, completed a PGCE in 1998 and gave birth to Christopher during that year! She is currently teaching English in a local grammar school and is also Head of Year.

Richard Nugent, BSc 1997, has graduated with a Doctorate and is working as a Consultant in PricewaterhouseCoopers (LLP). He can be contacted at r.nugent@qub.ac.uk

Fuchun Xiao, MSc Manufacturing Systems Engineering 1997, is still playing the pipes with the Irish Pipes and Drums of the British Columbia Regiment (pictured right). Enjoyed a great show with the band on the St Patrick's day parade in downtown Vancouver – the second parade after a hiatus of more than 30 years. Fuchun was recently promoted to the rank of Corporal, and led the band for a performance in a somewhat quaint but delightful re-enactment party out of town. He can be contacted at fuchun.xiao@accenture.com

Jennifer Geoffroy (née Lancaster), MSSc Irish Politics 1996, and her husband Robert L Geoffroy, of Monroe, CT proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Kathryn Amanda on 23 May 2004. She can be contacted at jlanc_1999@yahoo.com

Ann Galpin (née McCabe), BA Modern History 1995, has just recently had a second baby boy – Michael David born in December 2004. She can be contacted at amccabe@cheerful.com

David S Gilmore, MSSc Irish Studies 1995. After completing his Masters in 1995 David headed to Essex to continue his social work career. He worked in the mental health field in medium secure units and a community health setting. In 2000 he commenced the selection process for priesthood in the Church of England and started training in 2001 with the East Anglican Ministerial Training Course. With the course completed he gained the award of Master of Arts in Contextual and Pastoral Theology through the Anglia Polytechnic University. He was ordained deacon in June 2003 and then ordained a priest in June 2004 and is now a curate in the Church



of England. He returns to Northern Ireland on occasions to see family. He can be contacted at davidgilmore@btinternet.com

Peter Kee, BSc Physics 1992, emigrated to New Zealand in January 2004 with his Kiwi wife Meillia where they have a 6-month old son called Sam. Peter is working as a secondary school science teacher at Mahurangi College. He loves the lifestyle spending lots of time on and in the water! He can be contacted at peterkee33@yahoo.co.uk

Class Notes (1990s to 1940s) are continued on page 26

Faculty news

Medicine

Professor James McElnay



James McElnay was born in Ballymoney and attended the local Dalriada School, where from a young age he wanted to be a teacher.

He came to Queen's in the early 70s and completed his PhD in 1979 after which he spent a one year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Iowa. James feels that one of the main changes at Queen's in the last 25 years can be seen in the built environment. 'The fabric of buildings has improved dramatically; when I was a student the pharmacy labs were in a wooden pre-fab building!' he told
.....'The new Pharmacy Building and more recently the McClay Research Centre have made such a big difference to the work environment for my subject area'.

James has been married for 23 years to wife Diana, who he met at a party in Portrush. The couple have three children - Ryan (18), Joel (16) and Jodi (12) - and a dog called Alice.

Not surprisingly, brisk walks with Alice are James' favourite way to unwind. He also enjoys reading novels (former Queen's academic, Alexander McCall Smith's is his latest), gardening, music (ranging from choir and 80's rock), theatre and holidaying in the Canary Islands and is fanatical about orange sports cars!

Role models include his former mentor, Professor Pat D'Arcy, who encouraged him in his early career development and in particular to build international contacts. When asked to name an influential historical figure, civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King was the first to come to mind.

Health & Life Sciences

Safer medicines for children

Around half of the medicines used in paediatric hospital wards, and about 90% of those issued in paediatric intensive care units, have not been tested specifically in children, with doses often having to be 'guestimated', e.g. based on a body weight basis, taking account of adult doses.

A multidisciplinary team of pharmacists, paediatricians, nurses and laboratory scientists, led by Professor James McElnay from the School of Pharmacy, is currently carrying out world leading research into improving the safety of medicines in children.

The practice of issuing medicines to children in this way is known as 'off-label' prescribing. Infants and young children are not, however, simply small adults; their organs are developing and therefore the 'handling' of medicines within their bodies can differ dramatically.

This is obviously an unsatisfactory state of affairs, depriving infants and children of the evidence based treatments which are available for adults. Ethical issues e.g. informed consent and taking multiple blood samples, which are routine



icine

in the adult clinical trials used to develop dosing schemes, present obvious difficulties in infants and children.

There is therefore a treatment dilemma; it is not desirable to treat children with medicines which have only been tested and licensed for adult use, but it is also not appropriate to leave them untreated when adult medicines offer possible solutions.

To help gain new evidence of effectiveness and safety of medicines in

children the research team have set up a new system.

! One drop of blood is ! often sufficient.

When blood samples, e.g. for a routine laboratory test, are being taken from hospitalised children who have been prescribed medicines in an 'off-label' fashion, the sample (with their parents' permission) is increased slightly to allow a small amount of blood to be available to the pharmacy team.

One drop of blood is often sufficient. The concentration of the medicine is then measured using specialist equipment in the School of Pharmacy. With this approach a small number of samples are available from a large number of children during their routine care, so overcoming the need for large numbers of samples from any particular child as would be the case in normal clinical trials.

At the time of sample collection the child is examined by a trained research nurse to evaluate beneficial, along with any unwanted effects of the 'off-label' medicine.

Specialist statistical techniques are then employed to convert the data gathered into dosing schedules for children. The research has already attracted much international attention and indeed the whole area of 'off-label' medicine use in children is high on the US and EU health agendas.

The Queen's group is collaborating closely with researchers in large paediatric hospitals in England and Scotland. The initiative, sponsored by the medical charity Action Research and more recently the HPSS Research and Development Office, involves a range of medicines commonly used 'off-label' in children.

Initial findings have recently been published and further papers and conference presentations have been pencilled in for the coming 6 months. 



Fit for Practice

Queen's is the major provider of nursing education in Northern Ireland and the sole source of midwives. The School of Nursing and Midwifery is one of the largest in the University with almost 3,500 students. Subjects taught include adult nursing, mental health, learning disability and children as well as a wide range of post registration and postgraduate courses in areas like care of older people, cardiology and cognitive behavioural therapy. In one area in particular, however, Queen's excels as Professor Jean Orr - Head of the School - explains for

I am frequently asked if our nurses really are good in practice and if they have sufficient clinical experience and I can assure you all that they are, and they have! The undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery programmes at Queen's are 50:50 theory and practice, and the academic component is heavily weighted to skill development.

Moving Nursing and Midwifery into Queen's has provided real opportunities to share education with colleagues across campus. In Child Health for instance, nursing and medical students work together on the wards. It has also enabled our programmes to have a very strong basis in biomedical science to underpin nursing and midwifery care, which are practice based disciplines. So it should be no surprise that we place great emphasis on the development of clinical skills.

To do this the School has invested heavily in developing the Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Education Centre, one of the most advanced of its kind, which is based at the Medical Biology Centre. It is equipped with the latest patient simulators, high tech equipment, ward areas and rooms for CCTV recording.

The provision of a simulated environment means that students can practice and be assessed before being let loose on the public. Students have Objective Structure Clinical Examinations (OSCE), using mannequins and volunteer patients and are assessed not only by lecturing staff but also by clinicians from local trusts.

Simon and Simone look almost human...

The two patient simulators, 'Simon' and 'Simone', have revolutionised professional education for students. This novel equipment mimics most human functions and presents students with lifelike situations in which to practise their clinical skills and refine their critical decision making.

'Simon' and 'Simone' look almost human, but their skin conceals some highly sophisticated electronic technology. They are equipped with artificial voices and can describe their own symptoms; they have a pulse and blood pressure, which of course can be measured to further assess their status. They breathe, produce heart and bowel sounds and can replicate a range of health problems from a simple cough to full-blown pneumonia. And clever programming allows for a range of conditions such as breathing problems, cardiac

arrest and vomiting to be considered.

What is interesting is how quickly students regard the mannequins as 'real' patients; they pat their hands, arrange their hair, talk to them and even adjust their dress. Indeed on a recent occasion the patient 'died' during a cardiac arrest and one of the students burst into tears!

The innovative equipment can also recreate rare and difficult cases that are unlikely to arise during normal training but which nurses may well encounter in the course of their careers. Scenarios can be replicated allowing students to perfect skills through repetition and to experience the same situation from a variety of team perspectives.

The school is delighted with the opportunities the simulators present for enhancing learning. This major investment in state-of-the-art technology compliments the extensive range of learning and teaching equipment already held in our clinical skills learning laboratories, which are among the best in the Europe.

Queen's was the first School in Ireland, and indeed one of the earliest in the UK, to introduce these new learning tools. By training on mannequins students can learn through their mistakes without causing harm to a human patient. All of which suggests that our students certainly do get the best practice and experience available almost anywhere in the world. 



Medics get head start

A revolutionary training tool has been developed for paramedics, hospital anaesthetists and other healthcare professionals.

Known as Airsim, the device resembles a head and throat, and is the only simulator in which the reactions of the airway are virtually identical to those of humans.

Airsim has been developed by a new company called TruCorp, a spinout from Queen's Department of Anaesthetics.

New labs

Researchers working on genetic diseases affecting vision, bones and joints, celebrated the refurbishment of labs in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The Medical Genetics team has developed a research programme to identify the genes responsible for disorders such as age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of irreversible blindness, and osteoarthritis, a condition which requires hip replacement.

A symposium was held to mark the opening of the facilities, which are now based within the Pathology building on the RVH site.

Experts gather

Medical Polymer researchers from across the British Isles met in Ireland for the first time, in June. Hosted by Queen's Medical Polymers Research Institute the meeting was run jointly with the MediTech network.

Polymer biomaterials are used in a wide range of medical devices to treat patients in areas such as respiratory medicine, cardiology, orthopaedics and dentistry.

The medical polymers healthcare sector is growing rapidly both locally and in the Republic of Ireland, where there is one of the highest concentrations of medical devices companies in the world.

Gingivitis and premature babies



A number of risk factors have already been linked with having a premature or low weight baby. These include smoking during pregnancy, alcohol consumption, psychological anxiety, low socio-economic status and education, poor maternal nutrition and maternal illness. But according to Dr Chris Irwin from Queen's Dental School, maternal gum disease may also be a factor.

Every year around 6% of infants born in Northern Ireland arrive too early (before 37 weeks) or have a low birth weight of less than 2.5kg (5.5lbs). Premature and low birth weight babies are at a significant risk of developing serious and lasting health problems.

'Over 50% of the incidence of premature and low birth weight remains unexplained', Dr Irwin told 'Data from an increasing

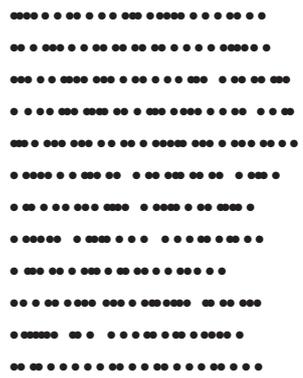
number of studies, particularly in the US, supports the theory that the presence of significant gum disease in pregnant women increases the risk of delivering a premature, low birth weight baby'.

Gum disease, or gingivitis, is inflammation of the gum, caused by plaque, a sticky film of bacteria that adheres to teeth. Almost all adults are affected by gingivitis at some time in their lives, with pregnant women particularly

susceptible. The condition can develop into periodontitis, affecting the bone support for teeth which may eventually become loose.

So an extensive investigation focusing on gum disease in pregnant women and their chances of having a premature or low birth weight baby is currently underway at Queen's. The three year study, which is taking place in conjunction with the Royal Jubilee Maternity Unit in Belfast, will be carried out by Research Fellow, Martina Pirie during her PhD programme. The £170,000 project has been funded by the Northern Ireland Research and Development Office.

The research team will recruit 150 pregnant women over an 18-month period, with a third of them receiving dental treatment for gum disease before they give birth. The rest will receive treatment after the birth. Dr Irwin explained that comparisons will be carried out in a bid to find out if there is a difference in both groups regarding birth weight and prematurity. 



Engineering

and Physical Sciences

Professor Ken Bell



Ken Bell was born in Portadown where he attended Portadown College. As a child he always had a love of mathematics and knew from a young age that maths would be part of his life



Ken came to Queen's in the late 1950s and graduated with a BSc in Applied Maths in 1961 before going on to take

his PhD. At the time there were fewer than 2,000 students at the University – compared with over 24,000 today.

'New buildings over the last 40 years have transformed the campus,' Ken told
..... 'Technology has also made a huge impact; gone are the days of chalk and blackboard – everything today is on-line'.

Ken and wife Hilary, whom he met when she was working in the library at Queen's, will be married for 37 years this September. They have three grown-up children - one daughter and two sons, one of whom has just returned to university to start a PhD. Being a family man has helped Ken to realise the pressures which society puts on young people.

To escape from work Ken enjoys walking, reading and DIY – or painting to be more exact. 'I've just finished decorating a bedroom' he said, 'and it's very therapeutic!' The last book Ken read was
..... by Belfast novelist (and Queen's graduate) David Park.

Ken acknowledges that the greatest personal influences on him were maths teachers at Portadown College – Iris Boland and Roland Turner – though the person he most admires from history is Winston Churchill.

deep impact

Astronomers at Queen's have played an important role in a recent NASA mission which encountered, 'head-on', the Comet P/Tempel-1.

In July, and using telescopes around the world and in space, four Belfast scientists studied what happened when the Deep Impact spacecraft launched a projectile at the comet. Professor Alan Fitzsimmons of the Astrophysics and Planetary Science Research Division at Queen's, writing exclusively for explains this unusual mission.

Bright comets are some of the most spectacular things in the sky, but it is only since the 1950s that we have understood their gross nature. A comet is essentially frozen ices (mostly water ice) embedded with microscopic dust particles. When the comet's orbit brings it close to the sun, heat vaporises (or sublimates) ices from the surface which stream out into space along with the released dust grains. These form the atmosphere and familiar tails of the comet.

However, this means that most of the cometary material astronomers have studied to date has come from the uppermost surface layers. The truly primitive matter lies deep within, so to study it we needed a way to dig it out.

The NASA spacecraft consisted of two parts – the main mothership and a copper impactor, weighing a third of

a tonne. After travelling through space for six months the mothership released the impactor which hit the comet at a speed of seven miles per second. This excavated a large crater in the surface and threw once-hidden subsurface material out into the open.

At impact the mothership was passing by at a distance of 500km, with its cameras and other instruments trained on the comet, recording what happened in exquisite detail. Only a few of the images and data have been released, but we already know that the spacecraft clearly saw the impact and the resulting plume of debris.

On Earth, 130 million kilometres away, I was operating the Faulkes Telescope on Maui, Hawaii, as part of a worldwide network of astronomers monitoring the comet both before and after the collision to search for changes. As it turned out, it wasn't hard to see!

Almost immediately we saw an increase in the comet's brightness, which continued for 40 minutes and eventually became four times brighter than before impact; not as spectacular as some predictions, but still very impressive. Within hours image processing revealed an expanding cloud of debris moving outwards from the comet at 700 km/hour.

Halfway around the world, my colleagues Dr Stephen Lowry and Colin Snodgrass, (postdoctoral and

Engineering

PhD students respectively), were using large telescopes on La Palma in the Canaries. Sixteen hours after impact, and long after the comet had set in Hawaii, they could see the obvious effects in the form of a hemispherical cloud moving outwards from the comet.

Utilising the Isaac Newton Telescope, Stephen searched for signs of plasma (ionised gas) forming a tail and while initial inspection did not show any, work continues. Colin monitored the dust particles in the comet in optical and infrared using the Liverpool Telescope, also in La Palma. The images imply that any differences between those released by Deep Impact were small.

Dr Damian Christian, another Queen's postdoctoral, working with NASA's Chandra X-Ray space telescope had a major surprise in that he did not see any sign of the collision! It would appear that while the impact released dust particles visible in the optical and infrared, very little extra gas – the main cause of X-rays from comets – emerged. However, it is early days and the data from both the Earth-based telescopes and the spacecraft are still being calibrated and analysed, a process that will take several more months.

What is already clear is that the mission was a success, and that the worldwide team of scientists - of which Queen's is integral part - will end with a much clearer model of comets. 



Appliance of Science

The internet has become the global medium for information and communication, bridging linguistic and cultural barriers across the world. It is without doubt the dominating technology of the 21st century, and the core medium of the information society.

In the not too distant future we will watch the latest movie on mobile phones and surf the web on domestic television sets.

Queen's researchers are at the cutting edge of this technology, which will impact extensively on all our lives. The University's £40 million Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology, (ECIT), which brings together a number of highly specialist research teams, was officially opened in May. 

The international centre, located in the 25-acre Science Park in Belfast's historic Titanic Quarter, will act as a hub for high-technology research and enterprise. Supported by Invest NI, the Department of Employment and Learning and the EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme, the Institute is led by Professor John McCanny FRS, a world expert in the design of complex silicon chips for electronics and video communications applications.

The work of ECIT will provide the building blocks on which future generations of mobile phones and computers will operate. Working through distinct, though overlapping, research groups ECIT is developing more robust systems for both the transfer of data and the processing of information.

One team is working on mobile phone antennae to ensure that the next generation of personal phones can cope with the amount of data necessary to let users view complete movies on their handsets.

Another - the image and vision group - is helping to develop 'intelligent event detection' which has applications for, among other uses, airport and public transport security. Software will spot individuals acting suspiciously and alert security personnel to the behaviour, in

contrast to staff currently having to notice the activity themselves.

Further research covers speech and language processing, which again has applications in mobile telephony and personal computers. Currently most cell phones and PCs recognise only basic commands and words, while in the future it is expected that voice recognition technology will allow people - irrespective of accents and dialect - to dictate details into a phone or computer and have the information converted to text.

Finally, researchers are helping to develop Internet Protocol (IP) TV - an extension of digital television. This will contribute to the TV being the main gateway to the home, with applications such as 'video on demand' being a key driver for the provision of the appropriate levels of bandwidth.

Aside from its research activities, ECIT will help accelerate the creation, growth and attraction of innovative high tech companies, including spin-out enterprises emerging from the Institute's research, and spin-in businesses established by others to capitalise on the centre's expertise.

The future certainly is bright for ECIT. 

snippets

Royal Academy of Engineering

Professor Vincent Fusco has been elected to The Royal Academy of Engineering. He is Chair of High Frequency Electronic Engineering, Head of High Frequency Research Group and Director of Microwave and Millimetre Wave Research Centre at Queen's.

Based in ECIT, Professor Fusco is also director of the world-leading International Centre for System-on-Chip and Advanced Microwireless (SoCaM).

SoCaM develops high performance wireless orientated communication chips for use in advanced mobile applications such as phones, video streaming and vehicular sensors.

World class physics

A £9 million facility, which will act as a centre for world-class international physics research, was officially opened in June.

The International Research Centre for Experimental Physics (IRCEP) will encourage collaborative research within the School of Maths and Physics, other academic disciplines inside and outside Queen's, as well as industry.

IRCEP will provide local hi-tech companies with access to the highest quality research and allow young people studying physics here to have access to world class facilities.

Golder bursary

Golder Incorporated, a global engineering and environmental services group of companies, has announced an annual £7,500 research bursary for use within the Environmental Engineering Research Centre (EERC) in the School of Civil Engineering.

Queen's and Golder have had ties for four decades. One of its founding members, graduate Mr Vic Milligan, was present to personally gift the bursary to EERC.

The scholarship will be used to facilitate collaboration and exchange of staff between the Universities of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia in Canada, and Queen's.

Rewarding Excellence

A victims' support specialist and a final year politics student were presented with the 2004-2005 Graduate and Student of the Year Awards during summer graduation at Queen's.

Dr Marion Gibson, who helped following the Boxing Day tsunami, won the graduate award, while David Maxwell, co-editor of the student newspaper, *The Gown*, picked up the student award and a cheque for £250.

The Awards are sponsored by First Trust Bank and recognise excellence, achievement or service to others. They were launched in 1999 by the Queen's Graduates' Association (QGA) and the University's Development Office.

David Maxwell, from east Belfast, was presented with the Student Award by the Chancellor of Queen's, Senator George Mitchell, for his 'significant contribution to University life'.

In her citation QGA President Paddy Skates told guests that the former Methodist College pupil was a regular contributor to *The Gown* who wrote with 'great maturity, clarity and sensitivity' on a diverse range of issues such as student unrest in the Holyland area, the publication of the Student Handbook and student poverty.

David was also acknowledged for his contribution to Queen's Radio, an initiative supported by the University's Alumni Fund. Interviewees on his current affairs based programme, *The Max Factor*, included Paul Smith, of Celador, founder of the company that brought us *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* and US Consul General Howard Pittman.

Paying tribute to David, who will graduate later in the year, Student President Maria McCloskey described him as an 'ambitious, professional and amicable person' who would be 'one to watch' for the future, whether in journalism or broadcasting.

Dr Marion Gibson, a 1989 MSc graduate from south Belfast, received her award from the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Gregson, for her work in Thailand following the Asian tsunami. Dr Gibson is consultant director of Staffcare, the first facility in Ireland providing counselling for professionals involved in traumatic events, which has helped people in the after effects of traumas all over the world including the Philippines, the United States and West Africa.

Addressing the graduation audience in July, Paddy Skates said there was no doubt that Dr Gibson had contributed to the lives of people facing

the 'most traumatic of circumstances'.

Ms Skates told guests how Dr Gibson, had, 'amid the mass of bodies, the heat and the smell', counselled staff and volunteer workers who were suffering from psychological effects of having seen sights no human should ever have to witness.

Just hours after being presented with the award in July, Marion was in London on the day of the public

across the United Kingdom and Ireland, with Northern Ireland contributing more than £1.5 million in the local Black Santa appeal.

Visiting Thailand in February at the invitation of the Red Cross, Dr Gibson counselled aid workers who had been clearing away bodies in areas worst affected by the tsunami where 5,300 people, including 2,500 tourists, lost their lives.

Over the years Marion and



(l-r) Sarah and David Maxwell (sister and father of the student winner), Paddy Skates (QGA President), David Maxwell (Student of the Year), Senator George Mitchell (Chancellor of Queen's), Janet Maxwell (David's mum), Dr Marion Gibson (Graduate of the Year) and Eileen Sowney, Regional Director, First Trust Bank

transport suicide bombings, which claimed over 50 lives, and extended her trip to help counsel those caught up in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy.

Disturbing images of last year's tsunami, which claimed the lives of over 250,000 people, provoked a huge outpouring of generosity

her colleagues have supported many local families following atrocities such as the shootings at Greysteel and the Shankill Road bombing. In 1989 she was involved in the aftermath of the Kegworth air disaster and in 1996 was on hand to give support to Scottish families in Dunblane where 15 children and their teacher were murdered. 



Graduate and Student
of the Year Awards

Nominations for the 2005/06 awards should be forwarded to - alumni@qub.ac.uk

Faculty news

Arts

Humanities & Social Sciences

Professor
Ellen Douglas-Cowie



Ellen Douglas-Cowie was born in Limavady and attended Limavady Grammar School. As a child she wanted to sell and organise things – useful skills in her current role as Dean.

After studying at the University of Ulster, Ellen came to Queen's in 1972 where she completed

her PhD. Life then was focused on studying and, as she told ●●●●●●●●●●, being poor – it was part of the student experience!

Ellen met her future husband, Roddy (now Professor) Cowie, at an induction course for new staff at Queen's in 1975. They were married two years later and the couple have two children – Dorothy (24) and Christopher (20).

'I've learnt a lot from my kids' Ellen told ●●●●●●●●●●. They've helped me to see students in a more sympathetic light and to approach all situations with sensitivity. They've also helped me to experience life outside of work'.

Though she openly admits to failing to take time to relax, Ellen enjoys holidaying in the countryside, listening to music ('everything from Beethoven to Radio Head') and cooking (she makes a mean homemade stew).

Ellen is clear as to the greatest influence in her life - her mother, who encouraged her to be her own person and pursue a career.

Film-makers on show

Oscar-nominated Stephen Rea was guest of honour at a special screening at QFT at the end of June which showcased the creative talents of Queen's film students.

The Belfast actor and Queen's graduate, who was awarded a Doctorate of the University for services to the performing arts in 2004, addressed guests ahead of the screening of five student films. He said it was 'really exciting to see all this activity and interest surrounding film and to see a new generation of film-makers emerge in this city and at this University.'

Head of Film Studies Professor Des Bell, himself an acclaimed documentary film-maker, said, 'these films are the work of the first group of students to graduate from the degree course introduced three years ago. Film Studies has been a maelstrom of activity and the work produced is of a high standard. It is good to have this opportunity to show the films at QFT, the heart of cultural cinema in Belfast and to draw attention to the work of new film makers who have cultivated their talents while studying at Queen's.'

The screening, which was organised by the Film Studies department at Queen's, featured short films reflecting the diverse interests of the students, made with financial support from the Alumni Fund.



Stephen Rea chats to student film-makers Timo Oates and Julie Coellen

●●●●● told the moving story of a young Irish student who discovers from his Finnish grandmother the tragic story of the expulsion of the Finns from Karalja during World War II; ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●, took an irreverent look at the visit of US President George W Bush to Northern Ireland; ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● focused on a film student who plans to make a film about a single parent and her daughter but ends up discovering many unanswered questions about her own life. And ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● dealt with the difficult choices faced by a student who, on finishing his studies in England, is reluctant to return to his conservative home in Northern Ireland. [QFT](#)

The Winds of Change

Against a backdrop of climate change and the vulnerability of existing energy resources, the need to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources is well understood though it's not yet top of the public agenda. Neither are all the proposed options popular.

A Queen's research project, carried out by the Institute of Governance and the School of Environmental Planning, is exploring the issues in a Northern Ireland context.

**Writing exclusively for
Dr John Barry explains.**

The Government is committed to increasing renewable energy by 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2020. With oil predicted to reach \$80-100 per barrel within months, and the UK making climate change a priority during its EU presidency, there is a strong possibility that energy – where it comes from, how much we use, how can we get it – will again make headlines.

Despite its wind and tidal power resources, the UK still lags behind other European nations in the proportion of energy generated from these sources. Barriers exist in the form of distribution networks, fiscal arrangements and the working of the planning system, with

the latter being a particular problem in Northern Ireland.

Planning is pertinent in relation to wind power where one of the key obstacles is local opposition to turbines, which grows more vociferous and organised. How can we explain this?

While there are attempts to clarify the policy context for regulating the impact of wind turbines in some parts of the UK, these do not confront the root issue of public acceptance and support for renewable energy projects.

So while there appears to be strong public support for a transition to a low carbon economy, this does not translate into positive backing for specific renewable energy projects. One response has been to discount objections as expressions of NIMBYism (not in my backyard). However, such views should not be dismissed. They are often an indication of much deeper conflicts or represent fundamentally different rationalities of understanding related to development, locality, sense of place and identity and the environment.

Opposition to wind turbines • • • therefore be an expression of a more complex outlook that could be seen as including differing perceptions of the

environment, risk versus benefit payoff, aesthetic concerns – especially about the 'landscape' and 'countryside' – and property rights.

Northern Ireland has been identified as having some of the greatest potential in the UK for wind energy and has the most public support for renewable energy. In contrast however, the region has some of the lowest levels of environmental awareness in the UK and public policy is seen to be among the most environmentally regressive. There have been major criticisms of the planning system for its unaccountable nature and inability to regulate development in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Northern Ireland also lacks any regional sustainable development strategy and has adopted no specific planning guidance in relation to renewable energy.

These factors produce a fascinating backdrop for the case study of an ongoing controversy over the proposed windfarm in an offshore area called the Tunes Plateau, off the North Antrim coast. Comprising 85 turbines it is the largest ever windfarm proposal and has quickly generated huge opposition from local residents, special interest groups and, notably, Coleraine borough council, which has taken the unprecedented step of launching a high profile campaign against the idea.

The Institute's research will clearly bring into focus a number of difficulties for the successful national implementation and public acceptance of wind energy policy.

And the outcome could have consequences far beyond these shores. 

**Dr. John Barry
Acting Director,
Institute of Governance**



Convocation – making your voice heard

Keeping alumni in touch with Queen's is part of the challenge for Convocation, a body about which many graduates know very little. Currently under new leadership Convocation is embracing the challenge head-on. Robin Ramsey, one of the youngest ever Chairmen, looks at the changes afoot and invites graduates to get more involved.

The problem with the term 'Convocation' is that it means little to the uninitiated. When explaining my role I tend to refer to being Chairman of the graduate body because that is its basic definition. Every graduate is automatically a member of Convocation. It is this desire to simplify and make Convocation more accessible that I and the Deputy Chairman, Dr Kate Pope, are determined to work on during our time in office.

For many, interest in the University does not end at graduation. Convocation affords graduates a chance to maintain links and to play a more active role. At the Annual Meeting alumni are addressed by, and can question, the Vice-Chancellor or one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors. Members can also table motions on issues affecting the University, often the source of vigorous

debate. Last year Convocation discussed student unrest in the Holylands and Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Ken Bell offered the University's appreciation for our support.

Standing Committee

Convocation elects a Standing Committee to handle on-going business, which also provides further opportunities to engage with the University. The Committee meets at least four times annually and examines issues in depth. We consider matters arising from University communications and reports on meetings of Senate, as well as business initiated by ourselves. Senior University figures regularly brief us on their areas of responsibility and site visits are made to different parts of campus. Great progress has been made at Queen's in recent years in terms of state of the art facilities and research and Standing Committee feels privileged to get first hand accounts of these. ➡



Dr Kate Pope, Robin Ramsey & Gerry Power (Clerk of Convocation)

NOTICE

ANNUAL MEETING OF CONVOCATION

**Thursday 1 December 2005
6.30pm for 7.00pm**

**Canada Room
(Queen's main building)**

**For full details, including minutes
of the 2004 Annual Meeting and
all other papers, visit -
www.qub.ac.uk/convocation**

Or telephone 028 9097 5321



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 1 December 2005 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 1 December 2005 at 7.00 pm. Coffee/tea will be served from 6.30 pm.

Convocation will, at this meeting, elect five Queen's graduates to the Senate of the University to serve for a period of four years to 31 December 2009, or until the introduction of new Statutes, whichever is the earlier. Nominations must be in writing, signed by at least ten members of Convocation, and be received by the Clerk not later than Thursday 13 October 2005, together with the consent in writing of the persons nominated.

The only current member (elected by Convocation in 2001) who is eligible for re-election is Ruth Millicent Hewitt, LLB, the others having served the maximum term allowed.

However, it should be noted that the University is currently revising its Statutes, and there may be a decrease in the size of Senate. If this is the case and if there is a reduction in Convocation's representation, then the situation regarding elected Senate representatives will have to be reviewed.

Convocation will also, at the annual meeting, elect 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 five members and be received by the Clerk not later than Thursday 20 October 2005. The retiring members who are eligible for re-election are:

Gavin Nicholas David Adams, BSc, MSc, PhD
Andrew William Mattison, BA
Kirk David McDowell, BA
Stephen Harold McIlveen, LLB
Julie Ellen S Oswald, BA
Dr Philip Ashley Weir, MB BCh BAO

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 fifty words. In order to facilitate candidates, nomination papers have been prepared and will be available from the undersigned from Monday 19 September 2005.

The business of the Annual Meeting will incorporate 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 13 October 2005.

Motions to be included on the Agenda should be submitted on the appropriate forms, which will be available from the undersigned from Monday 19 September 2005.

The detailed Agenda will be sent out not later than Thursday 24 November 2005 to those members who have requested it on the 'Agenda request form' or in writing not later than Friday 28 October 2005.

All papers will also be available on-line from Thursday September 15 2005 at: [-www.qub.ac.uk/convocation](http://www.qub.ac.uk/convocation)

Yours faithfully

Gerry Power
Clerk of Convocation

Convocation also plays an important ceremonial role in the life of the University. The position of Chancellor, currently held by international statesman Senator George Mitchell, is elected by Convocation. My predecessor, Mrs Ruth Hewitt, was an integral part of Senator Mitchell's installation, reflecting the importance of graduates in the life of the University.

In the past two years, Standing Committee has been reforming its own role. While Convocation is as old as the University itself, it is important that we adapt to ensure we are as effective as possible against a background of changing trends at the University.

A report on the reform of Convocation, produced last year by a Working Group that I chaired, made a number of key recommendations. As a result we have been engaged in a more active dialogue with the University and now believe we can agree proposals that will compliment wider University reorganisation. These are likely to impact on the numbers of our Senate representation and the size of Standing Committee. They will also strengthen links between Convocation and the graduate associations. I hope by December we can outline our ideas in full at the Annual Meeting. I believe this will both improve the operation of

Convocation and strengthen our relationship with the University.

Participation

However, the one thing on which Convocation depends is the active participation of graduates and I would therefore encourage you to become involved. The commitment required can be as much or as little as suits you. Simply by attending the Annual Meeting you can make your voice heard. If you would like to be more active nominations are now open for Standing Committee membership.

Institutions such as Convocation are often perceived as being 'old boys' networks' but one only has to look at the composition of Standing Committee to dispel that notion. We have members, men and women, from a diverse range of backgrounds, professions and ages that make a valuable contribution, while reflecting the fact that 60% of the graduate body is under forty years old.

The Statutory notice for the Annual Meeting appears in this magazine and a warm welcome will be extended to all those who attend. Following our report on Convocation reform, the Annual Meeting will be somewhat different from previous years to make it more of an event. However, I must reiterate that the scale of its success, and

of Convocation as a whole, will be determined by the level of graduate involvement.

So, if you were unaware until now of the existence of Convocation, or have not been at the Annual Meeting for some time, I invite you to join us on Thursday 1 December for a first hand account of developments at your Alma Mater. 

For those who wish to find out more about Convocation, please visit – www.qub.ac.uk/convocation

LAST DATE FOR PROCEDURAL STEPS:

ISSUE OF THIS SUMMONS
Thursday 15 September 2005

RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF BUSINESS
Thursday 13 October 2005

NOMINATIONS: Senate
Thursday 13 October 2005

NOMINATIONS: Standing Committee
Thursday 20 October 2005

ISSUE OF AGENDA
Thursday 24 November 2005

ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday 1 December 2005

AGENDA REQUEST

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

Annual Meeting of Convocation - Thursday 1 December 2005

Please return this reply-slip if you wish to receive a copy of the detailed Agenda for the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Name: (Block letters) _____

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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 24 November 2005

*Continued from p11
where Class Notes
from 2000 to 1990
can be found*

class

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David Mahon, BA History and Politics 1992, married Diana Massera of Perth Western Australia on 25 June 2004 in Siena, Italy. They are expecting their first child in January 2006.

Bronagh McAtasney, BA Politics 1992, worked in a design company in Cincinnati Ohio until she had a son, Liam in September 2004. The family are moving back to Northern Ireland sometime this year. Bronagh can be contacted at bitteririshwoman@hotmail.com

Kai W Jung, MSc Chemistry 1992, joined the 'Luxuriant Flowing Hair Club for Scientists' together with two of his colleagues last year and in December they were appointed 'Men of the Year 2004/2005'! Photographs can be viewed at www.improb.com/projects/ha-ir/2004/m-w-2004-5.html He can be contacted at kai.jung@zentaris.com

Bryan Burton, PhD 1991, has been minister of John Knox Presbyterian Church and Professor of Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Seattle, Washington since 1997. He can be contacted at bburton@jkpcusa.org

Brian Campbell, BA General Studies 1991, set up a UK franchise 'Support Aid Solutions' to fundraise for UK charities in 2002. This has gone very well and over £20 million has now been pledged mainly to children's charities with national coverage, including Northern Ireland (of course!). He can be contacted at brian.ccw@ntlbusiness.com

Sara Duncan, MSSc Irish Studies 1991, is now serving her third term as an Alliance party councillor having been re-elected to Castlereagh Borough Council in May 2005. She can be contacted at sara.duncan@ukgateway.net

Roisin Marshall (née McCrickard), BEd Dramatic Art with English 1991, is married with 2 children. She is working for the Council for Integrated Education as a Curriculum Officer and still enjoys singing and acting. She can be contacted at roisinmarshall@hotmail.com

Julie Begbie (née Wilson), BA Psychology 1990, lives in Edinburgh with her husband Neil and two sons Jared (2) and Finn (1). She has been working as a training consultant for the past ten years but has recently opened a business selling engraved garden plaques for christenings, weddings etc. For photographs and further information please go to www.treefromme.co.uk

Andrew Biggs, BA Philosophy and Scholastic Philosophy 1990, is working as Associate Director of the White House National Economic Council, focusing on President Bush's proposals to reform the US Social Security program. He can be contacted at agbiggs@hotmail.com

Claire Louw (née Logan), BSc Food Science 1990, has been living in Holland since 1997. She is married to Jan Louw and they have 3 children – Maggie, Danny and Connor. Claire is teaching science at a local school and can be contacted at jan.claire.louw@wxs.nl

Caroline Smith (née Cooper), BA Modern History and Politics 1990, recently married Owen Smith and is living in the foothills of the Mourne. She can be contacted at otbsmith617@hotmail.com

1980s

Yong Neng Chow, BAg 1985, MSc 1987 and PhD 1990, would like to establish contact with his BAg classmates of 1985. He can be contacted at chowyn@yahoo.com

Andrew Yow Foo Chew, BSSc Accounting 1985, had a marvellous and memorable experience as an undergraduate at Queen's and would like to express his deep gratitude to all his lecturers and professors. Since then he has gained experience in financial accounting, management accounting, treasury, taxation and general management.

Since the beginning of 2005 Andrew is doing his own project consultancy work in PRC. He provides property development advice to foreign property development companies from South East Asian or any part of the world wanting to gain entry into the China property market. Andrew also helps local Chinese companies wanting to seek off-shore listing in Hong Kong and Singapore for funding their expansion plans.

Andrew married in 1989 and completed a MBA by distance learning at the University of Durham in 1997. He can be contacted at newmanchew@yahoo.com or newmanchew@hotmail.com

Former members of the Queen's University Association Football Club may be interested to know that the current committee is compiling a list of past members. Further details are available on the website - <http://quis.qub.ac.uk/qubafc/index.php> - by following the link via Graduates.

Melanie Shanks, BSc Computer Science 1985, has been promoted to Manager IT Application Technology at Pactiv Corporation, Lake Forest, Illinois. She can be contacted at mconsult@aol.com

Elaine McKelvey, BSc Maths and Computer Science 1984, has just been appointed Vice-Principal of Castleterg High School. She can be contacted at mrsemckelvey@yahoo.co.uk

Brian Murray, BA Business Administration and Computer Science 1984, was presented with The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion at Buckingham Palace on 12 July 2005. The award was granted for his work as founding Chairman of Enterprise Northern Ireland and as Chief Executive of Workspace, the Local Enterprise Agency for the Magherafelt district. He can be contacted at brianmurray@ireland.com

Eamonn Rice, BSSc (Business Administration) 1984, is currently Head of financial Services at Ernst & Young in Edinburgh. Awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in 2004, Eamonn leads a team of 180 in Scotland and England.

Trevor Jamison, BA Modern History & Economic and Social History 1982, is now a minister for the United Reform Church after seven years working in London as a librarian. He has since worked in Liverpool and currently does adult education work with churches across the North East of England. He can be contacted at sueandtrevor@yahoo.co.uk

Frank Denbow, MB BCH MRCP 1981, is currently working as an Internist in Morristown, New Jersey. He has been married for 22 years and has one son who is studying Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

He can be contacted at – Fdenbow901@aol.com

Florence Madden (née McCartney), BSSc Economic History 1981, followed a career in Human Resources and laterally Management Development before setting up her own business 3 years ago under the title 'Florence Madden Associates'. She specialises in personal development and offers 'open' courses on personal effectiveness at work, management skills courses, executive coaching and psychometric testing. She would love to hear from other graduates who are curious to find out more about how she could help them/their organisations, or who may be interested in working as an associate. Her website address is www.florencemadden.co.uk

1970s

Veronica Mullally (née Duffy), BSc Biochemistry 1979, an intellectual property trial lawyer, was made a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP in January 2005. She is based in the firm's New York Office and can be contacted at vmullally@orrick.com



Pete Bryan, BSc Geology 1974. After undertaking post graduate research for a doctorate he became the principal Arts Officer at Leicester City Council – a post held for 22 years until he took voluntary redundancy in 1999. He then opened his own consultancy business in arts management and community

development Pete is married with 2 children and can be contacted at – pbryan5294@aol.com

Andrew Wimshurst, BSc Zoology 1972, is alive(!) and can be contacted at wimshurst@dringcottage.fsnet.co.uk

Valerie Crouch, BSc Physics 1970, and her husband Ewan, have just led their 11th Global Village Team on a build with Habitat – this one was to Kuching in Sarawak. There is a new affiliate in Sabah and they would welcome a team, as would the newest affiliate in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. If anyone is interested please contact Valerie at evcrouch@yahoo.com

Paul Kernaghan, LLB 1978, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of his services to policing. Mr Kernaghan, 49, took over as Chief Constable of



Hampshire in September 1999. He holds the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) portfolio for international affairs and is chairman of the ACPO Southeast region.

Brian Hunter, BSc Econ, 1976 has been appointed Managing Director of Tactical Office Ltd in Lisburn, which provides executive management information, planning and control systems to local and international organisations. ➡

Brian has 26 years extensive business experience, having previously been Director at Consultancy Parity, Regional Director at The Industrial Society and more recently MD of Irish Management Institute for Northern Ireland. He is a Council Member of CBI and Director of Newtownabbey Local Strategy Partnership and also sits on the Northern Ireland Committee of the IOD.



Dr Danny McGuigan, BSc (Econ) 1976, addressed a key debate on the reshaping of the NHS in Scotland, in the Scottish Parliament earlier this year.

Danny McGuigan is centre director of The Business Development Centre, an international HR Consultancy firm based in Glasgow and recently graduated with his PhD for research in Human Resource Management. Details are available at - www.dannymcguigan.co.uk

John Rosborough, BSc Electrical Engineering 1975, is the managing director of U105, the new radio station owned by UTV which will go on-air in November.

John started his career as a sound engineer at Downtown Radio in 1975 (presenting the weekly 'Student Scene' on a Sunday night) where he later became head of programming and launched Cool FM. He then moved to Citybeat as station director before leaving to head the bid for the licence for greater Belfast.

Anthony Whyte, BSc Zoology 1974, (PhD Cambridge) has recently been awarded ScD (Cambridge) and FRCPATH.

1960s

Dr John Mosley, BSc Physiology 1968, went to Queen's from Methody in 1964 to study medicine. He enjoyed physiology and graduated with a BSc in 1968. By then his parents had moved to England and he transferred to Manchester to finish his medical degree.

He trained in General Surgery in London, USA and Australia before settling down as a DGH general surgeon in Manchester. He is married with 3 daughters. He can be contacted at - John.G.Mosley@tesco.net

David Crawford, BA Psychology 1966, retired as Health Sciences Librarian at McGill University in Montreal in 2002 and was appointed McGill's first Emeritus Librarian. He returned to the China Medical University in Shenyang, where he is an Honorary Research Librarian. Having moved to Toronto with his partner he continues to teach, research and publish. He can be contacted at david.crawford@mcgill.ca

Teri Jackson, BSc Physics 1963, is a member of the Queen's Women Graduates Association and attended the Second World Conference of women in physics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 23 to 25 May. The purpose of the conference was to devise ways to increase the number of women and girls studying physics and to get more women physicists into key management positions in institutions so more young women can have suitable role models when they are considering physics as a subject to study. Only 23%

of A level physics students in the UK are girls. Another Queen's graduate Dr Julie Corbett was one of the discussion group leaders at the conference. Altogether 45 countries were represented with around 150 women physicists in attendance from across the world. Teri can be contacted by email - jacksont@utvinternet.com

John M Kennedy, BSc 1965, MSc has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Professor Kennedy is Chair of the Department of Life Sciences at the University of Toronto at Scarborough in Canada. He is a leader in perception and cognition research, whose work on pictures in vision and touch has influenced theory and new practices in education, museums and art galleries internationally.

Published extensively, John taught at Harvard before going to Toronto in 1972.

Bernard (Ben) Clingain, BA 1964 is looking for some lost pals from the 1960s, including Brendan Donaghy who was the Queen's soccer goalie in 64/65 and who went to Manchester, then Scunthorpe. Also John Stewart, Seamus Magee, Ivor Simpson - all friends of musician Phil Coulter, who have long passed into history of the Glee Club 64/65. Contact Ben at - ben634@hotmail.com

A Cecil Cyrus, BSc Anatomy 1957, is to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) from the University of the West Indies. The conferment will take place in October at the Cave Hill Campus of the University in Barbados.

OBITUARIES

Michael Turner, BSc Econ 1956, received the 2004 Chairman's Award from the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB). The top honour, it was awarded for 'demonstrating outstanding achievement as a member of the blind community of New Zealand'.

A former teacher at Wanganui Collegiate School, Michael was a RNZFB board trustee from 1980-2003 and is a former chairman.

Michael would be interested in organising an event for New Zealand based graduates and can be contacted at - mfturner@xtra.co.nz

Aileen Connon, MB 1954, MD 1963, was recognised in the 2005 Australia Day Honours List.

Ms Connon was awarded the Membership, in the General Division, of the Order of Australia: For services to public health and medicine, particularly through organisations to improve available health care for women and children, and to medical education. The investiture took place at Government House, South Australia on earlier this year.

Henry Randolph Conrad Kernohan, MB 1954, is now living in London, Ontario in Canada. He would be interested in hearing from former classmates and can be contacted via the Alumni Office - alumni@qub.ac.uk

James Piggot, MB, BCh, BAO, FRCSE 1946, attended the recent meeting of the British Society for Children's Orthopaedic Surgery where he was awarded honorary membership for 'Services to Children's Orthopaedic Surgery' and was recipient of the Society's medal.

Dr Robert Brumwell (Brum) Henderson, DUniv 2002, died on 29 July 2005, aged 76 years. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, the former member of Senate received an honorary degree from Queen's for his services to the University. His autobiography, *A Life in Television* was published in 2003.

JP (Paul) Connolly, BEng 1999, died in October 2004. Paul was an engineer in the semi-conductor industry, and worked for Applied Materials in Munich. He went out for a run with a friend and colleague last October, collapsed and died of acute idiopathic myocarditis.

Dr Donal Deery, MB BCh BAO, BSc 1997 (Physiology), died on 12 January 2005, aged 29. A senior house doctor at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dr Deery died from injuries he received while heroically saving his girlfriend Helen McClements from a fall in the Southern Alps in New Zealand.

Donal loved all sport including running, cycling, hill-walking and climbing. He spent much of his spare time in the Mourne Mountains and was an active member of Queen's Mountaineering Club. His family and friends have established the Mourne Cottage Appeal in his memory and already over £6k has been raised towards refurbishment costs.

From Ligoniel in North Belfast, Donal is survived by his father Francis, mother Monica and sisters Veronica and Deirdre.

Patrick (Paddy) G Mallon OBE BSc (Econ), 1978, died on 23 December 2003. He is survived by his wife Helen.

Henry Eugene (Harry) McAuley, BSc Civil Engineering 1977 died suddenly at his home in South Africa on 16 May 2005, aged 49 years.

Harry initially worked in Northern Ireland, before moving to England and later Qatar. After his marriage he settled in South Africa where he ran his own business, HMA Construction in Mpumalanga. He is survived by his wife Judith, two daughters and one son.

Dorothy Wilson, MB 1946, died in January 2005, aged 83 years. She worked in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast before going to England and later to the University Hospital in Jamaica where she looked after public health in Montego Bay.

A brief appreciation by John M Gorman can be found on Queen's alumni website - www.qub.ac.uk/alumni - by following the links to Obituaries.

Tom Cartwright Shaw, BSc 1941, MSc, PhD former head of the Physical Chemistry Dept., Esquire Bedell and Warden of the RA & RE Officer Cadets, died at home in Ferndown, Dorset in March 2005.

Dr Shaw was a former pupil of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and entered industry in 1945. He became Technical Adviser to Garfield Weston and Chairman of Allied Bakeries before joining Spooner Industries plc as Deputy Chairman and subsequently Chief Executive. He was an advisor to the Ministry of Food & Agriculture and an examiner in Bio-Sciences at the University of Reading.

A keen golfer he is survived by his wife Pearl a former lecturer in the Chemistry Dept. and son Alan a graduate of the same department.

William (Bill) Stout, BComSc 1938, died in March 2005 aged 98. Bill Stout had a distinguished career in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) and was the first official in its history to rise through the ranks, from clerk, to become a permanent secretary, the most senior grade.

He entered the Civil Service in 1925 and stayed for 47 years. While working in the civil service, he studied for an external degree in economics (BComSc) at Queen's.

He is survived by his son Robert, daughter Margaret, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

(A full obituary can be found on www.qub.ac.uk/alumni)

Isobel Mary Wilson Whitelaw (née McKibben), BSc 1929, MSc 1931, died last year, aged 96.

Mrs Whitelaw was the first female engineering student at Queen's before changing courses to biochemistry. Her research took her to Girton College, Cambridge and she later married Dr Alan Dunlop Whitelaw before moving permanently to England.

Mrs Whitelaw is survived by her daughter Dr Joan Whitelaw.

books

STORIES

Zane Radcliffe, BA English 1991, has published a number of books – **London Irish** (2002) which earned him the WH Smith New Talent Award, **Big Jessie** (2003) and more recently **The Killer's Guide to Iceland** (2005). Born in Bangor in 1969 he moved to London in 1994 to become an advertising copywriter. He is now a Creative Director at Newhaven, an agency in Edinburgh.



Andy Meharg, BSc Chemistry 1986, is currently professor of biogeochemistry at Aberdeen University. He has recently published a popular chemistry book **Venomous Earth** on the arsenic crisis in SE Asia. Andy can be reached at - a.meharg@abdn.ac.uk

Wesley Finegan, MB BCH BAO 1980. As a cancer patient and a doctor Wesley has written two practical books for fellow cancer patients and lay carers to try and address common problems not dealt with in other books for lay readers. The books are entitled "Trust Me, I'm a Cancer Patient" (2004) ISBN 1-85775-877-3 and "Being a Cancer Patient's Carer - a Guide" (2005) ISBN 1-85775-638X and are published by Radcliffe Publishing. He can be contacted at wesleyfinegan@aol.com



A review of Dr Finegan's book can be found at - www.qub.ac.uk/alumni - follow links to Class Notes extra.

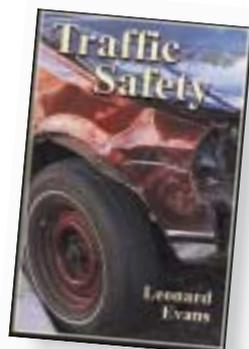
Dennis Cooke, BA 1960, BD 1965, PhD 1980 has published a book on a former 1950s Queen's chaplain - Revd Dr Eric Gallagher - entitled **Peacemaker. The life and work of Eric Gallagher**.

Eric Gallagher was noteworthy for his fearless striving for human rights, his building bridges of communication between Catholics and Protestants and perhaps most noteworthy of all, his record as the first to publicly suggest Power-sharing in government as the solution to the Northern Ireland problem.

Dennis had previously published **Persecuting Zeal. A Portrait of Ian Paisley** in 1996.

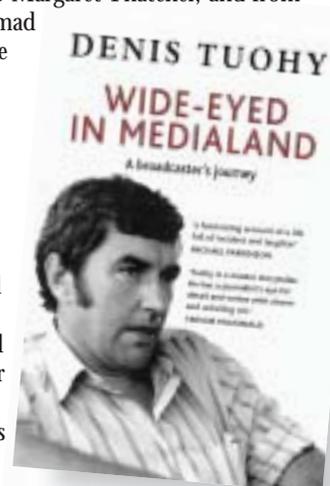
Leonard Evans, BSc (Physics) 1960 has recently published **Traffic Safety** covering the scientific evidence behind road safety interventions. Among aspects covered is the environment, gender, age, alcohol effects on survival, older drivers and airbag benefits and costs.

After 33 years in research with General Motors Corporation Dr Evans now lives in Michigan, USA.



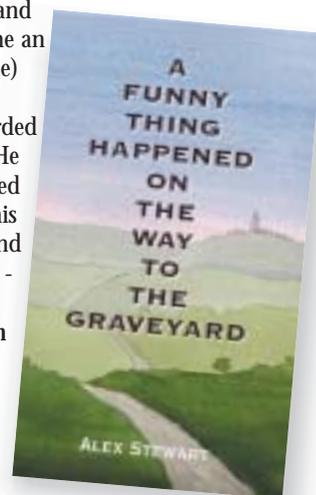
Denis Tuohy, BA 1959, has recently published his memoirs **Wide-eyed in Medialand** covering 40 years in broadcasting. Born in Belfast in 1937 he blew out a candle in a London television studio in April 1964 to mark the birth of BBC 2 and was promptly nicknamed 'BBC Tuohy'.

A reporter and presenter for **Panorama**, **This Week** and many other features and documentaries on BBC and ITV, he has covered many of the biggest stories of the past half century, and has met some of its biggest names – from Orson Welles to Margaret Thatcher, and from Muhammad Ali to the Shah of Iran. He recently took up acting again and has appeared in RTE's top rated soap **Fair City**. He now lives in Cork.



Alexander Stewart, BSc 1946, PhD 1975, has recently published a book entitled **A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Graveyard** which takes a wry look back over his university and working career as an engineer.

Alex first came to Queen's in 1943 as a State Bursar and later in life became an external (part time) research student before being awarded a PhD in 1975. He would be interested in hearing from his contemporaries and can be reached at - alex.stewart19@btopenworld.com



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Sport for



With London securing the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games interest in sport in the UK will undoubtedly intensify, though the benefits of an active sporting life are not just for the elite. That sport increases confidence, energy and vitality has been evident to many for a long time. For others the importance of personal fitness is only just beginning to dawn.



Queen's has long recognised the importance of sport and has been investing heavily in recent years in improving sporting opportunities for students. As Debbie McLorinan, Sport & Recreation Development Manager, reports for *Queen's today*, graduates too can benefit from the extensive range of facilities available.



A

But first, Debbie would like you to relax...close your eyes and imagine the vision that Queen's has for expanding its Sport & Recreation provision...

It's a beautiful day and you are in the mood for a workout. You drive to the tree-lined car park and within seconds you enter the pristine glass fronted reception area. No need to wait – as a member swipe your card and walk through to the changing area.

Ready for exercise, you walk upstairs to the fitness suite, passing climbers on the new central climbing wall. You notice the open-plan training areas and the climate controlled temperature. The fitness instructor knows you by name and gives you access to a computer-generated fitness programme that monitors and records your progress on a choice of over 100 exercise machines.

You work out while watching your favourite programme on the integrated

TV screen. On the way back to the changing area you stop to watch a range of classes delivered in purpose-built exercise studios.

And once exercise is finished, there's plenty of time to enjoy a coffee in the new Sports Café on the terrace. What a way to spend a couple of hours!

Whether you are travelling past the Stranmillis Embankment, walking through Botanic Gardens or using the Physical Education Centre (PEC) it would be difficult not to notice the extensive construction currently being carried out.

Work on the vision started at Queen's PEC in February 2005 and it is hoped that all the new facilities and membership schemes will be available in a 12 months time. The frame of the extension is now finished and shows the circular shape of the new building and work has also been taking place over the

summer on refurbishing the PEC's interior corridors, staircases and dry changing rooms in order to modernise and harmonise 'old' and 'new' building fabrics.

There is no doubt that regular sporting activity provides many individual benefits. It helps to reduce body fat, improves stamina and concentration and controls overall bodyweight. Not only does it help fight depression and anxiety but participants gain the satisfaction of developing enhanced fitness and skills while making new friends in the process! Sport focuses the mind; it leads individuals to challenge themselves and set new personal goals. It breeds positive competitiveness and fosters team spirit. And while those engaged in sport experience winning and losing, all are much more likely to have a healthier lifestyle as a result.

Traditionally sport provides enjoyment and entertainment to millions of participants, spectators and facilitators every day around the world.

And in recent years growing research has demonstrated that sport as a medium offers a multitude of additional tangible benefits that include: community safety, improved education, lower levels of social exclusion and wider advantages for society as whole. So not only is sport good for individuals, it is good for everyone!

Existing facilities at the PEC include: 2 large multi-purpose sports halls, 10 squash & 2 handball courts, diving/swimming pools, weight-training and cardio-vascular fitness rooms, a climbing wall and a martial arts area. Members can also avail of an exciting range of exercise, pool, relaxation and dance classes catering for all levels and including popular activities such as Tai Chi, hip hop dance and circuits.

Certainly something for everyone! 

Celebrating Sporting Excellence

Special Achievement and Blues Sports Awards were presented at the University's Blues Dinner in June, supported for the second year by Ulster Bank. The Individual Sports Achievement Award was presented to Gaelic Footballer, Martin McGrath.

Martin has captained the Fermanagh county side at minor, under21 and senior levels, as well as the Queen's Sigerson team who were beaten in the final of the competition this year. He was a Railway Cup winner with Ulster and an All-Ireland Championship semi-finalist with Fermanagh in 2004. Martin represented his country in the International Rules Series and has many individual awards to his name such as: Irish News Ulster All Star Award, Cormac McAnallen Irish News Ulster Player of the year, GAA Writers Ulster Player of the Year and Vodafone GAA All Star.

Other awards included:

- Sports Achievement Team Award, which went to the Queen's Basketball Men's Club
- Coach of the Year Award was presented to Paul Welsh for Camogie
- Special Contribution to Queen's Sport was presented to two recipients namely: Clare O'Connell for Ladies Gaelic Football and Denis Clarke for Men's Soccer

At the June dinner, Blues Awards were presented to 35 students all of whom had achieved high standards of performance in their sport.



Martin McGrath (right), with Pamela Ballentine, MC and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Gregson at the June Dinner, which was supported by Ulster Bank.

Membership offer

For a **one-off payment of only £150** for the year, those who graduated in July 2005, can enjoy **unlimited use** of the extensive sporting facilities and access to a wide range of classes and courses at the PEC – a saving of £40 and less than £3 a week!

All graduates can choose between 'Pay & Play' (£60 per annum + £1.90 admission each time you attend) or 'Annual' (£190 per annum, with no admission charges).

For full details **check out the website at** - www.qub.ac.uk/pec or ring 028 9038 7670

In good hands

In addition to the extensive range of indoor sports facilities available, Sport & Recreation Services also offers treatments through its highly regarded Sports Injury & Rehabilitation Clinic.

A Chartered Physiotherapist, Grainne O'Donoghue, will carry out a comprehensive assessment in order to make a clinical diagnosis and select appropriate treatment. The following conditions can be treated:

- Sports and soft tissue injuries
- Neck and back disorders
- Joint problems
- Repetitive strain and overuse injuries
- Muscle imbalances
- Biomechanical dysfunction, including on site orthotic construction

The clinic services are available for the care of recreational, amateur and professional athletes of all ages who live, work or study near Queen's PEC.

For full details visit the website – www.qub.ac.uk/pec or ring 028 9038 7678





£1million Union Appeal

One thing that graduates of all ages are agreed on is that the Students' Union building needs a facelift! The good news is that major re-development began in summer 2004, with work scheduled to be completed within a year.

A 'top to bottom' transformation aims to create a new focal point within the Queen's conservation zone. Costing around £9m, the project will be financed from University reserves, external loans secured from Students' Union trading activities and from the Queen's Foundation.

The Foundation has set up a £1m Appeal to complete funding for the project, which will result in an aesthetically pleasing and functional building more suitable for student numbers and needs in the 21st century.

Union President, Ben Preston, who took up post over the summer, told *Queen's today* how vital the facility is for present-day students. 'Our building is the hub on campus for students –and indeed for graduates – their friends and guests who use it for socialising, shopping or just to relax in. As well as housing cafés and bars, the Union is an important point of contact for over 150 student clubs and societies', said Preston. ➡

Opened almost 40 years ago there is no doubt that the Union – for which many alumni still have a soft spot, despite its appearance – is in need of renovation.

With a current student population of 24,000 it is essential that the Union is a flexible enough space to accommodate changing needs, while still delivering a high level of service. Bars and refectories may be essential resources for today's students, but other facilities (including welfare, education and study areas) are equally important.

The Union will be regenerated and the surrounding physical environment enhanced, creating a more harmonious architectural balance with other University buildings and contributing to the creation of a distinctive youth quarter in the area.

The Union has always been the nerve centre for student activities at Queen's. Colm McGivern, President in 1995, explains.

'For us the Union was both the heart and the conscience of the University; it pulsed day and night, year on year. Team after team of student officers worked hard to represent thousands of students, campaigning on their behalf and making sure the University didn't forget their needs. And we always undertook to be truly representative,' said McGivern.

The work will be carried out in four phases. Already Phase I has seen the basement Mandela Hall (known in the 70s and 80s as the McMordie Hall) and the associated entertainment areas get a make over. The snooker room, where Alex Higgins is said to have challenged unsuspecting students, has been

relocated. Work recently started on Phase II, which will result in a new entrance on the Elmwood Avenue side of the building and a revamp of the Beech Room on the first floor.

Phase 3, scheduled to start later this year, will see the focus switch to the

ground floor retail space and office accommodation. The third floor area is also to be redesigned with student clubs and societies in mind and will include a resource centre and several meeting rooms. And the final phase will incorporate work on the Snack Bar and circulation areas.



STUDENTS' UNION APPEAL

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I wish to make a gift of: £ 5/£10/£20/other _____ (please indicate)

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

I wish to pay by Charity Voucher/VISA/MasterCard (delete as appropriate)

Card No __ / __ / __ Expiry date __ / __

Name on Card _____

UK TAX PAYERS – Gift Aid – I would like all contributions from the date below to be treated as gift aid until I notify you otherwise. We need your home post code to meet Inland Revenue regulations. Please note you must pay an amount of UK income tax equal to the tax we reclaim.

Signature _____

Date _____

Is the gift anonymous? Y/N

Please send your donation to Students' Union Appeal, Development and Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University Belfast.

Inland Revenue No. XR22432



A Place of Meeting

A building designed for six thousand students is to be expanded into one for twenty-four thousand: Dr Who's Tardis was never so accommodating! Professor Emeritus Leslie Clarkson looks back over the history of the Students' Union.

Student facilities have always lagged behind needs. When Queen's opened in 1845 there was a single cloakroom, four water closets and a row of urinals for 195 (male) students. There was no common room and nowhere to eat.

A gymnasium was built in 1873, where the Heaney Library now stands, while 'the coming of the ladies' in 1882 required some adjustment to the plumbing.

But until almost the end of the 19th century students possessed 'no place of meeting for societies or clubs save a classroom ... and no means of refreshment save the primitive counter where a bun or a bottle of lemonade could be obtained from 'The Colonel', in what ... was originally the Cloak Room'.

In 1892 President Hamilton set about securing private finance for a union building. By 1896 £4000 had been raised, including the proceeds of a grand bazaar held in Botanic Gardens during May 1894. Construction at the lower end of University Square began in January 1896 and a year later the building was opened 'amid a scene of great enthusiasm' by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is now the School of Music.

The Union was designed for around 400 students and remained the focus of student activity for the next sixty years. It was administered by the Students' Union Society, which included 'all gentlemen undergraduates of the University ...' Female students had their own Women's Students' Hall squeezed into a couple of houses in University Square.

By the early 1950s student numbers had grown to 2,500 and the University bought the former Deaf and Blind Institution beside the City Hospital to convert into a Students' Centre, but the scheme foundered on the poor state of the building.

In 1960 Queen's decided to build at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and University Road, although this involved knocking down the handsome Old Queen's Elms (pictured above). The present Students' Union was opened in 1967; it was functional but, architecturally, the building did 'not quite rise to the occasion ...'

A decade later a scheme to beautify it with shrubs and sculptures came to nothing. Two decades further on an even grander scheme to replace it with 'Lanyon II' failed to get planning permission.

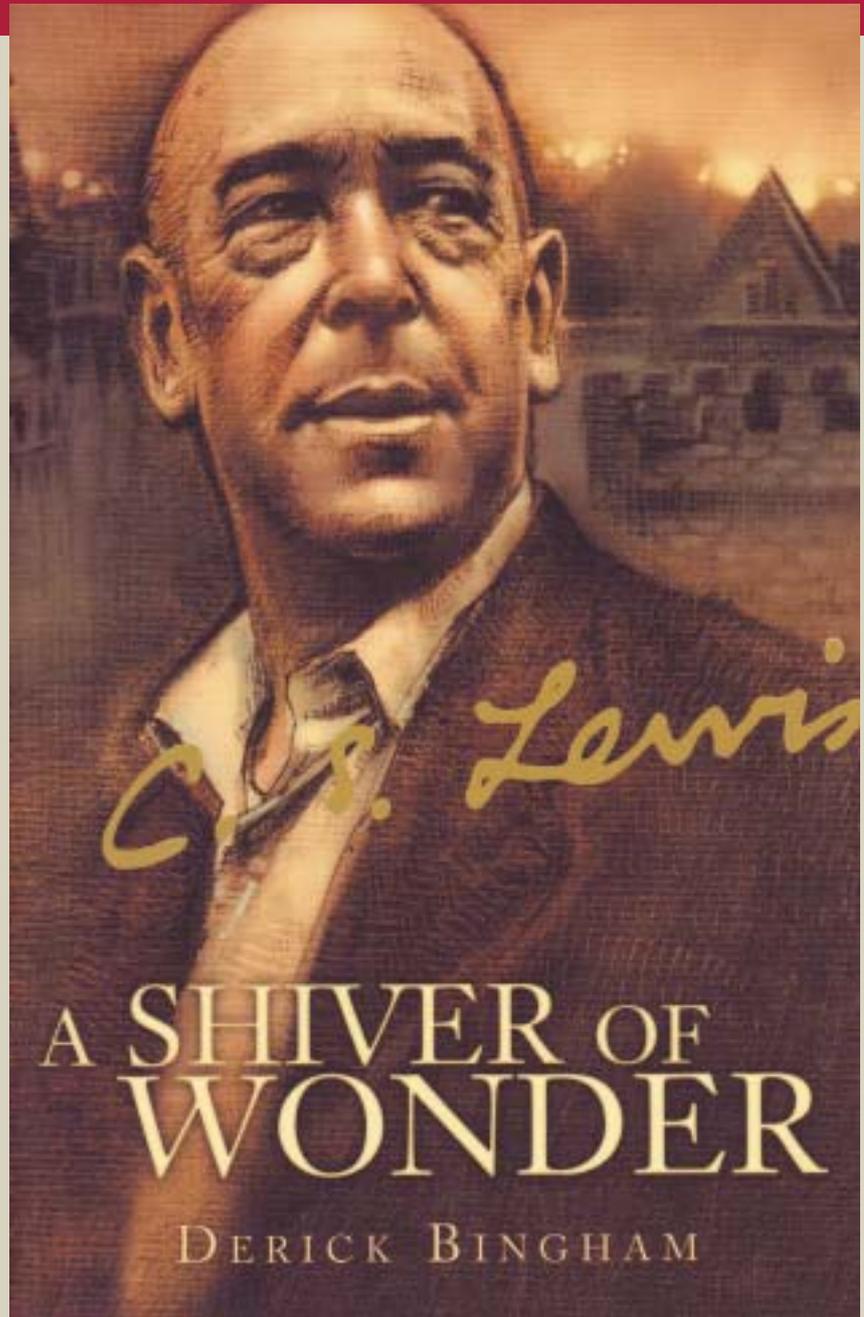
Let's hope this is third time lucky!

Former Student President, Jonny Hill, who initiated the plans in 2003, told Queen's today: 'It is fantastic to see the refurbishments finally taking place. I have no doubt that the new Union will meet the demands of a growing student body, while keeping the essential elements of campaigning, welfare provision and support, that make for a strong Students' Union.'

Subject to securing the remaining funding from the Queen's Foundation, the Union will eventually house a new foyer and meeting area, a bigger shop, a new café, several additional clubs and societies rooms and a resource centre kitted out with the latest computers – making it one of the best equipped Students' Union buildings in the United Kingdom and Ireland. ☑

If you would like to support the Students' Union Appeal, please use the reply slip opposite to send us your donation.

In anticipation of the Irish premiere of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in December it could be said that Belfast is firmly in the grip of Lewis fever. Few people are aware, however, that CS Lewis – author of the *Chronicles of Narnia* – was born in Northern Ireland and fewer still that his mother, Florence, graduated from Queen's in 1886. Writing exclusively for *Queen's today* biographer Derick Bingham finds that the life of Clive Staples Lewis is still causing waves.



A Mind Awake



Derick Bingham

Imagine the scene. Britain has just declared war on Germany and many children are being evacuated from London. An Oxford don called CS Lewis agrees to have some evacuees to stay at his home. One day in 1939 one of the children asks if she can have a look inside a wardrobe at the Lewis' home. Since then at least 65 million people have gone inside Lewis' wardrobe in their imagination and found the land

of Narnia through reading Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*. Tens of millions more are about to enter that wardrobe through the coming Walt Disney-Walden Media film of the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to be released in December, 2005.

Lewis' mother Flora (Florence) Augusta Hamilton went to Queen's, then known as the Royal University of Ireland,

between 1881 and 1886. The University's beautiful Main College building designed by Charles Lanyon is modelled on Magdalene College, Oxford where Florence's son would later achieve great fame. Florence performed brilliantly at Queen's and in 1885 she passed the second university exam with First Class Honours in Logic and Second Class Honours in Mathematics. She took a BA in 1886. The pale, gifted, cool-headed, blue-eyed mathematician Florence married the somewhat tempestuous Belfast solicitor Albert Lewis at St Mark's Dundela in 1894. Her first son Warren was born in 1895 and three years later, on November 29 1898, Clive Staples (known affectionately as Jack) was born.

Over many years the Lewis's were to take a furnished home at Castlerock during the summer months. It is maintained that the seeds of CS Lewis's romantic love of 'Northerness' were sown during those summer months. He wrote of the northern sky as being 'cold, spacious, serene, pale and remote.' He was later to grow to love Scandinavian mythology.

At the family home called 'Little Lea' on Belfast's Circular Road, Lewis first took to writing as a hobby in his childhood because of a disability in his thumbs. This meant he could not hold a pair of scissors and could not make things with his hands. He claimed that someone could do more with a castle in a story than with any cardboard castle that ever stood on a nursery table. Few have proved his case better than he did.

Lewis called the Holywood Hills in County Down his 'main haunt.' He maintained that looking away from the

Holywood Hills toward the Mourne Mountains made him a romantic. 'For here', he wrote in his autobiography 'is the thing itself, utterly irresistible, the way to the world's end, the land of longing, the breaking and blessing of hearts' (**Surprised by Joy**, Inspirational Press, by arrangement with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc, 1991). Educated at the horrendous Wynard School in Watford, Lewis also spent four months at Campbell College Belfast and then boarded at Malvern College in Worcestershire.

Lewis' great break came when he went to Great Bookham in Surrey for two and a half years to be tutored for Oxford by the former headmaster of Lurgan College, W.T. Kirkpatrick. There is no question that Kirkpatrick, known affectionately as 'The Great Knock' sharply developed Lewis' reasoning powers. Kirkpatrick measured everything by logic. Later, as an Oxford don, Lewis was converted to Christ, particularly through the influence of his friend JRR Tolkien. (Tolkien maintained that **The Lord of the Rings** would never have been finished and offered for publication without CS Lewis). Lewis' logic was to be used to immeasurable effect in his defence of his Christian faith.

The most public defence of Lewis faith was made in his famous wartime broadcasts for the BBC. These broadcasts later became his popular book **Mere Christianity**. Quite recently the founder of Domino Pizza, Thomas Monaghan gave away £600 million because he read a paragraph from the book on pride. Lewis wrote very successfully in diverse genres. Prominent works include poetry, autobiography, novels, literary criticism, and theology.

It is though for his creation of a land of wonder and enchantment for children called Narnia that Lewis is best remembered. When he was about seventeen he wrote in a poem that as he stood among the hills of Down, 'The call of the roads is upon me/A desire in my sprit has grown/To wander forth in the highways/'Twixt earth and sky alone/And seek for the lands no foot has trod/And the seas no sail has known (**Spirits of Bondage, A Cycle of Lyrics**, Heinemann, 1919). In his imagination Lewis found those lands and those seas. The world is about to find them in a fresh way through film when the movie receives its premiere on 8 December (see narni.com).

The doors to it all, though, will thereafter famously belong to Queen's! The wardrobe doors used in the film will be placed in a Reading Room in the new £44million, 2,000-reader library at Queen's due for completion in 2009. The Reading Room in the library's central tower will be named after CS Lewis. The design of the doors has been given as a gift to Queen's by the film makers, particularly because of Lewis' Northern Ireland connections. 

Derick Bingham, an Arts Graduate of Queen's University, has written 23 books. His biography of CS Lewis 'A Shiver of Wonder' is published by Ambassador International and is available on amazon.com



The Queen's University of Belfast
Foundation

presents the All Ireland Premiere of



**Thursday, 8th December 2005 at
Warner Village Cinemas, Odyssey Pavilion**

The Premiere will be attended by key cast and filmmakers
Tickets £35 in aid of the New Library Fund

Book Online: www.belfastfestival.com Box Office: 028 9097 1197

the Class of 2005

Former Celtic boss and Northern Ireland soccer international Martin O'Neill received an honorary doctorate for services to sport from Queen's in July.

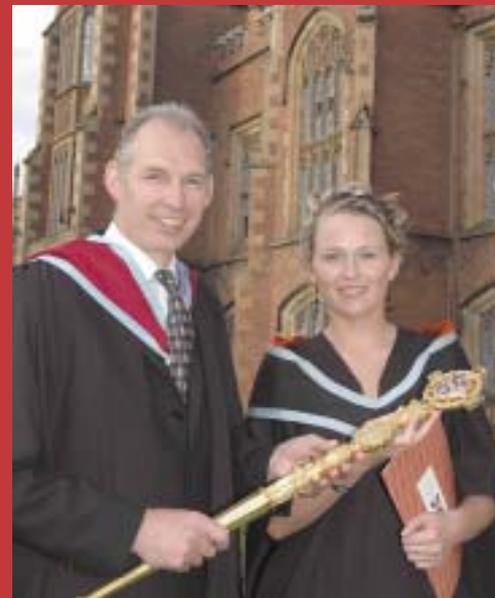


Originally from Kilrea in Co Derry, O'Neill (pictured far right with his family) embarked on an undergraduate law course in 1971 but his time at Queen's was short-lived because of the lure of playing full time professional football in England.

He won 64 international caps for Northern Ireland, captaining the team at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain. On his retirement as a player he entered football management where he made his name as a committed and determined leader. He recently stepped down as boss of Glasgow Celtic and is widely rumoured to be a possible successor to Sir Alec Ferguson at Manchester United.

O'Neill is one of a number of honorary graduates who received degrees this summer including broadcaster Gloria Hunniford (pictured right), journalist Fergal Keane (pictured top right), businessmen Dr Alan Gillespie and David Dobbin, and former Queen's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir George Bain.

Graduation week is the highlight of the academic year and gives graduates, their parents and friends the opportunity to soak up the special atmosphere of the summer garden party. And when the weather is fine, young and not-so-young guests can enjoy champagne celebrations, with traditional strawberries and cream, or simply a chance to reminisce about the year's achievements while relaxing to fine musical accompaniment.



05



bygones

My Student Experience

Martin Gray attended Queen's in 1939, aged just sixteen. Though he lives in Bangor, Co Down, his contact with the University since then has been limited. However, a telephone call from student caller Kieran O'Connor, earlier this year, brought back many memories of a bygone age, which Martin now shares with Queen's today.

'I was born, educated and worked all my adult life in Bangor and, like many older residents, tend to regard Tillysburn and Sydenham as fringes of the known world of Belfast, which is rarely if ever visited!

'Since Kieran called I have thought much about the outcome of my time at Queen's. Had I not been awarded a civil engineering degree my life could have been different. Thanks to that degree I served five years with

the Royal Engineers, was employed for 26 years in local government, managed an architectural practice for 4 years, and ran my own consultancy until retiring, aged 69. I thoroughly enjoyed my working life. Doing a job you love, and being paid for it, takes some beating.

'My three years at Queen's was in no way the 'University experience' they talk about today at the start of the 21st century. I went up to study Civil Engineering in September 1939, the week after World War II was declared. For me Queen's was an extension of school life but with exceedingly long hours.

'Student accommodation was limited so I had to travel daily from home in Bangor. I arose at 7.30am, ate breakfast, walked the mile to the station, caught the 8.20am express train (which reached Belfast at 8.40am), took a

tram to Queen's and hopefully arrived in time for the first lecture.

'The train had individual compartments with blackout blinds on the windows and only a dim blue light, insufficient to read notes or to do preparation for the next day.

'My four-year course was condensed into three so it was hard going. The week's timetable often included 30 hours of lectures, leaving little time for study. To stay on at Queen's, even for a few hours, was constrained by the last train home often being at 9pm, and as it stopped at every station, it took three quarters of an hour or more. Miss it and one would have to sleep in the waiting-room!

'I then walked the mile home in the dark as there were no street lights. On the plus side there was little traffic as cars were up on bricks; petrol rations were for priority users.

'University social life was fine for those housed close by, but for me it was non-existent, except for occasional Saturday geology outings to Portrush, Donaghadee or Newcastle. What social life I had was, of necessity in Bangor. From May to September there was sailing. Yachts could still

moor in Ballyholme Bay, sail up to a mile out from the headlands and go as far as the Copeland Islands and Donaghadee. On Sundays the seafront, Queen's Parade and Marine Gardens would be crowded. Life was more sedate and quiet than now and all the better for it!

I received my BSc on 4 July 1942. Exactly sixty years later, eight of us who had graduated that day went out to lunch, just to prove to ourselves how well we had lasted. Those present (and pictured) were: WA Condy (Walter), RT Huston, RM Gray (Martin), K Ross (Kenneth), TJ McCormick (Jackson), WAS Nutt (William), RR Ross (Ronald) and SH Hawthorne (Samuel).

I have no regrets about my time at Queen's. I was very young, we all were; every day was new and I loved it all. It was a learning experience not to be missed and it led to a career I thoroughly enjoyed. For me, Queen's was over sixty-two years ago and the memories fade fast as the mists thicken. In spite of the war, it was a much simpler age, completely different from anything I read concerning university life today. ☺

R Martin Gray, BSc, FICE



Queen's Associations

Belfast
Canada
Dublin
London
Malaysia
Scotland
Singapore
USA

Queen's has a number of graduate associations around the world offering:

- regular events and reunions
- networking opportunities
- benefits package
- personal membership card
- regular communications
- Associations' Supplement

More than this, Queen's associations help graduates to keep in touch with each other.

For more information visit the website – www.qub.ac.uk/alumni/associations



Association Membership

What's in it for you?

There has never been a better time to join a Queen's association! Whether you want to keep in touch with former classmates or to maintain links with the University, Queen's associations around the world provide graduates with the chance to continue a lifelong relationship with their Alma Mater.

Not only do associations help graduates to keep in touch, but they also offer an exclusive range of membership benefits as well. Discounts off travel, restaurants and hotels, tailored financial and healthcare packages, preferential magazine subscriptions and special rates at Belfast cinemas and theatres are just some of the special deals that have already been negotiated. And every month we give you more reasons to join!

At present there are over 20 benefit partners, including Avis, Bank of

Ireland, Belfast Festival, Belfast Welcome Centre, gents outfitters Clarke & Dawe, Dial-a-phone, Direct Wine Shipments, Dukes, Hastings and Hilton Hotels, ESS magazine subscriptions, Jharna and Indie Spice restaurants, Lyric Theatre, the National Trust, Norwich Union, Open Fairways (golf packages), Queen's Film Theatre, Queen's Library, Queen's PEC, Stena HSS and the Ulster Orchestra.

And you can use your personal association membership card at Queen's Visitors' Centre to get 10% discount off a wide range of University merchandise!

As a member of an alumni association you will be able to attend a varied programme of networking opportunities throughout the year, usually at discounted prices. Association events typically include dinners, receptions and other social activities, visits to exclusive venues (like the House of Lords), golf days, wine tasting, table quizzes, debates and educational lectures.

And we keep members in touch with the latest from Queen's through regular publications and exclusive email bulletins!

Most association membership fees are around £10 per annum (or the equivalent) – offering great value for money. So if you want to find out more about the great discounts that association members are entitled to, or if you require further information on joining a Queen's association in Northern Ireland, Dublin, London, Scotland, USA, Canada or Asia, then please visit the website - www.qub.ac.uk/alumni

[Definition: *Alma Mater* – Latin, meaning 'bounteous mother'; title given to universities and schools]

[Definition: *alumni* – Latin, meaning 'nursling' or 'former pupil']

Reply slip

I wish to join the association in – Belfast (£10) [] Dublin (€12.50) [] London (£10) [] Scotland (£10) [] USA (\$25) [] (tick as appropriate)

Please return this reply slip, and the correct membership fee, to the address below. Cheques should be made payable to

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Year of graduation _____ Degree _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Return this reply slip to - Alumni Officer, Queen's University, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland



Miscellanea

Sudoku

To solve the Sudoku puzzle below, each 3 x 3 box, all the rows and all the columns must contain the numbers 1-9, with no repeats or omissions. And remember, there is only **one** correct solution.

	1	9	5	4			8	
				8			2	
4		7	2					3
8		4				2	6	1
		2	6			9		
1	3				4		7	5
3	4			6				
	6				9		1	2
9			8	5		3	4	

Quiz

1. Who is the current Chancellor of Queen's? _____
2. Who was runner-up in the 1999 Miss Northern Ireland pageant? _____
3. Who wrote *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*? _____

Brain teaser

What are the next **two** numbers in this sequence – 1, 4, 1, 5, 9...? _____

Name _____

Address _____

Year of graduation _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

£50 gift voucher £50 book token Please tick preferred prize

reply slip

The first correct entry (for each of the Sudoku, the quiz and the brain teaser) drawn on Friday 14 October 2005 will receive a £50 gift voucher/ book token for Queen's Visitors Centre/ Bookshop (please indicate preference).

Please return your entry/entries, along with your name and address, to arrive no later than 12 noon on 14 October 2005 to – Queen's today, Development and Alumni Relations Office, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN or email to - editor@qub.ac.uk

Ulster Bank launches new 100% mortgage to help first time buyers

Getting a foot on the property ladder:

Helping first time homebuyer Shantala Porter to get her foot on the property ladder are TV property guru Martin Roberts of hit BBC show Homes Under the Hammer and Derek Wilson, right, head of mortgages at the Ulster Bank.



Around two thirds of Northern Ireland's potential first time homebuyers* are unable to finance a deposit in order to buy their first home, research by the Ulster Bank has revealed. The findings of the study were released to help launch the Bank's new 100% mortgage for first time buyers which does not require a deposit. They show that almost half of potential first time buyers are currently living with their parents, while one in four would consider living with their parents in the long-term.

The new Ulster Bank 100% mortgage product is available to all qualifying first time buyers who can demonstrate an ability to service the loan and it is available on all of the Bank's mortgage products. It is the first time that such a comprehensive 100% mortgage has been on offer in Northern Ireland.

Derek Wilson, head of mortgages at the Ulster Bank in Belfast, said that the research findings highlight the difficulty that many first time buyers face saving for a deposit.

"Northern Ireland's buoyant housing market is increasingly putting a large proportion of properties out of the reach

of most first time buyers with the result that many are simply not able to get onto the ladder," he said. "Unchecked, it is likely that this will result in significant problems for the housing market and the economy further down the line."

"The availability of a 100% mortgage will help turn the aspirations of many would-be first time buyers into reality and without the delay of having to save for a significant deposit. Previous research by the Ulster Bank reveals that most first time buyers had to save for more than four years to raise a deposit," he said.

TV property guru, Martin Roberts of hit BBC show Homes Under the Hammer, welcomed the new product. "It has become very difficult for first time buyers to take their first step onto the property ladder and this product by the Ulster Bank will help many who would otherwise not be able to buy their first home to make that all important step," he said.

The Ulster Bank 100% mortgage is available on all of the Bank's mortgage products, including its new fee free discounted rate - which means no expensive up-front fees, such as arrangement fees or higher lending charges, to pay. The 100% mortgage is

also available on Ulster Bank's fixed, flexible and other discounted products, allowing first time buyers to choose the mortgage type that suits them best. The 30-year loan term offered will also help to make the monthly repayments more affordable.

The 100% mortgage is open to all first time buyers who meet the Bank's eligibility criteria. Savings on insurances, including 25% off home insurance, are also offered to borrowers in the first year, meaning more money to spend on their new home.

To find out more, why not call into our branch on University Road or find your nearest branch at www.ulsterbank.co.uk

*Potential homebuyer defined as someone between the ages of 21 and 35 who has never held a mortgage but is considering one at some point in the future. Telephone research was conducted amongst a sample of 100 respondents between July 27th and 31st by independent market research company, REDC Research and Marketing Limited.

Source of market research: Independent research company REDC with a sample group of a 100 potential first time buyers

Northern Ireland residents and First Time Buyers only. Security and insurance may be required. Subject to status and conditions. Over 18s only. 100% LTV available on all Ulster Bank residential mortgage products. Mortgaged property to be in Northern Ireland and minimum property value of £70,000, maximum mortgage amount of £150,000. Residential property only and not applicable for 1 bedroom, studio and multi-storey flats. One property per customer.

Full details of Home Insurance, including terms and conditions, are outlined in the policy document, a copy of which is available on request from any Ulster Bank branch. Ulster Bank Home Insurance is underwritten by UK Insurance Limited, The Wharf, Neville Street, Leeds, LS1 4AZ and is available to persons resident in Northern Ireland. Conditions may apply. Registered in England No: 1179580. UK Insurance Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and entered in the FSA register (number 202810).

5.2% Fee Free discounted mortgage

No higher lending charge on the Fee Free Discount mortgage is applied and no arrangement fee. An early repayment charge is payable if the mortgage is repaid, in full or in part, before 30th April 2007. A valuation fee is payable but will be refunded upon drawdown. The rate is 5.2% until the 30/04/2007 subsequently changing to our standard variable rate, currently 6.75% for the remaining mortgage term. The overall cost for comparison is 5.8% APR variable. Comparison is 5.8% APR variable.

A higher lending charge is applicable on some of our mortgage products. Full details are available from any Ulster Bank branch.

Insurance discounts available with the First Time Buyer mortgage package cannot be combined with any other insurance discounts.





celebrating
[the past]

living
[the present]



creating
[the future]



The Queen's University of Belfast
Foundation

LEAVING A LEGACY

A legacy to Queen's helps us 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 k.bryson@qub.ac.uk