



AHSS NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2025





Take a Look

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Dean's Welcome

Welcome to the AHSS Spring/Summer Faculty Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

We're delighted to share with you the latest edition of the Faculty Newsletter!

It's been an incredibly busy and productive year, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our staff and students for your dedication, achievements, and contributions to the life of our faculty.



Dr. Sandra Joyce
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,
Humanities and Social Sciences

This year has seen a remarkable number of awards and recognitions. Most notably, we were honoured with the Athena Swan Silver Award, a testament to our collective strength and commitment. Special thanks to everyone involved in this achievement, especially Dr Maria Hickey, who led the application with great dedication.

We also celebrate Donal Ryan, who received the prestigious Orwell Prize for Political Fiction in June for his novel *Heart, Be At Peace*, bringing further acclaim to Creative Writing and the School of English, Irish and Communication.

Dr Sarah Schaefer's success in the Research Ireland Pathway Programme, co-funded by the EPA, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, and Met Éireann, has brought significant recognition to the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics and the Centre for Applied Language Studies.

The School of Law was named Law School of the Year at the LEAP Irish Law Awards, an outstanding acknowledgment of excellence and innovation in legal education over the past year.

Congratulations also to Kaori Frizelle, recipient of the Regional Teaching Excellence Award, a joint initiative between TUS, Mary Immaculate College, and UL.

We're proud to recognise all recipients of the 2025 AHSS Staff Recognition Awards. Well done to each of you!

Our Journalism students achieved a record number of nominations at the National Media Awards, with their magazine *Eclectic* winning Magazine of the Year - a fantastic achievement.

This year also saw the launch of two exciting initiatives: the Transferrable Skills Unit and the Centre for Implementation Research, both of which are having impact well beyond our faculty.

Inside this edition, you'll also find highlights of visits from distinguished guests, impactful research and teaching activities, media engagements, policy developments, and events featuring our students and staff.

Thank you all for your continued excellence. Wishing you a well-earned and restful summer break! Sincere thanks are due to Joanna Carroll, Sorcha Jennings and all who contributed to this Newsletter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Joyce".

Warm regards,
Dr Sandra Joyce

Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences





UL's Irish World Academy launches new series with 'songs and stories' by GRAMMY winner Rhiannon Giddens

Two-time GRAMMY Award winner and Pulitzer Prize recipient Rhiannon Giddens delivered an intimate performance at the University of Limerick on Thursday, February 13th, launching the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance's new Artist Series.

As artist-in-residence, Giddens performed songs and shared stories from her repertoire with students and community guests in Theatre 1. She waived her performance fee, with all proceeds going to the Academy's Stepping Stones scholarships, which support postgraduate students from culturally rich but economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The event was part of the Academy's 30th anniversary legacy initiative, presented in partnership with the UL Foundation.

Professor Helen Phelan, Director of the Academy, said Giddens' ability to highlight marginalized cultures through music reflected the Academy's mission. Sarah Hartnett, Director of Development at the UL Foundation, noted that the Stepping Stones scholarships had already supported over 100 students from across the globe.

UL School of Law was awarded "Law School of the Year" at the LEAP Irish Law Awards



The School of Law received the accolade at the annual gala awards ceremony on Friday, June 6th, in Dublin's Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road. Hosted by presenter Anton Savage, this year's ceremony brought together over 500 legal professionals from across the country, representing a wide range of practice areas, regions and sectors. The LEAP Irish Law Awards highlight and acknowledge the extraordinary achievements of individuals, firms, and teams who demonstrate outstanding dedication, skill, and leadership in the practice of law. Professor Lucy-Ann Buckley, Head of the School of Law at UL, acknowledged the significance of the award win for the school and the University. "The Law School of the Year award is based on excellence in the teaching of law and reflects the School of Law's commitment to teaching and programme innovation, and to student support, development and engagement. I am absolutely delighted to see the School of Law receive this important recognition at the LEAP Irish Law Awards 2025."

Kaori Frizelle (MLAL) wins the 2024/25 Regional Teaching Excellence Award



The award ceremony took place at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) on Wednesday, May 28th. This award is a collaborative initiative between TUS, Mary Immaculate College (MIC), and UL. It showcases and champions outstanding practice in Higher Education teachings.

UL academic launches Limerick exhibition to 'provide space for unheard voices'



The SALAAM exhibit, part of the Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred project – led by Dr James Carr, Associate Professor in Sociology at UL – launched Tuesday, May 27th, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council.

Titled "Building Bridges: Forging Pathways Beyond Prejudice," and featuring powerful artwork by Soufeina Hamed, the exhibit showcases seven comics that share heartfelt stories and experiences faced by Muslim communities in Ireland, fostering a dialogue that champions diversity, equality, and inclusion. The Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) project is a European Commission funded project led by Dr James Carr, Associate Professor in Sociology at University of Limerick, in partnership with Doras, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and the Irish Network Against Racism.

Scott Fitzsimmons Represents UL at Major International Conference

Dr Scott Fitzsimmons, Associate Professor of International Affairs in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Limerick, attended the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention in Chicago, USA, from Sunday, March 2nd to Wednesday March 5th, 2025. The ISA is one of the leading global platforms for scholars in international relations, and Dr Fitzsimmons' participation highlights UL's growing engagement in international academic dialogue.



Pioneering UL project uses Shakespeare's sonnets to contemporise the Irish language



Dr Sorcha de Brún, UL lecturer in Modern Irish Language and Literature, has translated several of Shakespeare's sonnets from English to Irish using iambic pentameter – a rhythm or 'meter' the Bard famously used in his works.

The first of these have been published in Comhar literary magazine, with more due later this year.

Explaining why she embarked upon such a difficult task, Dr de Brún said: "I was inspired by a couple of different Irish language writers and poets saying to me, 'no, you cannot translate or bring across iambic pentameter from English to Irish', and my response was 'oh I think I can!'"

"My main inspiration was the experiences and the emotions that Shakespeare depicts in the sonnets. They are so universal, they are so human, and still relevant today.

"Shakespeare is obviously one of the greatest writers to ever live, so to be able to bring that over to a minority language, does a lot both in terms of internationalisation, and also in relation to what we can do to show the relationship between Irish and English literature. It shows how flexible and creative language can be

Dr de Brún's work on the sonnets is closely linked to the innovative research conducted by UL's Irish department.

Catherine Jeanneau joins training and consultancy team at the European Centre of Modern Language of the Council of Europe

Catherine Jeanneau, coordinator of the Language Learning Hub, has recently joined a team of researchers from Europe to deliver training and consultancy in European countries on fostering digital citizenship and digital literacy in the language classroom. The training activity will focus on the kind of tasks needed to help develop learners become social actors, capable of (inter)acting online in communities and with speakers of different languages and cultures and using digital technologies critically, ethically and responsibly.



Transferable Skills Unit at UL aims to empower students with skills for lifelong success

A new Transferable Skills Unit (TSU) at University of Limerick aims to ensure that students are better prepared for the workplace by empowering them with the skills needed for lifelong success.

The TSU, which was established within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

(AHSS), will support students on their academic journey and future career by equipping them with the essential skills, abilities and attributes needed to address the complex problems, which graduates now face both in the workplace and in society at large. The TSU will meet market demand for graduate skills and will initially focus on seven transferable skills, with more to be added at a later stage. These seven transferable skills include critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, creativity, communication, digital literacy and sustainability literacy.



Irish writer Donal Ryan wins prestigious Orwell Prize



Donal Ryan has won the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction for his novel, Heart, Be At Peace, a work that weaves the voices of a small community into a reflection on the economic and social state of nation.

FAHSS hosts groundbreaking new research centre in UL



On Wednesday, January 29th, the Centre for Implementation Research at UL (CIRcUL) celebrated its official launch in a ceremony held at Plassey House. More than 70 UL colleagues and external partners gathered to commemorate the establishment of the Centre, hosted by the FAHSS, at UL. The Mayor of Limerick, John Moran, officially launched this multidisciplinary research hub. He was joined in the speeches by Professor Sandra Joyce, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Laura Keyes, CIRcUL Director, and Professor Alice Coffey, CIRcUL co-founder. Students from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance filled the space with joyful Irish traditional music, featuring the sounds of the accordion, guitar, and fiddle.

AHSS Funded Conference Presentation

Thanks to funding received from the AHSS Faculty Research Committee and the Department of Sociology, Dr Emily Murphy was able to present a research paper entitled 'Changes in gender inequality among young people with disabilities' at an international conference in Switzerland. The conference "LIVES & NCCR – on the move International Conference: Mobility in the Life Course" was held in Geneva on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024.



New UL project to study youth recruitment and participation in European drugs markets

The University of Limerick's REPPP Project, in partnership with the Department of Justice and funded by the EU Drugs Agency, is leading a new study on preventing youth involvement in European drug markets. The project will assess current interventions, identify barriers, and develop a framework for future approaches, while fostering expert collaboration across Europe. It builds on REPPP's Greentown study, which explored how children are recruited into criminal networks and led to a community-based response now being trialled in Ireland.



New UL research seeks to record and preserve 'important heritage relic'



A new project led by Dr. Catherine Porter aims to locate, record and move towards the preservation of an 'important heritage relic' from nineteenth-century Ireland for the very first time.

Dr Catherine Porter, Associate Professor in Geography at UL's School of History and Geography, is the lead researcher of 'Locating Bench Marks, Preserving Heritage: A Community Initiative to Record County Limerick's Ordnance Survey Heritage'.

The research project aims to identify, record and archive Ordnance Survey (OS) 'bench marks': measuring points first carved into Ireland's built environment – typically on buildings, bridges or walls – between 1839 and 1843.

New Horizon Europe funded project on multilingualism and AI launches

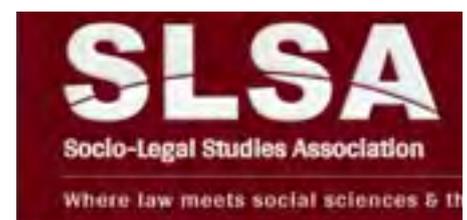


MultiLX is a multi-country consortium project funded by Horizon Europe to provide new knowledge about the communicative practices of young people in Europe and to generate recommendations for language policy to support protection of endangered languages, learning minority languages, and promotion of the languages of migrants in Europe.

The UL team, based in the Centre for Applied Language Studies and led by Professor Helen Kelly-Holmes, will investigate the topic of minority languages and Artificial Intelligence with funding of €275,000 from 2025 to 2028. The project builds on Helen's long-running research in multilingualism, language policy and technology, a key area of strength in CALS. Dr. Mark Ryan joins Professor Kelly-Holmes on the project bringing with him his experience working in multi-disciplinary consortia on projects aimed at fostering social cohesion through policy interventions. Mark's expertise in mediated discourse in the context of minoritised social groups synergises with MultiLX wherein amplifying marginalised voices is central.

Dr Susan Leahy presents research on media reporting on sexual violence at annual SLSA conference

Dr Susan Leahy (Associate Professor, School of Law) recently presented her research on media reporting of sexual violence at the annual Socio-Legal Studies Association conference at the University of Liverpool.



As co-convenor of the 'Sexual and Offending' stream, she delivered a presentation titled 'To Guide But Not Censor: Irish Stakeholders' Perspectives on Guidance for Media Reporting on Sexual Violence, based on research with media professionals and victim support organisations. The project, conducted with Sexual Violence Centre Cork and funded by the Irish Research Council New Foundations Scheme, was supported by the AHSS Faculty Research Fund.

REPPP research at the 'Data as a Driver: Informing Criminal Justice Policy and Practice with Evidence' event at the Department of Justice

REPPP's John Reddy presented at the 'Data as a Driver: Informing Criminal Justice Policy and Practice with Evidence' event, organised by the Department of Justice on Friday 7th March. The event showcased the range of data available and being used to inform criminal justice policy and practice.



John presented on the REPPP (Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes, and Practice) research study which is exploring how administrative data collected by the 100+ Youth Diversion Projects across the country from 2016 to 2023 can be analysed and used to inform future youth justice policy and practice in Ireland. This study examines the children and young people referred to Youth Diversion Projects and includes analyses of youth offending, programme referrals, and risk and needs assessments data.

Article on REPPP's Relationship Study featured in latest edition of HM Inspectorate of Probation Academic Insights Series

An article on the REPPP team's Relationship Study is featured in the latest edition of the HM Inspectorate of Probation Academic Insights series. The article by Dr Eoin O'Meara Daly, Jackie Dwane, Caitlin Lewis, and Dr Sean Redmond provides an overview of findings from a 3 year action research project which examined effective relationship building between youth justice practitioners and crime-involved young people. An outcome of the study is the development of a model of relationship practice which can be used as a reflective resource by practitioners, and is now being disseminated among the 100 Youth Diversion Projects in Ireland.



UL researcher awarded funding to develop new approaches to communicating climate change



Dr. Sarah Schaefer of the University of Limerick's School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics has been awarded over €600,000 through the Research Ireland Pathway Programme to investigate how media can improve public communication on climate change. Her project, one of 36 funded as part of a €23 million investment in early career researchers, examines how journalists engage audiences on climate protection, noting that traditional climate journalism focused on

informing and warning about climate change—has had limited impact and is often criticised for human-centred coverage and misrepresentation. Addressing the lack of understanding around how anthropocentric discourse and transmodal reporting practices shape radio journalism, Dr. Schaefer's research will explore media misrepresentations in Irish and German contexts and propose new, posthumanist sociolinguistic approaches to climate communication. Announcing the awards, Minister James Lawless TD and Research Ireland's Interim CEO Celine Fitzgerald highlighted the programme's role in advancing national research priorities and supporting impactful discoveries, with funding also enabling each project to support a postgraduate researcher. Co-funders include the EPA, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, and Met Éireann.



Marian Keyes Headlines UL's Creative Writing Festival

Almost 500 people attended Day 2 of the UL Creative Writing Festival to see literary phenomenon Marian Keyes. The event was opened by the Chancellor of UL, Brigid Laffan, with an introduction from Frank McCourt Chair in Creative Writing, Professor Joseph O'Connor, who also conducted the interview with Keyes, exploring her journey as a writer and her inspirations. Keyes engaged with the audience, answering questions about her craft, writing process, and offering advice to aspiring authors.

Journalism hosts event on Palestine media coverage

The Journalism hosted a special event as part of Research Week on media narratives in relation to the war in Gaza. Dr Mike Berry (Cardiff University), co-author of *Bad News From Israel* (2004) and *More Bad News From Israel* (2011), discussed the pioneering work of the Glasgow Media Group, which examined how bias in news coverage leaves audiences confused about the nature of the conflict and the motives of actors.

This was followed by a short presentation by UL Journalism staff Dr Fergal Quinn and Dr Henry Silke on new research being carried out by them focusing on media coverage of the targeted killings of journalists in the warzone.

Journalism for a Day



Prospective students with an interest in journalism, PR and digital communications from across the country joined our journalism staff on campus to learn more about LM039 BA Journalism and Digital Communication.

Secondary school, mature and QQI students visited our tv, radio and podcast studios as well as our dedicated newsroom. Organised by Dr Audrey Galvin and Dr Kathryn Hayes, attendees engaged with lecturers as well as current students and heard from graduates who showcased a day in their lives working as journalists. This hugely successful event is an excellent opportunity for future journalists to hear about our programme offering which includes radio production, tv journalism, data journalism, news writing, court reporting as well as working on our multiplatform award winning Limerick Voice.

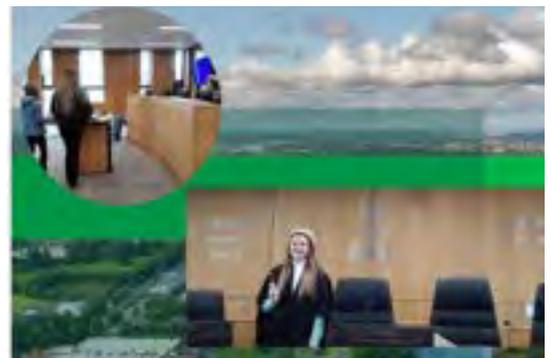
TY Arts Taster Day



The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences invited TY students with an interest in LM002 Bachelor of Arts or any of its 16 subjects to attend the Arts Taster Day. During the event, students attended sample lectures, learned about the various academic and student supports available, received advice on subject selection, and gained valuable information about Erasmus opportunities and work placements.

TY Law Day

The School of Law invited TY students to apply to attend the TY Law Day, which took place on campus on Tuesday, April 15th, from 10.00am to 3.30pm. Attendees learned more about the study of law from lecturers and students, attended taster lectures, received a tour of the campus, and experienced a moot court.





Launch Of Japanese Film Festival 2025

Wednesday, March 26th, Erika Marcet (Japanese Section, MLAL) and fourth-year students of Japanese Clíona Rice (BA Applied Languages), Ciara Gibbs (BA Applied Languages) and Magdalena Tanneberger (BA Journalism and Digital Communications) were invited to a food and drinks reception followed by a film screening at the Light House Cinema (Dublin).

This event provided an opportunity for students to network and expand their Japan-related contacts in Ireland. This event marked the launch of the Japanese Film Festival 2025 (April 1st-27th) and was presented by access>CINEMA in association with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland and with the support of the Japan Foundation. Mr Norimasa Yoshida, Deputy Head of the Mission, Embassy of Japan, launched the event. The film, "The Making of a Japanese" (2023), directed by Ema Ryan Yamazaki, won the Nippon Docs Award at the Nippon Connection Japanese Film Festival, as well as the Audience Award at Japan Cuts: Festival of New Japanese Film.

Play: Die Nacht so groß wie wir



The German Section warmly invited students, staff, and the wider community to a performance of the play Die Nacht so groß wie wir on Thursday, March 13th. The play was performed by first-year German students and directed by the German Section's theatre intern Constanze Parzich and Austrian Lector Johannes Vith.

CEUROS Attendance and Invited Presentation at the Launch of the Communicating Ireland Initiative



As representatives of UL's Centre for European Studies, Associate Professor Dr Sorcha de Brún and CEUROS Director Associate Professor Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh attended the launch of the Communicating Europe Initiative 2025, where Michaela gave an invited presentation on her CEI-funded project "Ageing in Ireland and the EU: Opportunities and Challenges".

The event was hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin on Wednesday, March 19th, and was attended by Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence, Thomas Byrne TD, as well as by representatives of several organisations whose projects received funding under last year's initiative. These included, among others, Active Retirement, the DCU Brexit Institute, Junior Achievement Ireland, and the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland.



Athena Swan Silver Award

We are delighted to announce that the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences has been awarded the Athena Swan Silver Award. The application is the result of the hard work and commitment of the many colleagues in the AHSS Athena Swan EDI Committee and of Assistant Deaf EDI, Dr Maria Hickey, who have analysed data and written and edited drafts for the past two years prior to the application submission date. The award is a reflection of the strength of the faculty in many areas and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to this result. Our success will be celebrated at a national awards ceremony later this year followed by a celebration on campus.

With regard to next steps: The award is now valid until April 2030. A new and extensive Silver Action Plan was designed and submitted with the application including a 4-year timeline. The Action Plan and application, which includes extensive analysis of different EDI aspects of the Faculty's work environment will be shared with the wider Faculty in September, along with a call for expressions of interest to join the AHSS EDI committee. This committee of new and old members will work on the implementation of the new Action Plan.





Staff Well-being day

On the Friday, May 30th, the Faculty of AHSS celebrated their second Staff Well-being day, an EDI initiative that marked the end of a busy academic year and brought AHSS staff together for a day of respite, relaxation, team building, and socialising.

This year's well-being day focused on physical well-being as a foundation for mental health and coping with workplace stress. The day started with a chair yoga session led by Aoife McGarry. After a coffee break we welcomed Carl Campbell, a magician and mentalist from the magic circle who entertained us with different tricks and games - a good laugh was had and excellent team collaboration exercises! Carl's session was followed by a Breath wave workshop facilitated by Ronan O'Brien, a certified coach, counsellor and therapist who spoke to us about the role of the nervous system and taught us breathing techniques to calm sensations of stress.

The Faculty barbecue attracted more colleagues at lunchtime and we had a full house at the Pavilion, with lots of chat and a great sense of community. We then took the opportunity to present the winners of this year's Staff Recognition Awards with their certificates and prizes.

After lunch, we were guided by community choir facilitator Kate Daly who patiently taught us how to use our voices and got us to produce some impressive harmonies!

In putting together the activities of this day, the EDI team were responding to requests submitted in a survey in March 2025 where many colleagues indicated the need for stress management and relaxation techniques. A big thank you to everyone that helped organise this event!

AHSS Staff Recognition Award

Heartfelt congratulations to this year's five winners of the AHSS Staff Recognition Award:

- Dr Angela Farrell – Innovation Champion
- Dr Orfhlaith Ní Bhríain – Exceptional Colleague
- Annie Girardin-Halpin – Inclusion Champion
- Prof. Gisela Holfter – Internationalisation Champion
- Dr Audrey Galvin – Teaching/Student Experience Champion

This award recognises the outstanding work of colleagues who go above and beyond in your roles. Thank you so much for your passion and commitment to our students, colleagues and the campus community. Also a big thank you to all the colleagues who took the time to send in their nomination, and to the external panel for reviewing the nominations.





Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan Presents at the University of Oslo

Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan of the School of Law, UL, presented at the International Society of Family Law European Regional Conference entitled “Family Recognition Beyond Marriage” held at the University of Oslo, Norway, from May 12-13th. The event, which was organised jointly by the Department of Private Law, University of Oslo and the Nordic Centre for Comparative and International Family Law (NorFam), drew speakers from around the world to the Domus Academia of the University of Oslo’s Law School.

Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh and Gabrielle Fath (MLAL) attended the 6th International Conference of ENAS (European Network in Aging Studies)

Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh (MLAL) and Gabrielle Fath, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, attended the 6th Conference of ENAS (European Network in Aging Studies). The international conference with the theme “Aging, Old Age, and Intergenerational Relationships through Narrative and Practice: Challenging Ageism” took place at the University of Lleida, Spain, from April 9th-11th.



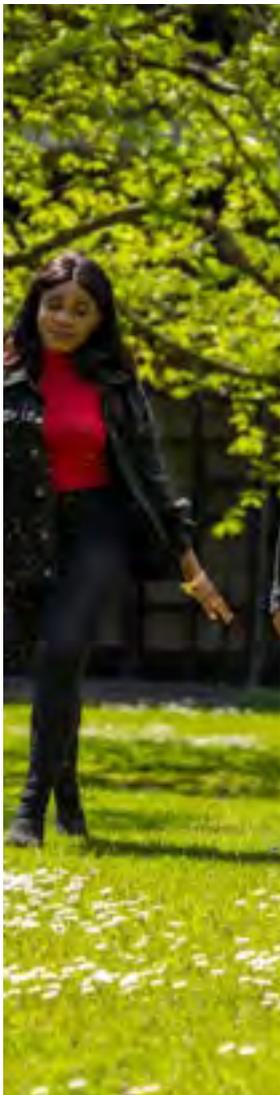
Michaela’s presentation focused on “Women’s Healing and Growth Through Intergenerational Friendships and Older Role Models in Twenty-First-Century Fiction”, while Gabrielle presented a paper entitled “Ageing without Traditional Kinship: Older Women and Intergenerational Transmission in Post-war Irish and Scottish Short Fiction”. Conference participants included more than 200 international scholars in cultural and social ageing studies and the three days provided numerous opportunities for networking and research exchange.

Visit by The Netherlands Ministry for Justice and Security



REPPP was delighted to facilitate a very successful visit of a contingency from the Netherlands Ministry for Justice and Security's Prevention with Authority Programme to Ireland (March 23rd-26th). The programme intervenes with young people involved in more serious and persistent offending and may be recruited into organised crime groups. During this knowledge exchange event, we showcased our Greentown Project. The group were welcomed to UL by Acting President Shane Kilcommins.

UL launches advanced access programme for US community college students



Bachelor of Arts (BA) International Advanced Access programme was launched this semester. This is a new academic pathway that enables North American community college students to earn a bachelor's degree in Ireland. Designed for students who have completed a two-year associate's degree, the programme allows direct entry into the final two years of UL's BA, reducing the typical study time by one year and offering a fast-track to graduation. Dr Sandra Joyce, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, said the initiative ensures a smooth transition into Year 3 of the BA Arts programme, while Course Director, Dr Niall Keegan highlighted the opportunity to study in a vibrant setting with a focus on employability and contemporary relevance. Niamh Kavanagh, International Recruitment Officer, emphasized UL's commitment to global education and affordability, and Partnerships Officer James Sergeant noted that the programme provides clarity for US community colleges mapping curricula for credit transfer. Students will benefit from world-class faculty, personalised learning, and access to UL's research and innovation environment.



AHSS Staff Participate in Erasmus+ Training Exchange at University of Málaga

Dr. Florence Le Baron-Earle and Dr. Veronica O'Regan from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics participated in an Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training at the University of Málaga, Spain, on March 26th-28th. The primary aim of this exchange was to enhance their knowledge of current approaches to audio-visual translation pedagogies, curriculum design, and relevant software.

This training will significantly contribute to the curriculum design and best practices for delivering a core module on contemporary approaches to translation in the new MA in Translation programme, which will be offered at the University of Limerick for the first time in the 2025/26 academic year.

This initiative builds on the existing partnership between UL and the University of Málaga, further strengthening the ongoing cooperation and collaboration between faculty at both institutions. Additionally, it supports the internationalisation strategies of both universities and the internationalisation of their curricula.

REPPP Team Members Present to the EU Council's Horizontal Working Group on Drugs



REPPP (Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice) team members Dr Catherine Naughton and Helen Fitzgerald presented at the EU Council's Horizontal Working Group on Drugs in Brussels on 11th February. Dr Catherine Naughton presented on the REPPP Greentown Response Programme which is working to prevent young people from being recruited into criminal networks.

Helen Fitzgerald presented on REPPP's new project with the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in which REPPP will be collaborating with EU partners to build on the learning from their innovative work in the area of youth recruitment in criminal networks. It was a great opportunity for REPPP to raise awareness of their work and to connect with potential EU partners as they seek to design future responses to the complex issue of young people's involvement in drug-related criminal markets.

AHSS colleagues play a key role at Norwegian Folk Music festival

AHSS colleagues play a key role at the popular Winter Festival at Rauland, hosted by the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN), where Irish World Academy faculty Dr Conor Caldwell, Dr Roísín Ní Ghallógláigh, and Dr Breandán de Gallaí delivered lectures and workshops on traditional Irish music, Sean Nós songs, and dance. The week-long Norwegian Folk Music Festival combines research-sharing with performances, culminating in the 'kappleik' folk dance contest. UL currently offers the only bachelor's programme in Folk Dance in Europe, though USN will launch a similar programme later this year. Dr de Gallaí and USN's Associate Professor Stian Roland are exploring student and knowledge exchange opportunities between the two institutions.



NAFSA Annual Conference, San Diego, May 2025

The University of Limerick attended the NAFSA Annual Conference in San Diego in May 2025. NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest non-profit association dedicated to international education and exchange. With an average attendance of 10,000 members NAFSA, is one of the largest conferences in the International Education calendar.



Representing UL was Katherine Martin the Study Abroad Manager, Angela Farrell, Assistant Dean International for AHSS; Alli McNamara, Global Marketing & Communications Manager and Gavin Wilk, Non-EU Exchange Officer.

Visits from Swiss and Austrian Ambassadors to UL

The University of Limerick was honoured to welcome the Swiss Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Ms Jenny Piaget, and the Austrian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Ms Melitta Schubert, who visited campus to participate in a roundtable discussion on Austrian, Swiss, and Irish neutrality, attended by staff, students, and online participants from France and the UK.



The ambassadors also joined a class with final-year German students to discuss current affairs and met with UL staff to explore future events and academic collaboration between UL, Austria, and Switzerland. Both ambassadors have now joined the advisory board for the Centre of Irish-German Studies, France and the UK.



Dr Sandrine Uwase Ndahiro - Trailblazing University of Limerick PhD graduate creating space for Black and Irish voices graduates with PhD in English Literature

Dr. Sandrine Uwase Ndahiro, a Rwandese-Irish scholar, writer, and activist, earned her PhD in English Literature from the University of Limerick this week. This marks the end of a 10-year academic journey from undergraduate to doctorate.

Born in a Tanzanian refugee camp after her parents fled the 1994 Rwandan genocide, Sandrine's life changed when she was helped by Irish aid worker Niall O'Keeffe, now her godfather. She grew up in Carlow as part of Ireland's first wave of African immigrants, often struggling with her mixed identity. At UL, she learned to see it as a strength.

Her PhD research focused on environmental racism in Africa and giving a voice to underrepresented communities. Inspired by her own experiences, she founded 'Unapologetic', a magazine for minority writers, and became a strong voice for decolonising education.

While teaching during her PhD, a student once told her it was the first time they had seen a Black lecturer—an experience that highlighted for her the power of representation. Mentored by Dr. Yianna Liatsos, who introduced her to thinker Frantz Fanon, Sandrine used her studies to explore identity and challenge dominant narratives. Her MA dissertation, based on emotional talks with her parents, focused on the Rwandan genocide.

Now preparing to speak at the African Literature Association Conference in Kenya, she hopes to continue her research and inspire future generations of Black and Irish scholars. "I hope my work inspires others to recognise that their voices matter"

UL celebrates Irish Novelist Paul Lynch with Honorary Doctorate of Letters



Award-winning Irish novelist Paul Lynch, born in Limerick and winner of the 2023 Booker Prize for *Prophet Song*, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters at the University of Limerick on 11 April 2025. Presented by Acting UL President Professor Shane Kilcommins, the honour recognises Lynch's outstanding literary achievements and his longstanding support of UL's Creative Writing programme since its founding in 2014. Now a member of Aosdána, Lynch began his career as a journalist before publishing his acclaimed debut *Red Sky in the Morning* in 2013, followed by *The Black Snow*. UL's Professor Joseph O'Connor, who read the citation, praised Lynch's radiant and powerful prose, calling him one of the great novelists of his generation whose storytelling brilliance and imaginative force will shape literary consciousness for years to come.



PhD student Jack Reid published article in *The Conversation*

On the 10th anniversary of the marriage equality referendum, UL's Jack Reid profiles the life and work of Mary Dorsey, a pioneering LGBTQ+ writer whose commitment to breaking the silence around queerness helped pave the way for same-sex marriage in Ireland. Reid reflects on the transformative power of poetry in a society like Ireland's that reveres its poets, arguing that marginalised voices are vital in addressing urgent issues such as climate change and LGBTQIA+ rights. His research on queer Irish ecopoetics explores how queer ecology—a fusion of ecological studies and queer theory—can inspire more fluid, equitable relationships with nature, addressing questions like the impact of native wildlife loss on rural communities. Influenced by writers like Mary Dorsey and theorists such as Donna Haraway, Reid draws inspiration from everyday observations and sees curiosity, fostered during his time at UL, as essential to personal growth and a powerful tool against disinformation—whether through academic theory, creativity, or activism.

PhD Conferings

In January and June 2025, the Faculty of AHSS witnessed 18 AHSS PhD researchers graduating with PhDs. A reception took place after the graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievement with their supervisors, internal examiners and the students' families in attendance.



- Bounechada Ahlem - Associate Prof Barrie Wharton
- Carmody Michael - Prof Shane Kilcommins; Associate Prof Alan Cusack
 - Khansal Ikram - Prof Liam Murray
- Ndahiro Sandrine - Associate Prof Yianna Liatsos
- O'Shea Bláithín - Associate Prof Susan Leahy; Associate Prof Alan Cusack
 - Watts Claire - Dr Sandra Joyce; Associate Prof Carl Corcoran
- Alhassan Yousef Saleh - Prof Liam Murray / Associate Prof Marta Giralt
 - Alqahtani Mohammed - Prof Liam Murray
- Daoudi Aicha - Assistant Prof Jack Fennell / Associate Prof Christina Morin
 - Haak Helene - Prof Ciara Breathnach / Dr. Sorcha de Brún
 - Jaballah Najla Lilya - Prof Helen Kelly-Holmes
- Jinadu Olufunmilayo Haminat - Associate Prof Fergal Quinn / Associate Prof Elaine Vaughan
- McManus Elizabeth Michelle - Prof Joseph O'Connor / Associate Prof Tina O'Toole
- Phillips Miriam - Associate Prof Jenny Roche / Associate Prof Colin Quigley
 - Rougab Wafa - Prof Helen Kelly-Holmes / Prof Kerstin Mey
 - Ryan Mark - Prof Máiréad Moriarty / Prof Helen Kelly-Holmes
- Senter Morgan Brittany - Associate Prof Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain / Prof Amanda Clifford
 - Smail Sarah - Prof Máiréad Moriarty



Limerick Voice wins Best Overall Digital Media at Student Publication Awards

Limerick Voice, the multimedia news project by journalism students at UL, has won Best Overall Digital Media at the 2025 Student Publication Association Awards. Judged by senior media professionals, including journalists from BBC News and Politics JOE, the award recognises excellence in innovation, storytelling, and digital engagement. Ava Santina of Politics JOE praised the focus on local issues like the student housing crisis, calling it a “stellar digital-first strategy.” BBC’s Alastair Reid highlighted the consistently high video production and commitment to live and breaking news.

UL Journalism Student Magazine Wins Magazine of the Year at National Student Media Awards

The Magazine ‘Eclectic’, produced by second year journalism students, has won Magazine of the Year at the National Student Media Awards.

The module is overseen by Aoife Sheehan, Associate Teacher in journalism. This is the second time the magazine has won the title. Speaking about the latest award she said: "I'm delighted for the class who worked hard on this project. It is a wonderful recognition by key industry leaders of the high standard of work produced by our journalism students here in UL and this module provides a creative space to develop their skills in magazine work and feature writing".



Launch of 18th edition of Limerick Voice newspaper produced by journalism students

Journalism students at University of Limerick have launched the latest edition of the award-winning Limerick Voice newspaper. The 18th edition of the newspaper hit the streets, carried in the Limerick Leader newspaper, with over 50 stories covering news, sport and features. It was launched at an event in UL's Glucksman Library this Wednesday, attended by Mayor of Limerick John Moran and Dr Sandra Joyce Executive Dean of AHSS.



Student Success

The German Section is proud to announce two recent successes of our students. Second year students Jacob Aylmer, Vera Ryan and Max Passberger were winners of the annual Unternehmen Deutsch competition of the Goethe Institut on Wednesday, April 30th, with their excellent product idea of a Lindt "Schoko-Kirschblütenbaum". Huge congratulations to them and their mentor Associate Professor Michaela Schrage-Frueh and the other colleagues in German teaching them.

Journalism research showcase event celebrates students work



The journalism department hosted an end of year 'Research Showcase' celebration of outstanding academic and journalism work carried out by their students over the past 12 months. It was the first of what is intended to be an annual event and included short presentations from faculty, PHD, MA and BA students. End of year awards were also given to students who had made a particular contribution to the subject over the past year.

Dr Fergal Quinn said the event is intended to draw attention to the range of work being done by students and staff in the department.

Record number of nominations for UL journalism students at National media awards

UL journalism students have secured nominations in 12 separate categories in the National Student Media Awards. Limerick Voice, the award-winning multimedia news platform, has been shortlisted for several awards including, Best Newspaper, Best Layout and Design and Website of the Year.



The Second-year journalism Magazine Eclectic has also been nominated for Magazine of the Year. Limerick Voice newspaper and online editors Jack McKay and Magdalena Tanneberger have both been nominated for Editor of the Year. Sports reporter John O'Donnell has been nominated for Sportswriter of the year along with Jack McKay and fourth year journalism student Leah Hogarty and Alison Reeves have been shortlisted for Podcast of the Year. Limerick Voice multimedia reporter Anna Powell has been shortlisted in three separate categories including, Journalist of the Year National Media. She was also shortlisted in the Journalism Relating to Road Safety category – an award named after UL journalism student Joe Drennan who died tragically in 2023.

Meghann Scully

My name is Meghann Scully and I work as a journalist and presenter on TV, radio and social media. I studied Irish and New Media at the University of Limerick, graduating in 2011. I chose UL after visiting the campus as a child and loved its beauty and sporting culture. Highlights of my course included a flexible schedule that gave me time to enjoy campus life, societies, sport and socialising.



I had a great connection with my lecturers at UL, gained valuable experience studying theorists and Irish literature, and built lasting friendships through camogie, ladies football, and fashion societies. Highlights include living in Dromroe and Elm Park, studying abroad in Malta, writing for An Focal, and starting my journalism career in a local paper. Being a Gaeilgeoir has opened incredible opportunities, like working on TG4's Rásaí Beo, and my passion for Irish—sparked by a childhood visit to TG4—led to my current roles on RTÉ's Today Show, podcasts, and sports media. A career highlight is simply being on TV, and in the future, I hope to do more broadcasting and report at international events. My advice? Never give up on your passion.

Kieron Ryan

My name is Kieron, originally from Cappamore, Co. Limerick, and I'm currently living in Japan, working as a Senior Manager of QA for Eli Lilly in Kobe. I completed my undergraduate degree in Business with Japanese in 2015 and later earned an MSc in Quality Management Lean Six Sigma in 2022 through the Springboard programme. I chose UL for its beautiful campus, excellent facilities, and strong presence in my life growing up. Highlights included practical Japanese study and international events that helped develop the language skills I use daily.



My postgrad involved real-time improvement projects in my workplace, directly benefiting my career. I completed my Co-op in Ballina, Co. Mayo, where I gained key project management experience. Some of my best memories are language exchanges, Co-op, and hosting a student radio show. UL prepared me with practical, real-world coursework. Since graduating, I've worked in Japan through the JET Programme, Johnson & Johnson in Limerick and Tokyo, and now Eli Lilly. I plan to remain in Japan medium-term, with hopes of returning to Ireland long-term while maintaining professional ties. Your degree matters, but you can always pivot—as I did—from business to medical devices to pharmaceuticals.



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**Wishing you all an
enjoyable summer**

