



President's Annual Report

October 2014 to September 2015







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PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION



It is my pleasure to introduce the 2014-2015 Annual Report to you. From its earliest days, DCU has been committed to making a positive contribution to society. This commitment has developed over the years into an ambitious programme of transformation through education, research and innovation, benefiting citizen, country and the global family. The vision of DCU is to be recognised internationally as a research-intensive, university of enterprise that is focused on translating knowledge into benefits for society and for the economy. This Report highlights a number of accomplishments and initiatives of the past twelve months and provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the contributions made by members of the DCU community, staff, students and alumni.

Work progressed steadily throughout the year on the DCU Incorporation process which will see St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Mater Dei Institute of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education come together within DCU. The Incorporation process, which is expected to conclude next year (2016), will lead to the establishment of a new internationally significant Institute of Education and an enlarged Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at DCU.

DCU's deep commitment to its students and to creating an environment that encourages them to develop their creativity and innovative spirit was very clearly in evidence this year as we witnessed many student achievements and successes. They set up enterprises, they improved the quality of life for others through social innovation and they contributed greatly to campus life through their active participation in the University's student clubs and societies. There were also a number of significant award winners. Two such winners were Jennifer Gaughran, who took first place in the SFI-sponsored National Thesis in Three competition, and Laura Browne, who won the top prize in the Intel Galileo 3rd Level Technology competition. In a hugely impressive gesture by the student body, and facilitated by the Students Union, DCU students this year voted to contribute €8m towards the cost of a new state of the art Student Centre. Building of the Centre will commence next year with a completion date in early 2018.

DCU is Ireland's University of Enterprise and home to many world-class research centres. Our researchers are continuously forging ahead, translating ideas and discoveries into innovative solutions in business, technology and society. This year, Professor Oliver Dolly, International Centre for Neurotherapeutics, was awarded the prestigious US Ireland Research Innovation Prize. Professor Martin Clynes, National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology, was presented with the 2014 Nature Award for Mentoring in Science. DCU research excellence was also acknowledged and supported through our participation in four of the five new SFI Research Centres, through SFI Investigator Programme awards and other national research funding awards, through EU Horizon 2020 and the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme.

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We recognise that, to have a true impact, a University needs to reach beyond the labs and the campus gates. At DCU, we foster active engagement with our stakeholders and partners regionally, nationally and globally.

DCU's collaborative and supportive research culture and our engagement with industry are well-recognised strengths of the University. This year, we were delighted to announce a significant three-year partnership with Prometric, a leading US testing company, with an investment of almost €1 million for the establishment of a DCU Centre for Assessment Research, Policy and Practice in Education and the establishment of a Prometric Chair of Assessment.

Within DCU, it is always my privilege to formally recognise some of outstanding research work through our President's Awards for Research, which this year were presented to Professor Andy Way (Science and Engineering award) for his work in automatic machine translation and to Professor David Collings (Business, Humanities and Social Sciences award), a pre-eminent scholar in human resource management internationally. The President's Awards for Innovation were presented this year to the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute and DCU spin-out, AmbiSense, led by Professor Dermot Diamond (Academic/ Research Category); to David Molloy, School of Electronic Engineering (Administration/Support Staff category) and to biomedical engineering student, Liam Sexton (Student category).

In an increasingly globalised world, international engagement is vital and DCU is committed to building strategic collaborative partnerships that strengthen our ties and relationships internationally and lead to new discoveries.

Recently, we marked the first anniversary of DCU's strategic Trans-Atlantic Partnership with Arizona State University in a special event to highlight the Partnership successes in health technology, digital learning, water research, smart cities and conflict resolution.

We recognise that, to have a true impact, a University needs to reach beyond the labs and the campus gates. At DCU, we foster active engagement with our stakeholders and partners regionally, nationally and globally. In 2014-2015, we were delighted to award honorary doctorates to the Nobel Peace Laureate, Muhammad Yunus, to historian Margaret McCurtin, to Ireland's most successful hurling manager, Brian Cody and entrepreneur and innovator Pearse Lyons, all individuals of exceptional distinction. We also hosted Nobel Laureates Leymah Gbowee and Thomas Südhof, both of whom addressed capacity audiences in the Helix. In December, we welcomed the announcement of a Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development led by DCU's Dr Charlotte Holland. RCE Dublin, as it is known, is recognised by the United Nations University and will work in partnership with a range of stakeholders including ECO-UNESCO and several national organisations, including An Taisce and Dublin City Council.

Finally, the Report includes some of the University's sporting highlights for the year. In DCU we believe that sport shapes lives, health and values and we are deeply committed to sport as both an important element of the student experience and as a key area of research. Year on year, the accolades of our sporting champions are a source of huge pride for the DCU community.

It was a privilege to lead the DCU community in such a rewarding year. Together, we are delivering a university that is open, connected and impactful. This Report provides some examples of what makes DCU stand out in higher education. We should all be proud of what we have achieved and I am grateful to our outstanding staff and students whose hard work, commitment and innovative spirit has contributed so greatly to DCU's success. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to our supporters, trustees, alumni and friends, who work so hard on DCU's behalf.



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

Plans for New Student Centre Announced

In May, the plans for DCU's new €14m Student Centre were announced. The new four-storey space in the centre of the Glasnevin campus will provide a home for students' social, cultural, global engagement and entrepreneurial activities and will include:

- An Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub, providing creative workspaces to support and nurture student innovation, through commercial and social enterprise start-up programmes and hackathons;
- A Student Leadership and Life-Skills Centre to provide mentoring and training programmes;
- An Arts and Culture hub for the performing arts, visual and graphic arts, digital and multimedia arts which will benefit students and the wider community, including a performance space for concerts and festive events, with capacity for up to 2500 students;
- A Global Student Centre which will provide a meeting point for all DCU students, representing more than 115 nationalities, to celebrate the rich cultural and religious diversity on campus.

In a referendum organised by the Students' Union, students voted to contribute €8m towards the cost of the centre, through the introduction of a levy that will be paid by all students over the coming years.

Construction of the new centre is expected to commence in 2016 and should be completed by early 2018.

The Student Centre will also provide multi-function rooms and office space for use by more than a hundred DCU student clubs and societies. There will be a dedicated print and broadcast media room to house DCUfm and The College View, along with a game zone and tranquility space. To complement its holistic ethos, the Student Centre will physically link to the adjacent Sports Complex building to provide a fully integrated student experience. Retail space will also be available to provide key services to the student population and generate profits which can be reinvested in the centre.

Plans for the new centre were developed in partnership with the DCU student body to accommodate the current and future needs of students. In recognition of the significant student commitment to its development, a competition will be held enabling students to choose the name of the centre, with the winner participating in the official opening in 2018.

Linkage Agreement with Church of Ireland College of Education

In February, DCU and the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) signed an inter-institutional linkage agreement, under which DCU became the sole accrediting body for CICE's undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes.

This significant development takes place against the background of the incorporation of the Church of Ireland College of Education, Mater Dei Institute of Education and St Patrick's College, Drumcondra into Dublin City University. The so-named DCU Incorporation will lead to the establishment of a new internationally significant, research-intensive DCU Institute of Education, heralding a new era for education in Ireland. The Institute will engage with schools and the educational community, across Ireland and beyond, and will be an authoritative source of influence on policy development. In addition to the new Institute of Education, DCU Incorporation will bring together the combined strengths of the four institutions within an enhanced and enlarged Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at DCU.

DCU-DKIT in Research Graduate Partnership

In October, the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD, launched the DCU-DKIT Graduate School based on the Dundalk Institute of Technology campus.

This marks a significant milestone in the development of the strategic alliance agreed between both institutions and strengthens their positions as key players in Ireland's Eastern economic corridor, through the consolidation of cutting edge research and innovation.



Jan O'Sullivan TD,
Minister for Education and Skills

Purchase of All Hallows College Site



In June, following a competitive tender process, DCU signed preliminary contracts with All Hallows College to purchase the 6.74 hectare site in Drumcondra. The process will now move towards completion. This agreement will secure the educational mission of the campus and facilitate existing students in the completion of their studies. DCU All Hallows Campus, as it will be known, is located 300m from the St. Patrick's Campus in Drumcondra and will provide DCU with additional space and facilities to allow the University to respond to the growing demand for its programmes.

€50M Campus Development for St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra



L-R: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin; Mr. Enda Kenny, An Taoiseach; Professor Daire Keogh, President of St. Patrick's College; Archbishop Michael Jackson, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin.

In June, the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, along with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson visited St Patrick's College, Drumcondra to mark the completion of a significant €50m campus development plan. The new, state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities include a library with digital learning facilities, a new gymnasium as well as extensive teaching spaces. The development contributes to the life of Drumcondra village by opening up the campus to local community, through new public spaces and lecture theatres. The campus developments are taking place against the backdrop of the DCU Incorporation and the establishment of the DCU Education Institute.

During his visit, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin and Patron of St Patrick's College, paid tribute to the thousands of graduates from St Patrick's College who had gone on to educate and enrich the lives of children and communities throughout the country. He said the College had a unique culture and heritage, and he expressed the hope that would continue and flourish within the structures of the new Institute.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

DCU Honours Muhammad Yunus, Margaret McCurtain, Pearse Lyons and Brian Cody

This year, DCU was delighted to award a Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) to four exceptional individuals. This is the highest honour the University can bestow.

In October, DCU honoured Nobel Peace Laureate and social entrepreneur, Professor Muhammad Yunus. Referred to as the 'banker to the poor', Professor Yunus is recognised globally for his transformational leadership as a social entrepreneur working to eradicate global poverty.

Muhammad Yunus' work began in a newly independent Bangladesh, struggling to recover from war. The country's economy was in ruins and there was widespread poverty. He launched a research project to examine the possibility of designing a credit delivery system to provide banking services targeted at the rural poor. By 1983, the initiative took formal shape as the Grameen Bank, which today has over 8.4 million members and has lent over US\$12.5 billion. Through his work with the Grameen Bank, Professor Yunus has empowered millions of people, mostly women, to seek out opportunities to work with respect and with dignity. In 2006, their extraordinary achievements were recognised by the Norwegian Nobel Committee when Professor Yunus and the Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Peace 'for their efforts to create economic and social development from below'.

Ireland's most successful hurling manager, a US-based Irish entrepreneur and innovator, and our foremost feminist historian were also honoured this year for their diverse and unique contributions to Irish society. Brian Cody, the Kilkenny hurling manager, Dr Pearse Lyons, founder and president of Alltech, the animal health and nutrition company and Dr Margaret MacCurtain, historian, academic and activist, all received an honorary Doctor of Philosophy in February.

A teacher by profession and manager of the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team since 1998, Brian Cody has guided his county to an unprecedented victory in 10 All-Ireland finals, 12 Leinster titles and 7 League victories. Brian was commended for his leadership role in the field of sport and his dedication to volunteerism and community engagement.

Dr Pearse Lyons is founder and president of Alltech, the industry leader in animal health and nutrition, crop sciences, brewing and distilling which employs 3500 globally, doing business across 128 countries. DCU's Professor Martin Clynes delivered a citation for Dr Lyons, which highlighted his achievements as a scientist, innovator, entrepreneur and champion of Irish-American business links.

Dr Margaret MacCurtain, a member of the Dominican Order, was honoured for her lifetime devoted to multifaceted endeavours and contributions as a teacher, feminist and pioneer of Women's History, advocating for social change, such as the abolition of corporal punishment, the right to re-marriage after civil divorce and for the rights of children with special educational needs.



DCU Welcomed Two Nobel Laureates as Part of DCU's Nobel Laureate Series

As part of the DCU Nobel Laureate Lecture Series in association with Magnet Networks, DCU welcomed Nobel Peace Prize winner, Ms Leymah Gbowee, to campus in March. Ms Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist and women's rights advocate, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 in recognition of her "non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work". She led the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, which brought Christian and Muslim women together, in a peaceful movement that played a critical role in ending the civil war in Liberia in 2003.



Nobel Peace Laureate, Leymah Gbowee

DCU also welcomed a second Nobel Laureate this year, when Professor Thomas Südhof visited DCU. Prof Südhof is a neuroscientist at Stanford University School of Medicine. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2013.

Prof Südhof addressed an audience of staff and students of DCU, secondary school students, members of the public and delegates of the 9th Neuroscience Ireland Conference.

His lecture was entitled 'Molecular mechanisms of neurotransmitter release'. Professor Südhof spoke about his life's work to date, exploring how neurons in the brain communicate with one another. For people to have ideas, to experience happiness, or to remember things, the neurons in their brain must communicate and Prof Südhof was at the centre of unlocking the secrets of neurotransmission for the past 30 years. This work resulted in the Nobel Prize award and has important implications for our understanding of conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and autism.



Thomas Südhof, Nobel Prize Winner in Physiology or Medicine 2013



DCU Teaching Heroes

Brian Leavy (DCU Business School) and Stella Vlachou (School of Nursing & Human Sciences) were among the Teaching Heroes from 27 higher education institutions to be honoured this year at a special awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

The National Teaching Hero Awards were established by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and other student bodies.

US-Ireland Research Innovation Award for Professor Oliver Dolly

Professor Oliver Dolly of the International Centre for Neurotherapeutics (ICNT) was awarded the prestigious US-Ireland Research Innovation Prize, a joint initiative by the Royal Irish Academy and America Chamber of Commerce Ireland. The award recognises excellence in research innovation on the island of Ireland as a result of US foreign direct investment.

Molecular neurobiologist Professor Dolly heads the International Centre for Neurotherapeutics at DCU. His expertise involves the use of BOTOX to develop new and effective treatments for debilitating movement disorders such as Dystonias, Cerebral Palsy and bladder complaints, particularly in Multiple Sclerosis patients. Professor Mitchell F Brin, Senior Vice President of Development at Allergan (California) describes Professor Dolly as 'an outstanding individual who has overachieved in defining the science of botulinum toxin.' Professor Dolly and his team have contributed significant insights into the basic science of toxins and neurotherapeutics, while pioneering the development of therapeutics for neuropathic and inflammatory pain.



Lifetime Achievement Award for Professor Martin Clynes

Professor Martin Clynes, Director of the National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology, DCU was presented with the 2014 Nature Award for Mentoring in Science.

Professor Clynes has had a diverse supervisory career spanning 35 years. His research team was built around animal cell culture technology, linking it to other biomedical and molecular biology technologies, and applying it, in collaboration with experts in industry and medicine, to specific fundamental and applied problems. He is credited with attracting a wide network of industrial companies to invest in research and development in Ireland and is internationally recognised as an expert in biotechnology, cancer drug resistance and stem cell research.



Brian Farrell Book Prize for Professor Iain McMenamin

In October, Professor Iain McMenamin, School of Law and Government, was awarded the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) 2014 Brian Farrell book prize for his book "If Money Talks What Does It Say? Corruption and Business Financing of Political Parties" (Oxford University Press).

Irish Laboratory Awards

DCU scooped three top honours at the Irish Laboratory Awards this year.

Professor Richard O'Kennedy's Applied Biochemistry Group, Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (BDI), won the award for Bio Science Laboratory of the year. The Group focusses on the production and characterisation of antibodies for applications in diagnostics, health and food safety.

Dr Paul Leonard and his team, also in the BDI, won the Innovation of the Year Award for their novel DiCAST technology. DiCAST technology can analyse millions of immune cells in parallel on a single cell basis to rapidly identify new biological drug candidates and has the potential to dramatically improve the efficiency of the drug discovery process.

Chemistry Laboratory XG28, in the School of Chemical Sciences, claimed the 'Education Laboratory of the Year' title. This award acknowledged the on-going innovative teaching methodologies and broad range of engaging experiments provided in a safe student-centred learning environment. XG28 engagement with the wider community was noted through such events as Leaving Certificate Chemistry workshops, transition year placements and preparing students for national and international chemistry competitions with notable success.

Professor Eugene Kennedy Elected Secretary of RIA

In March, Professor Eugene Kennedy, was elected Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy. The Royal Irish Academy is Ireland's leading body of experts in the sciences and humanities.

Prof Kennedy is Emeritus Professor of Physics and former DCU Vice-President for Research. He is also a former Director of the National Centre for Plasma Science and Technology, NDRC Director and Chair of the RPII Board. He has served on EU evaluation panels including the Fusion Programme Evaluation Board and he currently serves on the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee.

Professor Kennedy has published widely on short-wavelength light source development, plasma diagnostics and the interaction of ionizing photons with atomic/molecular ions.



Professor Dermot Diamond Receives Boyle Higgins Lecture Award

In April, Professor Dermot Diamond was awarded the Boyle-Higgins Award by the Institute of Chemistry Ireland. His award lecture was entitled 'Chemical sensing with autonomous devices in remote locations: Why is it so difficult and how do we deliver revolutionary improvements in performance?'. The Boyle Higgins Medal and Lecture Award is presented annually for research work carried out for pure chemistry, applied and industrial chemistry, or chemical education. The award is made for an outstanding and internationally - recognised research contribution to the advancement of chemistry, by a chemist of any nationality working in Ireland, or by an Irish chemist working overseas.



DCU Leadership Circle Awards

In June, Terence O'Rourke, Chairman of Enterprise Ireland, addressed the audience at the DCU Leadership Circle Dinner and Awards on the positive impact of higher education on Ireland's progress and prosperity.

This event is held annually to recognise the support of key business leaders for DCU initiatives, driving economic and social change and to thank the University's community of supporters for their sustained commitment to the work of DCU.



This year awards were presented as follows:

- Dr Claire Bohan received the Staff Leadership award for her commitment to student wellbeing in DCU and for her leadership of the Student Leadership and Life Skills programme.
- Bank of Ireland received the Corporate Leadership award for long-term support of the DCU Sports Academy and for its more recent support of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub.
- Pat McDonagh, founder of a number of successful educational technology companies including Avoca Learning, received the Individual Leadership award in recognition for his support of two vital DCU initiatives, UStart, a programme allowing students to bring their business ideas to market, and the Sports Scholarship programme, developing the talents of elite athletes.

Fullbright Awards

Two DCU faculty members were recipients of the Fulbright Award this year, Pamela Gallagher and Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhicíl. The Fulbright Awards are awarded annually by the Irish and U.S. governments and provide Irish students, scholars, and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture, and research at top universities and institutions throughout the United States.

Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhicíl is a lecturer in information technology with Fiontar and an Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning. As a Fulbright TechImpact Scholar, Mairéad will research user experiences in MOOCs with the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Professor Pamela Gallagher, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, will travel to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, to conduct research investigating the efficacy of an innovative web based self-management intervention to improve health and wellbeing following limb loss.



MAKING AN IMPACT

“The THE Young Universities Summit 2015 at DCU brings together leaders and leading thinkers from some of the most dynamic, innovative and distinctive young universities worldwide to share best practice and address some of the key challenges and opportunities facing higher education today”

- Professor Brian MacCraith,
President



DCU Ranked as a Top Young University

In this year's league table of world top young universities DCU jumped almost 20 places to become the highest ranked higher education institution in the country. The Times Higher Education (THE) *100 Under 50*, an analysis of the world's top 100 universities established since 1965, placed DCU joint 75th with Australia's LaTrobe University. DCU is the only Irish university to have featured in the *THE 100 Under 50* every year since its inception in 2011.

THE announced this year's rankings at the THE Young Universities Summit which was hosted by DCU in April. Keynote speakers at the Summit included thought leaders from the world's leading young universities, such as Bertil Andersson, President of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, which is the fastest rising university in the world, Patrick Aebischer, President of Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland, newly-crowned No.1 young university and Luc Soete, Rector of Maastricht University, ranked 6th.

THE 100 Under 50 uses 13 performance indicators across research, teaching, knowledge transfer and international activity, that underpin the prestigious THE World University Rankings but employs a specially recalibrated methodology to better capture the characteristics of young institutions.

Top Grades for DCU in U-Multirank

U-Multirank, a EU-backed system for ranking international universities, awarded DCU top grades across all its areas of assessment – quality of teaching & learning, reputation for research, success in knowledge transfer, international orientation and contribution to regional growth. U-Multirank, which is now in its second year, takes a different approach to other university league tables by grading institutions across a wide range of activities from 'A' (very good) to 'E' (weak), allowing users to identify a university's strengths and weaknesses.

DCU scored 14 'A' grades and 9 'B' grades, across a possible 26 indicators, excelling in areas such as undergraduate graduation rates, attracting external research income, patents awarded, number of spin-out companies, international student and staff numbers, and collaboration with regional industry, educational and social partners.

With 21,000 data scores on the institutional level and 37,000 on the field-base level, U-Multirank is the largest global university ranking and the most comprehensive information system on universities in the world.

DCU Performs Strongly in MBA and Business Masters Global Rankings

DCU Business School performed strongly in this year's global business masters rankings, featuring in the Top 100 in the world for three of its Masters programmes;

- MSc E-Commerce – (ranked 14th)
- MSc Strategic Procurement – (ranked 55th)
- MSc Finance – (ranked 68th)

The Eduniversal Best Masters Ranking classifies Masters and MBA programmes which develop and graduate the best new professionals in the global labour market by evaluating employer attitudes, employment prospects on graduation and student satisfaction. It measures the academic excellence and quality of 4,000 programmes in 30 fields of study across 1 000 academic institutions in 154 countries, with final rankings determined through a survey of 5,000 international recruiters and 800,000 students.



Flying the Flag for Positive Mental Health

In May, DCU was awarded the Amber Flag in recognition of the work students have been doing in promoting positive mental health. The Amber Flag initiative, organised by Suicide Aware, aims to encourage schools, colleges, clubs, societies and organisations to promote a culture of positive mental health within the educational system and other organisations. It acknowledges work carried out by organisations to reduce stigma associated with mental health and improve support and help-seeking behaviour among young people.

The DCU Amber Flag working group was highly commended for its collaborative approach to promoting mental health and wellbeing across the University and for improving the quality of life for students with mental health problems, by promoting recovery through awareness and education. The team was praised for its creativity in organising the inaugural 'Mental Wellbeing Week' and for its work in establishing a mental health society and hub.



Celebrating 25 Years of DCU Access

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the DCU Access Scholarship Programme. This Programme was the first and is the largest of its kind in Ireland, enabling students from backgrounds of socio-economic disadvantage to complete a third-level education.

DCU pioneered Ireland's first access route to higher education in 1990, with just six students. Today it is the largest programme of its kind in Ireland, providing equal access to education for over 1,000 students. DCU's Access graduates have gone on to work in a variety of professional sectors around the world.



TEDxDCU – Changing Lives, Challenging Perceptions

TEDxDCU 2015 took place in February at The Helix. The speaker line-up included staff, students, alumni and friends of DCU and made for an interesting morning of 'Ideas Worth Spreading'. Speakers were:

- Louise Bruton, Dublin-based freelance journalist and Legless in Dublin blogger
- Orlaith Carmody, Managing Director of Mediatraining.ie
- Adam Harris, Founder of AsIAM.ie, Disability Advocate, Creator of Grasp Life App
- Kate Irving, Dementia Skills Elevator, DCU School of Nursing and Human Science
- Sinead Kane, PhD researcher with the Anti-Bullying Centre at DCU, Solicitor, Certified Mediator
- David Moloney, founder of Movidius
- Niall Moyna, School of Health & Human Performance, DCU
- Mary O'Connell, Bioinformatics and Molecular Evolution Group at DCU.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

DCU Student Takes First Place at National Thesis in Three Competition

PhD student, Jennifer Gaughran, won first prize in the 2014 National Thesis in Three competition, sponsored by Science Foundation Ireland's Discover Programme. Jennifer is a Ph.D. student with the BioAnalysis & Therapeutics (Bio-AT) programme working under the supervision of Professor Jens Ducrée in the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute and the School of Physics. Her winning presentation was entitled "*Spinning a Yarn: Quick and Easy Disease Detection*".

IRC Scholarship Award

Student Bianca Ní Ghrógáin received an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship Award for her research on Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) education under the supervision of Dr Miriam Judge, DCU School of Communications. Bianca's research project is entitled '*Computers, Creativity and the Flipped Classroom: Using Computer Construction Kits in Primary Schools to Promote STEM and Advance 21st Century Learning - an Exploratory Study*'.

Chancellor's Awards

DCU students, Ann Reilly (BSc Health & Society) and Rónán Ó Dálaigh (BA Gnó agus Gaeilge), pictured below, were awarded the Chancellor's Medal at the University's Convocation ceremonies in November. The Chancellor's Medal is awarded only where there is an outstanding candidate who achieves excellence across the academic and extra-curricular areas of University life.



DCU Student Wins First Ever Intel Galileo Technology Competition

Computer Applications student, Laura Browne, carried off top prize at the final of the Intel Galileo 3rd Level Technology Competition which took place in the Science Gallery, Dublin in May. The competition invited students to create projects based on the Irish designed Intel Galileo board.

DCU Graduate Receives Outstanding Doctoral Research Award

In February, former Insight researcher Dr Zhengwei Qiu won the 2014 Emerald/EFMD Outstanding Doctoral Research Award in the Information Science category for his PhD thesis titled *'A Lifelogging System Supporting Multimodal Access'*.



SMEDIA Award Success for DCU Students

DCU students and societies scooped top honours at the National Student Media Awards (SMEDIAs) and the Student Society Awards (BICS), in April. Remarkably, Dublin City University won all six radio category awards in the SMEDIAs, which recognise excellence in student media across Ireland. The awards received over 1,000 entries from student journalists, broadcasters and producers.

DCU also took the top awards in three categories at the annual BICS Awards.

- Best Society - Cultural, Academic, Social
- Best Society - Charity, Civic
- Best Society Fresher

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

European Funding for Research Into Early Diagnosis of CVD



Dr Caitriona Lally, School of Mechanical Engineering, DCU

DCU researcher, Triona Lally was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant to pursue her research into early diagnosis of degenerative cardiovascular disease, "*Frontier research in arterial fibre remodelling for vascular disease diagnosis and tissue engineering.*"

ERC Starting Grants support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish a research team to conduct independent research in Europe. The scheme targets promising researchers who have demonstrated the '*ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.*'

President's Awards for Research

This year, the President's Awards for Research were presented to Professor Andy Way, School of Computing and Professor David Collings, DCU Business School, in recognition of their commitment to excellence in their respective fields of research.

The Award in Science and Engineering was made to Professor Andy Way for his outstanding contribution to automatic machine translation. Since joining the University in 1991, Andy has taken a leading role in the development of Computational Linguistics, the study of the application of computers to processing and analysing of natural language. Currently Deputy Director of ADAPT, the SFI-funded research centre, he is in the top 40 researchers, worldwide, in terms of Google SCHOLAR citations for Machine Translation in general, and one of the top half-dozen within his niche of Statistical Machine Translation. Andy has generated more than €9m in externally funded research from agencies including Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the European Union.

Professor David Collings was recipient of the Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences for his contribution to the development of scholarships in the field of human resource management (HRM) in Ireland and internationally. David is currently a Visiting Professor at King's College London and has held similar positions at Strathclyde University and Reykjavik University. He is head of the Human Resource Management and Organisational Psychology group at DCU.



Professors Andy Way, Brian MacCraith and David Collings



President's Awards for Innovation

Sponsored by Fujitsu Ireland, the President's Awards for Innovation encourage and recognise innovative achievements by DCU students, researchers and staff.

This year, joint recipients of the award in the Academic & Research Category were the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute and AmbiSense, a DCU spinout led by Professor Dermot Diamond. The BDI developed a bowel cancer screening test, in collaboration with Randox Laboratories, which could save thousands of lives by spotting the disease at the earliest possible opportunity. This significant breakthrough in the screening for bowel cancer could be available for widespread use within the next two years. AmbiSense uses sensor technology to monitor greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane and its platforms are used in landfill management, coal mining safety and for monitoring fracking processes. To date, AmbiSense has raised €500k from Enterprise Ireland and private investors. Based in DCU's Innovation Campus, the company has 5 employees with ambitious expansion plans over the next 3 years.

In the Administration & Support Staff Category, David Molloy, School of Electronic Engineering, was awarded the prize for GURU – a fully secure, cloud-based system for monitoring student academic performance which eliminates wasteful paper processes. The system, which revolutionises the way student information is processed and handled, was applied throughout the University with the potential for roll-out to universities in Ireland and further afield.

In the Student Category, Liam Sexton, a final year Biomedical Engineering student was awarded the prize for his mobile app which is capable of generating a Computer Aided Design (CAD) drawing file of an object captured on a phone's camera feed. The app uses reverse engineering to extract information from the physical object, using it to create a computer model. The technology significantly enhances product design processes by allowing a member of the design team to quickly create electronic drawing files when away from the office that can then be sent to the desktop team of further modelling and analysis.

“ Solutions are being generated at DCU for real problems such as bowel cancer, greenhouse emissions, student mental health and other innovations seek to improve existing processes in design, information management and student experience. Through this partnership with an industry leader such as Fujitsu, we will continually strive to create an environment where the innovative talents of our staff and students can flourish and succeed.”

- Professor Brian MacCraith

RIA Charlemont Grants Awarded to DCU Scholars

DCU scholars Dr Erica Hennessy, Dr Diarmuid Torney, Dr Alanna Maguire and Dr Silvia Tedesco were among those awarded for their respective projects at the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Charlemont Awards in February. The Charlemont Grants act as a career springboard to assist scholars in strengthening their international mobility and developing collaborative networks.



Agri Food Research Award for Professor Christine Loscher

In December, Professor Christine Loscher was awarded funding of over €500,000 to carry out research in mining marine materials for ingredients that can modulate the immune response in the treatment of inflammation and allergies. The award is part of a more than €20m funding package for collaborative inter-institutional research projects under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's FIRM, Stimulus and CoFoRD research funding programmes.



New SFI Funded Research Centres Announced

DCU is a partner in four of the five new SFI Research Centres announced this year by SFI. With funding of €250 million over the next six years, these centres will support cutting-edge research, predominantly in ICT and medical device development.

ADAPT	- Centre for Digital Content Technology
CONNECT	- Centre for Future Networks & Communications
CŪRAM	- Centre for Research in Medical Devices
LERO	- Irish Software Research Centre

DCU Researcher Leads €3.7 Million Gene Therapy Project



Dr Andrew Kellett, School of Chemical Sciences

Dr Andrew Kellett, School of Chemical Sciences, is co-ordinator of a €3.7 million project, awarded under the H2020 - Marie Skłodowska Curie Action - Innovative Training Network programme.

The project, ClickGene, focuses on gene therapy, which is expected to play a key role in next-generation medicine by correcting the underlying genetic causes of disease, thereby facilitating personalised medicine. Current gene therapy methods possess undesirable side effects, including insertional mutagenesis, toxicity, low efficiency and off-target cutting. Questions also remain regarding the optimal methods for delivering nucleases into cells and tissues. These limitations will be addressed through the original and innovative approach of the ClickGene network. ClickGene's research objectives are to train 14 Early stage Researchers in the field of biomaterials development with specific focus on:

- Siteselective genetic engineering
- Liposomal nanoparticle drug delivery
- Optogenetic diagnostic probes for epigenetic base detection

The training provided will match the skills required by next-generation research leaders in biopharmaceutical, nanotechnology, biddiagnostic and other industries. Allied to academic strength in this network, ClickGene features highly competitive industry partners with expertise in commercialisation of nucleic acid click-chemistry (baseclick, ATDBio) and liposomal and lipidome technology (LipiNutraGen). The synergy between both commercial and academic partners will enable ESRs to develop gene-targeted technology within a highly productive, engaging, and exciting training network.

DCU Researchers Lead €4.9 Million Cardiovascular Disease Rehabilitation Project



Led by Dr Kieran Moran, the PATHways project is a €4.9m research project to improve the rehabilitation experience of patients recovering from Cardio-Vascular Disease (CVD), the leading cause of premature death and disability in Europe and worldwide. The project, funded under EU's biggest ever Research and Innovation Programme brings DCU's School of Health and Human Performance, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, and the DCU Business School together with local hospital partners (Mater and Beaumont) and a consortium of European universities and industry partners. It aims to significantly improve the rate and speed of patient recovery, saving lives and securing vast cost savings for health service providers globally. The project testifies to DCU's leading role in Ireland and Europe in the area of Connected and Personalised Health.

Two SFI Investigator Programme Awards for DCU Researchers

Professor Tia Keyes was awarded funding for her project "*Microcavity array supported lipid membranes: Highly versatile cell membrane models in sickness and in health*". This research builds advanced model membranes reminiscent of health and of disease states (e.g. Alzheimers) and helps understand how each affects membrane permeability towards different drugs.

Professor Richard O'Kennedy was awarded funding for his research in "*Metabolomic and array-based biomarker approaches to understand human exposure to potent carcinogenic fresh water toxins*". This research will study the role that exposure to water and food toxins play in the development of colorectal and liver cancers. The research will identify and validate biomarkers of microcystin exposure and conduct surveys in low and high risk populations.

Prometric Sponsor €1 Million Assessment Research at DCU



L-R: Professor Brian MacCraith, Minister Richard Bruton and Michael Brannick, CEO, Prometric

In April, leading US testing company Prometric, announced a three-year research partnership with DCU, along with an expansion of its presence in Dundalk, Co. Louth. The project is supported by the Department of Jobs, through IDA Ireland.

Prometric will invest nearly €1 million in research funding to establish DCU's Centre for Assessment Research in Education (CARE) and to develop test types that can better assess the preparedness of students at all levels of education in the areas of critical thinking and skills assessment, in addition to knowledge recall. The programme will be led by the Prometric Chair of Assessment, serving as director of the CARE Centre. One post-doctoral researcher and one Ph.D. student will be hired in research roles.

DCU Spinout Shortlisted for Innovation of The Year Award

AmbiSense, a recent DCU spin-out company was shortlisted for the Irish Times Innovation of the Year Award. The company is a High Potential Start Up recently spun out of DCU's National Centre for Sensor Research. It brings to market innovative and disruptive technology, enabling autonomous environmental monitoring. The technology was developed for the landfill and biogas markets but also has multiple applications in other high growth markets including unconventional gas and oil, contaminated land and waste water treatment.



L-R: Professor Dermot Diamond, Dr Fiachra Collins and Stephen McNulty

€3.3 Million Funding for 5 Year Project on Pancreatic Cancer

DCU researchers, collaborating with researchers in the University at Buffalo and Queen's University Belfast, have secured over €3.3 million from the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme to develop an enhanced treatment programme for pancreatic cancer, the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in the world.

The project will look at how new formulations of drugs can affect the function of normal cells within the tumour matrix, rather than the tumour cells themselves. Targeting these cells could make the tumours more permeable and thereby increase the amounts of tumour-homing nanoparticle drug carriers that can gain access to the tumour cells. Ultimately, the team will look at novel ways to personalise therapy for specific characteristics of a patient's disease, moving away from the 'one-size-fits-all' approach.

This five-year research programme brings together a team led by Prof Robert Straubinger of University at Buffalo and including Drs Niall Barron and Robert O'Connor of DCU and Prof Christopher Scott of Queen's University Belfast.

SFI Adapt Centre Leads €3 Million EU Project Online Learning Languages

€3 million in EU funding was awarded to DCU's ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology and nine other European academic and industry partners for research to remove language barriers to on-line learning. The TraMOOC (Translation for Massive Open Online Courses) project will provide reliable machine translation for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and will provide translation from English into German, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Dutch, Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Polish, Russian and Chinese. Andy Way, Deputy Director of the ADAPT Centre, and Professor of Computing at DCU, is leading the Irish input into the project.

Resource to Tackle Online Bullying Developed at DCU

This year the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. James Reilly, TD, launched two important resources to help support young people affected by bullying, their families and teachers.

Tackle Bullying (www.tacklebullying.ie), an online resource for young people affected by bullying, was developed at the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre (ABC) at DCU and funded by National Lottery Funds. The first forum of its kind, it encourages teenagers to share their experiences with their peers or offers support to others. While the forum will encourage peer-to-peer conversation, all posts will be monitored by professionals and an option to contact one of the moderators directly will be available.

"Understanding Cyberbullying, a Guide for Parents and Teachers", by Professor Mona O' Moore, was also launched. The book's recommendations for best practice draw not only on the most up-to-date research but also on the author's many years of professional experience working with the Anti-Bullying Centre and with schools and individual children, parents and teachers.

The Anti-Bullying Centre is located in the School of Education Studies and is led by Dr. James O'Higgins Norman. The Centre engages in a range of activities and research projects designed to reflect the ever-changing face of bullying in society such as cyberbullying and workplace bullying.



Dr. James O'Higgins Norman, School of Education Studies;
Professor Mona O'Moore, Minister for Children & Youth Affairs,
Dr. James O'Reilly.

DCU Partner with Croke Park in Smart Stadium Project



In September, DCU in partnership with Arizona State University, Croke Park Stadium and Intel® Corporation welcomed over 70 companies to Croke Park to learn how the stadium might be used as a test bed to trial smart technologies and ultimately develop them for use in a Smart City context.

“The next 5–10 years will see exponential growth in the burgeoning IoT sector and we have an opportunity to lead Ireland’s test bed facility with Croke Park and Intel in order to bridge the research to market gap. Ireland is rich in high potential startups and SMEs that can both get value and bring value to the Smart Stadium concept which will draw on multi-disciplinary expertise in Irish universities to focus on problem-solving on a national scale.”

– Professor Noel O'Connor,
Director of DCU's Information Technology and
Digital Society Research & Enterprise Hub

Current projects focus on enriching the stadium and fan experience by monitoring pitch quality and stadium microclimate, analysing athlete's performance, predicting traffic to and from the stadium and developing apps that indicate queueing times at refreshment and convenience facilities.

ENTERPRISE



Mechatronic Engineering Graduate Awarded Best Agri Engineering Invention at National Ploughing Championships

DCU graduate Jason Cross, was awarded the 2015 Best Agri Engineering Invention title at the National Ploughing Championships for his automated beet washer – a machine he developed with Cross Agricultural Engineering, as part of his DCU final year project.

Beet washers are used in the production of biogas, whereby beet is left to rot and ferment to create gas and in turn run a generator to create electricity. All beet washers are hydraulically powered with manual controls and up until now, engines have been used to run the machine and emissions are high. As part of Jason's final year project in DCU, he created a fully automated, emission free machine.

Female High Fliers Awards at Ryan Academy Investor Pitch Event

Two female-led enterprises won top prizes at an investor pitching session in DCU's Ryan Academy for Entrepreneurs in July. The event marked the culmination of Female High Fliers, a 13-week long accelerator programme which supports female entrepreneurs in developing key business skills and to grow their business.

Noelle O'Connor from Tan Organic won the title of Most Impressive Pitch and a €5,000 cash prize, sponsored by Bank of Ireland. Tan Organic supplies high quality, organic self-tanning products and accessories to customers through a wide network of retail outlets in Ireland and more recently in the UK.

Ciara Donlon from Theya Lingerie was awarded the title of Best Innovative Start Up 2015 and also won a €5,000 cash prize. Theya Lingerie provides post-surgical lingerie to women who have had breast surgery or are undergoing radiotherapy treatment. The company was officially launched in February and currently sells its products online and through a number of independent retailers nationwide.

Nine startups from diverse sectors took part in Female High Fliers this year. The accelerator programme, supported by Enterprise Ireland, is aimed at female founders of Irish or international startups less than 5 years old. All companies must be led by women and are selected on the basis of their growth and export potential as well as team strength.

DCU Spin Out Company Raises €400k and Announces 15 New Jobs



In July, Iconic Translation Machines, a leading Irish translation software company and University spin-out, announced the creation of 15 new jobs which will bring the total employment number at the company up to 25.

Iconic provides cloud-based translation solutions to language service and translation companies and targets a language industry that is worth in excess of €37 billion annually. Its flagship product automates the translation of intellectual property documents.

Founded in 2013 by Dr John Tinsley and Dr Páraic Sheridan from the DCU's CNGL Centre for Global Intelligent Content, Iconic's advanced proprietary technology was born from almost a decade of R&D to develop a unique approach to machine translation with subject matter expertise for highly specialist and technical domains.

In the same announcement, the company also confirmed seed funding of €400,000 from a number of investors including Enterprise Ireland, and business angel investment from Bloom Equity and the Boole Investment Syndicate through the Halo Business Angel Network.

DCU Ryan Academy's Europass Pitching Competitions



Two startups won top prizes at Europass pitching competition organised by DCU Ryan Academy as part of the European Welcome project. The Europass programme is part of the Welcome project, a Startup Europe initiative funded by the EU Commission. DCU Ryan Academy is the Irish partner of the Welcome project.

Damian Browne from Standard Access and David Craig from Dublin Design Studio were each awarded a place on Welcome's Europass programme. Both startups will attend two top European tech conferences, funded by the Welcome project and the DCU Ryan Academy. The Europass programme is run across four countries benefiting 16 European early stage startups.

AIB, PWC and William Fry Partner with DCU's Centre for Family Business

In January, Allied Irish Bank, Price Waterhouse Cooper and William Fry announced a new 3-year partnership with DCU's Centre for Family Business (CFB). The partnership will allow the CFB to continue its vital work in supporting the longevity of Irish family businesses. The CFB plays an important role in helping family businesses to grow and in supporting those businesses through the unique challenges that working in a family business can bring.

ENGAGEMENT



President's Awards for Engagement

The 2015 President's Awards for Engagement were celebrated at a ceremony in April to recognise the outstanding contributions by staff and students in the wider community.

The ComputeTY Team led by Dr Jennifer Foster, Mr Gary Conway and Ms Christine Stears (School of Computing) received the overall staff award. Now in its tenth year, ComputeTY is a technology course run by the School of Computing for transition year students. The course aims to introduce and promote interest in computer science as a third level subject among school children, many of them in socio-economically disadvantaged areas.

A special merit award was given to Service Improvement with Cooperative Learning, led by Deirdre Corby, Richard Jackson, Therese Danaher and Liz Hartnett (School of Nursing and Human Sciences). This project works to build leadership capacity in people with intellectual disability, family members and service staff. The project brings multiple stakeholders together, including those whose voices may not always be heard, to make long-term positive changes in intellectual disabilities services and supports, and in people's lives.

The winner of the overall student award was the DCU Students' Union E-Voting project, led by Steven Conlon, Returning Officer DCU Students' Union, in collaboration with Dr Mark Glynn and the Teaching Enhancement Unit. Leveraging a voting module on Loop, online e-voting system was introduced by DCU Students' Union. The project resulted in a 19% increase in turnout as well as the reduction in student time and resources and significant savings.

A special Merit student award was given to Disability and Learning Support Service Student Volunteer Team for the "Addressing the Double Disadvantage" Programme which addresses the challenge of a "double disadvantage" for secondary school students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who also have a physical, learning or sensory disability.

DCU Researcher Honoured at Ireland's LGBT Awards



Grainne Healy, a researcher with DCU's School of Applied Language & Intercultural Studies, was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2015, at the GALAS, Ireland's LGBT Awards. Grainne was recognised for her work as Chairwoman of Marriage Equality, a not-for-profit, single issue, national grassroots advocacy organisation whose goal is to achieve equality for LGBT people in Ireland through the extension of civil marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Galileo Girls – Technology at Their Fingertips

In conjunction with the third annual International Day of the Girl in October, a United Nations designated holiday to recognise girls' and women's rights around the world, Intel, CoderDojo, DCU and TOG, the Dublin Hackspace, hosted a special event called 'Galileo Girls' which invited young girls to come together and participate in a day-long hack event based on the Irish designed Intel Galileo development board. Designed for girls between the ages of 12 and 18, the event included a number of workshops on the basics of coding, programming and the maker environment.

Compute TY Celebrates 10 Years



Who would have thought, ten years ago, that a practicum project as part of the celebrated M.Sc. in Electronic Commerce in DCU would have grown to become one of the most successful outreach programmes in Ireland? The Compute TY programme allows students to learn the concepts of programming in a fun and engaging atmosphere. ComputeTY is closely aligned with DCU's strategic commitment to advancing access to STEM subjects, while also addressing the skills gap and gender balance in this area nationally.

It began in 2005 with students learning how to develop their own live website over a week. To date, DCU's School of Computing has taken in over 4,000 transition year students introducing them to computer programming and encouraging them to take up Computer Science at third level. It is also hugely positive to see that over the last 3 years, 40% of the total intake of students are female.

The programme has developed further to include two additional streams, Introduction to Java programming; which borrows innovative content from the BSc. in Computer Applications module showing students the power of an industry standard programming language. The ApplInventor stream allows students to develop and publish their own Android Apps on the Google Play store after just a week of tuition.

DCU Hosts Innovative Ideas at #hackdcu



DCU students from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds came together in DCU's Innovation Campus in April for #HackDCU, an ideas marathon encouraging students to create innovative products or services which could improve the lives of DCU students, either academically or in terms of student experience. All DCU students were invited to participate and seven teams were formed to work on innovative 'hacks' with full support from a group of 12 mentors.

The winning team was Ceol (Eoin Ó'hÓbáin, Kevin Harrington and Cian Butler) who made wireless headphones with inbuilt music streaming capability, enabling the user to listen to music on the move without using their phone. The team won €1,000 sponsored by DCU's UStart, a place on the shortlist for UStart 2015 and a trip to Milan to attend a major Codemotion conference in November, sponsored by Codemotion.

DCU Co-Hosts Design and Hardware Hackathon

Ireland's multidisciplinary design and hardware hackathon took place in November. This two-day event was a partnership between DCU, the National College of Art and Design and the Web Summit, and was the second in a series of PCH and DCU hardware hackathons.

Over 100 industrial designers and hardware enthusiasts, as well as multiple prototyping equipment providers, came together to collaborate from concept stage to final product and ultimately developed a range of innovative hardware solutions with cutting-edge design. The Hackathon began with a number of workshops open to the public for IoT/hardware equipment, including Intel's Galileo development board. Hackathon participants then pitched ideas to the crowd and encouraged attendees to form design and production teams. After the best ideas were voted on, the participants worked together in teams over 36 hours, with event partners Radionics hosting a pop-up electronics shop to support the prototyping activity.

First prize went to Cash Up, who developed and prototyped a connected cash register for automated cash management. The team was awarded a €1,500 fund for the continuing development of their product, sponsored by PCH and consulting from Each&Other to perfect their design. The team also received three tickets to the Web Summit.

DCU Hosts Cash for Code Competition with Openet

In March, the School of Computing, in conjunction with Openet, hosted Cash for Code, a competition giving students the opportunity to showcase their coding skills and connect with a potential employer, with the added bonus of cash prizes for those finishing with top marks.

25 students took part in the competition which was held as part of DCU's annual Tech Week, when industry partners visit campus to engage students on current trends and issues in the tech industry. Openet, Ireland's largest privately-owned software company set a challenge for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year undergraduate students, requiring them to demonstrate their proficiency in Java and C++ programming languages.

Elevator Award for Innovation in Dementia

Dementia Elevator is an education and empowerment programme developed by DCU and the HSE, with the support of Atlantic Philanthropies, to help individuals, communities and health systems engage appropriately with people with dementia.

In December, a novel idea to set up a community choir for people with dementia and their carers claimed the inaugural DCU Elevator Award for Innovation in Dementia. The winning proposal was developed by Kildare Liaison and Social Service (KLASS) in response to feedback from carers to the growing demands placed upon them and the associated physical and mental health impact. The award was established by the Dementia Elevator programme at DCU to highlight initiatives from around the country that contribute in a meaningful and significant way to the everyday lives of people affected by dementia. Dementia Elevator is led by Kate Irving, School of Nursing and Human Science.

More than 40 applications were received from throughout the country and included diverse projects such as a network of Alzheimers Cafes; an app to rate and locate dementia friendly places, activities and services; a Transition Year meal-sharing initiative; early stage dementia peer support groups; assistive technologies awareness programmes; and a national electronic GP dementia referral form.

Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development



A Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development was launched at DCU in December. The RCE aims to change public attitudes to sustainability and environmental issues across the greater Dublin region. RCE in Education for Sustainable Development is led by DCU's Dr. Charlotte Holland. The Centre co-ordinates a range of projects from youth employment programmes in the green economy to schools disaster mitigation competitions, in order to promote sustainability within the greater Dublin region. The Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE Dublin) in Education for Sustainable Development was recognised by the United Nations University and will work in partnership with a range of stakeholders including An Taisce, Dublin City Council, ECO-UNESCO, Educate Together, Fighting Words, JustForests and The Green Way.

RCE Dublin is part of a network of 129 regional centres of expertise in education for sustainable development across the globe that are acting at local, national, regional and international levels to promote peaceable and sustainable futures for all. RCE Dublin is focused on promoting 'Mottainai', a Japanese cultural practice valuing the dignity of living and non-living things, and underpinned by the notion that what we have is too precious to be wasted.

Amgen Launch Science Education Programmes with DCU

Leading biotechnology company Amgen and its philanthropic arm, the Amgen Foundation, announced two complementary science education programmes with DCU, the Amgen Biotech Experience and Amgen Teach.

The programmes support the Irish science school curriculum, providing teachers with the skills and confidence to transform the student experience in learning science.

The Amgen Biotech Experience provides teacher training, molecular biology resources and research grade lab equipment for loan to participating schools. The programme is coordinated by the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute at DCU and Systems Biology Ireland at University College Dublin. The Programme, which started in October 2014, reached 19 teachers and over 950 students in its pilot year.

Amgen Teach was developed in collaboration with Centre for the Advancement for STEM Teaching and Learning, DCU and is delivered by an appointed training partner, the Professional Development Service for Teachers. It emphasises hands-on, enquiry-based learning, providing teachers with practical tools they can replicate in the classroom and lab to motivate students.

Over the full three year commitment of the programmes, the Amgen Biotech Experience and Amgen Teach are expected to positively impact approximately 53,000 students and nearly 500 teachers in Ireland.

DCU - Walking Campus of The Year

DCU was announced as 'Walking Campus of the Year' at the Inaugural Smarter Travel Awards under the Smarter Travel Workplaces and Smarter Travel Campus programme in April. The programme aims to recognise and celebrate the efforts that workplaces and campuses make to promote sustainable travel. Awards were presented in 14 categories across different modes of transport, sustainable champions and overall workplace and campus.

Creative students from Smarter Travel Campus Partners were also invited to take part in the inaugural poster competition to promote sustainable travel and DCU Multimedia students, took first and second place.



Report on Gifted Education in Ireland Launched

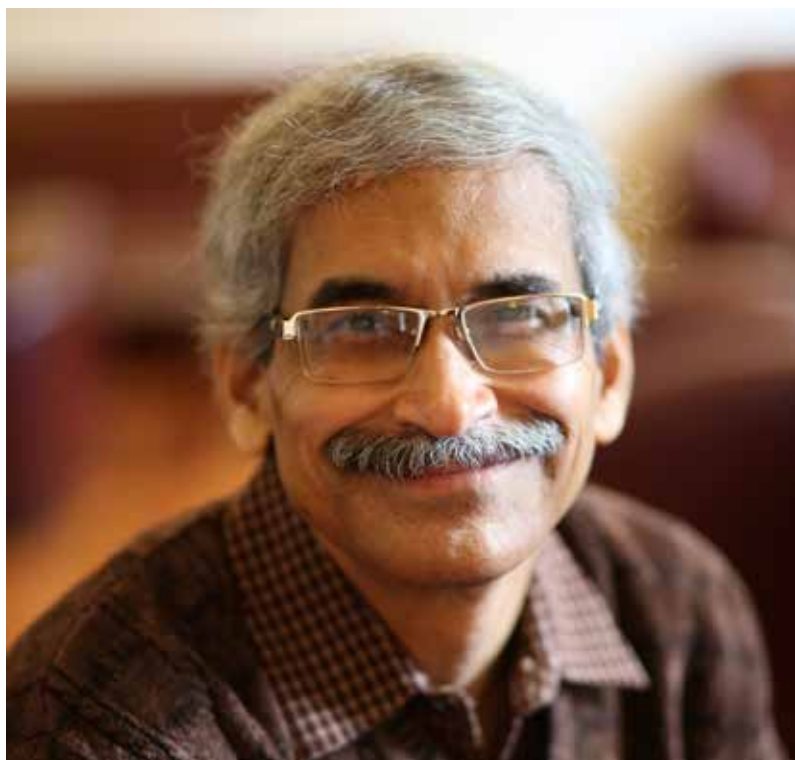
The Centre for Talented Youth Ireland (CTYI) at DCU launched the first-ever report of Irish teachers' attitudes towards gifted education. The report, launched in December, was prepared by Professor Tracy Cross and Dr. Jennifer Cross from the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Both are leading experts in the field of gifted education. The report "Gifted Education in Ireland: Educators' Beliefs and Practices" was launched by Mr Ciaran Cannon, T.D.

DCU and St. Mary's Community Hospital



In August, a Memorandum of Understanding between DCU and St. Mary's Community Hospital was signed by the President, Professor Brian MacCraith, Professor Anne Matthews, Head of School at DCU's School of Nursing and Human Sciences and Mary Flanagan, St Mary's Director of Nursing Care. The focus of the agreement is to develop academic and educational collaboration and to promote mutual understanding. The agreement will also encourage and facilitate ongoing research collaborations.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Professor Tridib Chakraborti, Indian Council for Cultural Relations Chair.

DCU's Ireland India Institute Public Lecture

In June, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Chair, Professor Tridib Chakraborti delivered a lecture on *India in the 21st Century: Emerging Global Silhouette* as part of DCU's Ireland India Institute Public Lecture Series.

Professor Chakraborti, IICR Chair, is the former Head of the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India and has specialised in South and Southeast Asian politics, foreign relations, strategic issues, Indian Diaspora, Indian political thought and ethnic Issues of Southeast Asia

3U Partnership Opens Office in China

In October, the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms Jan O'Sullivan T.D., officially opened 3U Partnership's China Office in Beijing's award winning Galaxy SOHO urban complex. The 3U Partnership combines the complementary strengths of Dublin City University, Maynooth University and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In keeping with the Irish Government's policy to encourage shared services, the 3U China Office brings these three distinctive and leading higher education institutions together to promote world-class education and research opportunities in Ireland to Chinese students.

Currently, 3U Partnership offers Chinese students a guaranteed pathway to undergraduate programmes at DCU and Maynooth University through the 3U Pathway University Foundation Programme.

This year-long programme aims to prepare Chinese and other international students for undergraduate study at the two universities. It also offers them the vital bridge between the education they have already received in their home country and the requirements they must meet to study at one of the partner universities.

DCU-ASU Showcase Event

Marking the first anniversary of the strategic partnership between DCU and Arizona State University, the two universities jointly staged a special celebration event to highlight the successes realized between the two institutions in health technology, digital learning, water, smart cities and conflict resolution.

At the event in Tempe, Arizona, a number of announcements were made, including the launch of the world's first International School of Biomedical Diagnostics, a blended-learning collaboration which gives students the opportunity to work with their transatlantic counterparts using the latest technologies. Other collaborative projects in ageing, sports, education, conflict resolution, nanomaterials and health were highlighted at the event.

DCU Participates in the First Brazil-Ireland Science Week

In February, approximately 80 senior researchers from Brazil arrived in Ireland to attend the first ever Brazil-Ireland Science Week. Presidents of Brazilian funding agencies also attended the conference entitled 'Collaborative Research for a Better Future'. Research Brazil Ireland is coordinated by DCU and has a local office in Rio de Janeiro.

The Brazilian delegates met with their Irish counterparts during a three day conference at Dublin Castle. Representatives from Irish research institutes, government bodies such as Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Embassy in Brazil participated in group discussions, along with industry representatives and European Union personnel.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

DCU Wins Sports Quality Award

DCU Sports won the GOLD Standard of Excellence at the 2014 Ireland Active National White Flag Quality Standards awards ceremony.

GAA

DCU Sigerson Cup Win

In February, DCU's Sigerson Football team emerged victorious from their Sigerson Cup Final clash with UCC.



Lynch Cup Success for DCU Ladies Football Team

March saw DCU's Ladies GAA football team emerge as victorious in the Lynch Cup final after a hard-fought clash with DIT.



DCU Players on Winning Dublin Team

Several DCU and St Patrick's College students and alumni who played key roles in adverse conditions to help Dublin claim the Senior Football title at Croke Park in September 2015.

The victory was a source of great pride to the DCU community as so many of the players have passed through the University's renowned GAA Academy. In 2015, there were 21 players with connections to DCU on the Dublin panel.

CRICKET

DCU and Cricket Ireland Partnership

An agreement which will see DCU become an Official Partner of Cricket Ireland was announced in October. As part of the two-year agreement, Cricket Ireland will receive support for training and development of its players, coaches and managers through access to the University's specialist sporting facilities, staff and resources.

The collaboration will provide academic opportunities for elite cricket players who may otherwise have emigrated thus retaining and developing a strong, indigenous talent pool. DCU will also extend its Elite Athlete Programme to include elite cricket athletes and work with Cricket Ireland in developing sports scholarships for players entering DCU programmes.

Infrastructural plans include the development of a cricket training area, with turf and artificial nets, at DCU Sports Campus, and access to elite sports training facilities at DCU for the Senior Men's and Senior Women's teams, Academy and Leinster Lightning players. This will be complemented by mentor schemes for senior and provincial cricket players undertaking academic studies in DCU.

ATHLETICS

Athletics Ireland Awards for Students and Alumni of the University

DCU students and alumni were recognised at the Athletics Ireland awards in December. Craig Lynch and Brian Gregan, both DCU graduates were part of the team that won the Team of the Year 2014 award for their performance in the 4 x 400m relay at the European Track & Field Championships in Zurich, August. Maria O Sullivan, a postgraduate student at DCU's National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology won the Female University Athlete of the Year 2014 award. DCU graduate, Fionnuala Britton, was named Endurance Athlete of the Year 2014. Michael Lane, DCU Walks Coach was named Coach of the Year 2014.

DCU Students Compete at the European Indoor Athletics Championships

In March, DCU was well-represented at the European Indoor Athletics Championships in Prague as students, Dara Kervick (BSc Analytical Science), Timmy Crowe (BSc Education & Training), Harry Purcell (BA Law & Politics) and Brandon Arrey (Economics, Politics and Law) took to the track as the Irish Mens 4x400m relay team. Dara also represented Ireland in the individual 400m competition.

National Senior Indoor Athletics Championship Wins

In February, DCU athletes took home a total of 17 national medals competing for their respective clubs at the National Senior Indoor Athletics Championships. Enda Fitzpatrick, Director of DCU Athletics played a pivotal role in these successes.

One of the highlights included an impressive performance by Dara Kervick, who took the 400m gold in 46.53 seconds. This win listed Dara sixth in the European performance list and qualified him for the 2015 European indoor championships in Prague.

These successes come shortly after the Irish Universities Athletics Association Indoor Championships where DCU won the Men's, Ladies' and overall titles for the eighth successive year.

DCU Students Represent Ireland in 28th World University Games

Four DCU students and one St Patrick's College student represented Ireland in soccer at the 28th World University Games in Gwangju, South Korea in July.

RUGBY

Sophie Spence Nominated for World Player of The Year

DCU Rugby Development Officer, Sophie Spence, was shortlisted for the World Rugby Women's Player of the Year 2015. Sophie played a key role as Ireland claimed a second Six Nations title in 2015 and was named Women's Player of the Year at the 2015 Rugby Writers of Ireland awards.



UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW

Governance and Leadership

Governing Authority Members October 2014 – September 2015

Dr Martin McAleese	Chancellor	
Prof Brian MacCraith	Chief Officer	
Dr Shirley Coyle	Other Academic Staff	
Ms Mairead Dunne	Ministerial Nominee	
Mr Sean Farren	Ministerial Nominee	
Prof Eithne Guilfoyle	Senior Officer	
Prof Daire Keogh	Linkage Agreement St Pat's	
Ms Orlaith McBride	Artistic, Cultural Interest	
Dr Patrick McDevitt	Linkage Agreement All Hallows	
Dr Andrew McGrady	Linkage Agreement Mater Dei Institute of Education	
Ms Phylomena McMorrow	Non Academic Staff	
Ms Caroline McMullan	Other Academic Staff	
Prof Gary Murphy	Professors / Assoc Prof	
Dr Noel Murphy	Other Academic Staff	
Ms Kim Sweeney	Students Union	First meeting 10/9/15
Mr James Donoghue	Students Union	First meeting 10/9/15
Dr Declan Raftery	Senior Officer	
Ms Cliodhna Daly	Students Union	Last meeting 18/6/15
Mr Ruairi Turbid	Students Union	First meeting 10/9/15
Prof Fiona Regan	Professors/Assoc Prof	
Mr Paul Smith	Non Academic Staff	
Ms Margaret Sweeney	Employers, Trade Unions	
Mr Kenneth Browne	Students Union	Last meeting 7/5/15
Ms Eve Kerton	Students Union	Last meeting 7/5/15
Mr Tom McCarthy	Employers, Trade Unions	
Mr Owen Keegan	Employers, Trade Unions	
Mr Terence O'Rourke	Employers, Trade Unions	
Mr James Corcoran	Alumni Rep	
Mr John Smith	Linkage Agreement St.Pat's	
Ms Brid Horan	Employers, Trade Unions	
Mr Declan Moylan	DCU Educational Trust Nominee	
Mr John Power	Ministerial Nominee	
Ms Lynette Fay	Artistic, Cultural Interest	First meeting 18/6/15
Ms Anne Lodge	Linkage Agreement, CICE	First meeting 18/6/15
Ms Marian Burns	Senior Officer	
Mr Ciaran McGivern	Senior Officer	
Mr Jim Dowling	Senior Officer	

Governing Authority Meetings Attended Oct 2014 – September 2015

Authority Member	Attendance Record
Dr Martin McAleese	6/6
Prof Brian MacCraith	6/6
Dr Shirley Coyle	6/6
Ms Mairead Dunne	1/6
Mr Sean Farren	6/6
Prof Eithne Guilfoyle	6/6
Prof Daire Keogh	5/6
Ms Orlaith McBride	3/6
Dr Patrick McDevitt	1/6
Dr Andrew McGrady	5/6
Ms Phylomena McMorrow	6/6
Ms Caroline McMullan	3/6
Prof Gary Murphy	6/6
Dr Noel Murphy	6/6
Ms Kim Sweeney	2/6
Mr James Donoghue	1/6
Dr Declan Raftery	6/6
Ms Clíodhna Daly	2/6
Mr Ruairi Turbid	1/6
Prof Fiona Regan	5/6
Mr Paul Smith	3/6
Ms Margaret Sweeney	6/6
Mr Kenneth Browne	3/6
Ms Eve Kerton	4/6
Mr Tom McCarthy	6/6
Mr Owen Keegan	4/6
Mr Terence O'Rourke	4/6
Mr James Corcoran	5/6
Mr John Smith	3/6
Ms Brid Horan	5/6
Mr Declan Moylan	5/6
Mr John Power	4/6
Ms Lynette Fay	2/6
Ms Anne Lodge	1/6
Ms Marian Burns	6/6
Mr Ciaran McGivern	5/6
Mr Jim Dowling	4/6

University Financial Report

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

	2015 Euro '000	2014 Euro '000
INCOME		
State Grants	23,409	24,467
Student Fees	61,445	59,461
Other Income	8,352	6,985
	<u>93,206</u>	<u>90,913</u>
St. Patricks College, Drumcondra	20,874	33,347
Mater Dei Institute of Education	2,299	2,651
Research Grants and Projects	50,275	46,059
	<u>73,448</u>	<u>82,057</u>
Total Income	<u>166,654</u>	<u>172,970</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Academic Faculties and Departments	52,952	53,032
Academic and Other Services	5,619	5,686
Premises	7,297	7,456
Amount Allocated for Capital Purposes	3,769	2,702
Central Administration and Services	10,588	9,734
General Educational Expenditure	752	621
Student Services	5,538	5,383
Miscellaneous Expenditure	6,685	6,297
	<u>93,200</u>	<u>90,911</u>
St Patricks College, Drumcondra	20,874	33,347
Mater Dei Institute of Education	2,299	2,651
Research Grants and Projects	50,275	46,059
	<u>73,448</u>	<u>82,057</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>166,648</u>	<u>172,968</u>
Surplus on Activities before Amortisation of Capital Reserves and Grants and Depreciation of Fixed Assets	6	2
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	(7,627)	(19,668)
General Reserve movement	7,627	19,668
Surplus for the year	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

University Financial Report

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

	2015 Euro '000	2014 Euro '000
FIXED ASSETS	<u>267,371</u>	<u>258,642</u>
INVESTMENTS	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on hand and at bank	13,845	13,255
Debtors and Prepayments	41,302	42,429
Stocks	<u>226</u>	<u>142</u>
	<u>55,373</u>	<u>55,826</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	100,212	93,379
Bank Overdraft	<u>-</u>	<u>712</u>
	<u>100,212</u>	<u>94,091</u>
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>(44,839)</u>	<u>(38,265)</u>
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
Creditors due after one year	68	432
	<u>222,465</u>	<u>219,946</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
General Reserve	222,121	219,608
Restricted Reserve	-	-
Revenue Reserve	<u>344</u>	<u>338</u>
	<u>222,465</u>	<u>219,946</u>

Facts and Figures

DCU STUDENT NUMBERS

DCU Students by Qualification Type

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Undergraduate	8183	105	8288
Postgraduate Taught	971	712	1683
Postgraduate Research	485	189	674
Non Award Visitors	308	248	556
Total	9947	1254	11201
Exchange	266		266

**DCU Students registered on 1st March, 2015. Does not include DCU Distance Education Students registered with DCU. Incoming exchange students reported separately. Does not include students registered under the faculty Administration.*

DCU Students by Faculty

Faculty	Full-time	Part-time	Total
DCU Business School	2542	296	2838
DCUBS/HSS	240		240
Engineering & Computing	1559	123	1682
Humanities & Social Sciences	2534	318	2852
Science & Health	3069	500	3569
Non Award Visitors	3	17	20
Total	9947	1254	11201

**DCU Students registered on 1st March, 2015. DCU Distance Education, students under the faculty administration; Royal Irish Academy of Music and exchange Students registered with DCU are not included.*

DCU Open Education Students

	Number		
Postgraduate	134		
Undergraduate	664		
Total	798		

**DCU Students registered on Open Education programmes on 1st March, 2015.*

DCU Students by Gender

	Full-time	Part-time	Oscail	Total
Male	3984	903	508	5395
Female	4257	1087	445	5789
Total	8241	1990	953	11,184

**DCU Students registered on 1st March, 2015. Excludes students under the faculty administration; Royal Irish Academy of Music and exchange Students registered with DCU.*

International Students

	Number	%
Total International Students*	2,156	19.2

**International Students are defined as undergraduate and postgraduate students or students on the Study Abroad Programmes with a Non-Irish Nationality. Nationalities used are those used by the HEA and the CSO and as a result students from Northern Ireland are deemed Irish and therefore not International. Excludes Incoming exchange students. Proportion of students based on total DCU students (excluding Open Education; students under the faculty administration and Royal Irish Academy of Music)*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

October 2014

- 3U Partnership opens China Office.
- DCU becomes an Official Partner to Cricket Ireland.
- Five new world-class SFI research centres announced with DCU involved in four.
- Prof. Iain McMenamin awarded the Political Studies Association of Ireland 2014 Brian Farrell book prize for his book "If Money Talks What Does It Say?"
- DCU honours Nobel Peace Laureate and social entrepreneur, Professor Muhammad Yunus.
- Insight Centre for Data Analytics announces appointment of Oliver Daniels, CEO.
- DCU-DKIT research graduate partnership announced.

- DCU Sports awarded the GOLD Standard of Excellence 2014 under the Ireland Active National White Flag Quality Standards.
- Professor Christine Loscher awarded over €500,000 agri-food research award.
- Chancellor's Medal awarded to Ann Reilly (BSc Health & Society) and Rónán Ó Dálaigh (BA Gnó agus Gaeilge).

November 2014

- Ireland's first Design and Hardware Hackathon takes place at DCU Innovation Campus.
- Professor Martin Clynes, receives the 2014 Nature Award for Mentoring in Science.

December 2014

- €3.7 million gene therapy project, funded under H2020 - Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, and led by Dr Andrew Kellett announced.
- Dr. Triona Lally is awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant.
- CTY Ireland launch first-ever report of Irish teachers' attitudes towards gifted education.



January 2015

- Spinout company, AmbiSense, shortlisted for the Irish Times Innovation of the Year Award
- President's Awards for Research presented to Professor Andy Way, DCU School of Computing and Professor David Collings of DCU Business School.

February 2015

- TEDx DCU 2015 takes place under the theme of Changing Lives – Challenging Perceptions.
- CommuteTY Celebrates 10 Years anniversary
- DCU Honorary Doctorates awarded to Brian Cody, Pearse Lyons and Margaret MacCurtain
- DCU and Church of Ireland College of Education sign linkage agreement
- DCU team wins Sigerson Cup
- Tackle Bullying online resource launched

March 2015

- Nobel Peace Laureate, Leymah Gbowee delivers DCU Nobel Laureate Lecture.
- DCU's Ladies GAA football team win the Lynch Cup
- Professor Eugene Kennedy elected Secretary of the RIA
- DCU Innovation Campus hosts The Beefhack, Ireland's first food hackathon

April 2015

- DCU hosts THE Young Universities Summit
- President's Awards for Engagement announced
- DCU Fujitsu Innovation Awards announced
- Students and societies from DCU take top honours at National Student Media Awards (SMEDIAs) and the Student Society Awards (BICS).
- #HackDCU 2015 takes place at DCU Innovation Campus
- Prof Dermot Diamond awarded the Boyle-Higgins Medal and Lecture Award
- DCU announced as Walking Campus of the Year
- Prometric investment in DCU Assessment Research announced

May 2015

- PCH Hardware Hackathon takes place
- Plans for New Student Centre at DCU Glasnevin Campus announced
- DCU awarded the Amber flag for positive mental health
- Professor Oliver Dolly wins US-Ireland research award

June 2015

- DCU announces purchase of the site of All Hallows College
- Taoiseach opens €50m campus development at St. Patrick's College
- DCU welcomes Professor Tridib Chakraborti for the Ireland – India public lecture.
- Dr Walt Kilroy launches book "Reintegration of Ex-Combatants After Conflict"

July 2015

- Announcement by Translation Machines, a DCU spinout of 15 new jobs
- Professor Pamela Gallagher and Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhicíl receive Fulbright Awards
- DCU Business School and DCU GAA Academy partners with Women's Gaelic Players Association to offer business scholarships

August 2015

- DCU and St. Mary's Community Hospital sign unique partnership agreement
- Amgen, in partnership with DCU, launches science education programme
- DCU Ryan Academy hosts Europass Pitch competition
- ADAPT Centre leads €3 million EU research to make online learning accessible across languages
- Sophie Spence nominated for World Women's Rugby Player of the Year

September 2015

- DCU celebrates 25 Years of Access
- Research partnership secures €3.3m funding for transatlantic pancreatic cancer research
- DCU partners with Croke Park on the Smart Stadium Project helping develop smarter cities
- Nobel Laureate, Thomas Südhof, in DCU to deliver the DCU Nobel Laureate Lecture.



