

## Foundation

**From:** foundation@ul.ie

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In his latest book, *Upstart: Friends, Foes and Founding a University*, Ed Walsh chronicles the birth of the University of Limerick from a decaying mansion on a riverside campus to major university.

Ed Walsh, son of a Cork butcher, was a young man in a hurry when he returned to Ireland in 1970, after a decade working in US universities. Limerick wanted a university but the powers that be decreed that an institute of higher education would suffice and appointed Ed to set it up. Limerick's National Institute for Higher Education opened two years later; however the Department of Education, politicians and officials discovered they had unleashed a perfect storm that would not abate until Ed Walsh achieved university status for Limerick .

The book provides a fascinating account of the interaction between the political and administrative system faced by a "go getter" who knew what he wanted. The reader gets an up close and personal view of ministers from the austere Padraig Faulkner to feisty Niamh Bhreathnach, taking in Dick Burke, Gemma Hussey, Mary O'Rourke, John Wilson and others. Ed's diary also frankly describes his turbulent relationships with senior civil servants making clear that visionary public servants like Sean O'Connor, Finbarr O'Callaghan, Noel Lindsay and Oscar Richardson played a huge role.

With surprising candour Ed describes his academic and political struggles and his efforts to straddle the divide between warring factions. This inspiring, frank and often funny memoir by a passionate educational leader vividly describes the making of the University of Limerick , the first new university established in the Republic of Ireland .

**Publishers, Collins Press, have generously agreed to make a donation of €5 to the University of Limerick for every book purchased by graduates and friends of the University directly from their website <http://www.collinspress.ie/>. When inputting your name at the checkout, please type the letters "ULF" after your first name and Collins Press will donate €5 per book to the University through the UL Foundation.**

Tue, Dec 18, 2012 at 8:21 AM

Hi Maurice, welcome to our new look e-newsletter, we hope you enjoy it.

18th December, 2012

E-Newsletter from University of Limerick Alumni Association (ULAA) Winter 2012 - No.65

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### Alumni Awards/ Call for nominations

Congratulations to our outstanding alumni Dick Meaney BSc '79, Dr Pío Fitzgerald BEng '99 and Tony Ward BA '78, all worthy and gracious recipients of our 2012 UL Alumni Awards. At a glittering black-tie event - held on campus for the first time – the 7<sup>th</sup> annual

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UL News</b></p> <p><b>Celebration of UL40</b></p> <p>UL's 40th year of celebration – marking the establishment of our University in 1972 - continues. Beginning in September with a number of public events which included an Open Campus Day, a very special event was the Honorary Conferring of Masters degrees on UL's very first Students.</p>	<p>awards presentation took place and proved another fantastic celebration of UL graduate achievement. ULAA is delighted to bring you all the news and photographs from this prestigious event – including the inspiring stories behind Dick, Pio and Tony's achievements - at <a href="http://ulaa.ul.ie/?AlumniAwards">http://ulaa.ul.ie/?AlumniAwards</a></p> <p>Looking ahead to 2013, we are now seeking Nominations for next year's UL Alumni Awards. Do you graduates who have excelled? If so, please let us know using the official Nomination Form (available on our website). Closing date for receipt of nominations is 3 May, 2013.</p>
<p><b>Book Launch</b></p> <p>Another recent UL40 event was the launch of 'The University of Limerick: A History', compiled and edited by UL alumnus and Lecturer Dr David A Fleming BA 2001. UL was the first new University created since the foundation of the State and this book masterfully recounts the University's history, detailing the experiences of past and present Presidents, Governors, Staff and Students which ultimately shaped our alma mater. Available in hardback now from all good bookshops and online from Four Courts Press who are offering a special discount for UL alumni. For further details, <a href="#">follow this link...</a></p>	<p><b>Alumni Lecture</b></p> <p>Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students of UL recently attended the fifth Lecture in our prestigious UL Alumni Lecture Series. ULAA was delighted to welcome UL alumnus, Aongus Hegarty BBS '89, President of Dell for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) as our Guest Speaker and the title of his Lecture was 'Transformation: An Economic Imperative'. Returning to his hometown of Limerick and to his alma mater, Aongus spoke about Dell's experience of transforming itself to meet the changing market and he also cited a number of other organisations who have successfully transformed, including the University of Limerick.</p> <p>To view news, photos and a video of the Lecture, visit <a href="http://ulaa.ul.ie/event/Aongus_Hegarty">http://ulaa.ul.ie/event/Aongus_Hegarty</a></p>
<p><b>Memoir</b></p> <p>The UL History Book follows the earlier publication of his own memoirs by UL's Founding President, Dr Edward Walsh. 'Upstart: Friends, Foes &amp; Founding a University' is the fascinating account of how "Ed Walsh returned to Ireland in 1970, a young man in a hurry, to set up an institute of education. He found a decaying mansion on a riverside site, gathered talented young people and secured funding from the World Bank and European Investment Bank to build what became the University of Limerick. Along the way, Ed made powerful enemies as he challenged official cant, traditional academics and clerical humbug. This is an inspiring, frank</p>	<p><b>Online Elections – another first for UL!</b></p> <p>In keeping with UL's pioneering tradition, UL recently became the first Irish University to run its election of Graduate Representatives to Governing Authority through e-voting. In partnership with UL, the UL Alumni Association facilitated the election through our Online Graduate Community 'Universal'. Thank you to everyone who voted and congratulations to fellow-alumni, Michael Phelan, BSc Applied Maths &amp; Computing, 2000 and John O'Connell, BEng Electronic Engineering 1988 on their election as Graduate Representatives to UL's Governing Authority for a five-year period commencing in December, 2012.</p>
	<p><b>2012 UL Alumni Reunion Party - Photos</b></p> <p>In September, ULAA was delighted to host our Annual UL Alumni Reunion with graduates from a range of graduation years returning to UL to catch up with old friends and see for themselves the developments on campus in recent years. Following an official Welcome by UL's President at</p>

<p>and often funny memoir by a passionate educational leader". Available in hardback from Collins Press and all good Bookshops.</p> <p>For a calendar of all UL40 Events, see: <a href="http://www.ul.ie/ul40/UL40_Events">http://www.ul.ie/ul40/UL40_Events</a></p>	<p>Plassey House and a tour of the campus on both sides of the river Shannon, over 200 alumni enjoyed a barbeque at the Stables Club.</p> <p>An album of photos from the Reunion have been posted on our Facebook page for you to enjoy. Feel free to tag yourself and don't forget to 'Like' our page while you're there! For Facebook members, you can see the album in the Photos section of ULAA's page; simply use the comment or tag option to identify friends; visit our <a href="#">Facebook page</a> For non-Facebook members, you can also view the album and email us back with names (please include the photo number too); <a href="#">Click here</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Exhibition</b></p> <p>The first President of the UL Students' Union, a UL Alumni Award Recipient (2009) for her work on behalf of the underprivileged and the UL Alumni Association's current Chairperson and Executive Director were among 40 alumni, staff and faculty of the campus selected for a special exhibition. 'UL40: Face Value -Expressions of 40 years of UL's Community' (with portraits by photographers Kevin Johnson, Florence Le Baron Earle, Sean Reidy and Michael Johnson) was recently launched and will be on display at different intervals during this celebratory 40th year for UL.</p>	<p>We will soon be contacting all those who graduated in 1978, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03 and '08 to finalise a date for our 2013 Reunion so, watch this space!</p>	
<p><b>Stay Connected!</b></p> <p>To stay up-to-date with news, services and benefits aimed at UL alumni, connect with us today via:</p>	<p><b>Christmas Gift Ideas from the UL Collection</b></p> <p>Tis the season for Christmas gifts... so why not consider a quality gift from the official UL merchandise collection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For him... UL-crested cufflinks, silk tie, card wallets, various clothing.</li> <li>• For her... UL-crested compact mirrors, pens, page-markers, various clothing.</li> <li>• And for the tots to teens... we have hoodies, t-shirts, teddies and wristbands.</li> <li>• And much more!</li> </ul> <p>Every purchase supports the work of the UL Alumni Association. Visit our On-Campus Shop (Student Centre, UL), Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (closed for lunch, 1-2.15pm). Visit our Online Shop at <a href="https://ul.site-ym.com/store/default.asp">https://ul.site-ym.com/store/default.asp</a> and purchases can be posted to you.</p> <p><b>Season's Greetings</b></p> <p>Finally, from everyone at ULAA to all our alumni and friends around the world, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!</p>	