



Clubs & Societies NEWS

Aontas na Mac Leinn
Ollscoile Luimnigh

University of Limerick
Student Union

Edition 19 - February 2016



SofA Horizons

Edition 19 Semester 2 AY 2015/2016

BY CLODAGH COUGHLAN, MILJAN ELČIĆ, MICHEAL STANLEY, SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURE



This semester has been a cracking one for us here in the Society of Architecture or better known as SofA! Although you might think that the society isn't the one for you, this semester we have broken through the barrier by gaining interest from other societies. Right from the beginning of the semester, through the easy going and down-to-earth attitude of everyone here @SofA, we have held successful guest lectures about life outside architecture, famous projects and more. We have also held portfolio workshops with more to come in semester two. These workshops always come with handy hints and tips for job preps, summer jobs and branching out into other disciplines. If any of the above interest you, do feel free to pop into the SAUL studio at any time and check out our poster displays of upcoming events. Alternatively, drop us an email. You may be surprised how this can apply to you.

Not only have we made it our goal to keep up to date with the outside world of architecture and inspirational new projects from around the world, we love to host social events that have had fantastic turn outs! SofA loves to hold creative events and it's not uncommon for our members to go all out. Check out some of

our photos on our Facebook page to see some serious creativity.

First semester saw SofA's involvement in SoUL Fest, where we set up a lego, k'nex and play-doh counter which has since made a permanent home in the chill-out space in the SAUL studio. Our Halloween party and Mafia Ball were highlights of the semester along with our weekly soccer games. Second semester will see us hosting a Table Quiz and a soccer tournament with other schools of architecture in the country. Our most recent event was our annual trip abroad which found SofA jetting off to Copenhagen for 6 days of sightseeing, architecture and endless fun!

Copenhagen is a vibrant city full of dynamic architecture and home to a diverse number of architecture offices that hold a major presence on the international stage. The likes of young firms such as BIG and JDS that are leading a new architectural movement and the renewal of the city. You found none of our members building hopping all day, however, they were absorbing the eclectic air and atmosphere of the city, which is an

essential part of architectural education. Overall it was a fantastic experience even though we were hiking through what felt like the ten feet of snow that we got that week!

So join SofA if you have an interest in any of the above. Remember being creative, having an interest and having a laugh while meeting new people is what we are all about. Any questions? We'd love to hear from you! Our contact details are below.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sofaul
Email us on: societyofarchitecture@gmail.com



"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit"



I am often reminded of a conversation that I had with a former Outdoor Pursuits Club Member who explained what it was like to wake up in the wee hours of the morning on a mountain slope in Argentina, back in 2003. It was during an Easter break from UL where he and his fellow Club members climbed to the peak of Mount Aconcagua and watched the sun rise over the entire mountain range. It obviously left quite the impression on the intrepid team that the months of planning around countless cups of coffee, the thousands of euros in fundraising, the developmental climbing trips around Ireland, the annual January Winter Mountain training in Scotland and the annual trips to Chamonix in the French Alps had finally paid off. However I was struck by how appreciative he was of the experience and the support he received from his fellow Club committee, members and indeed from within Clubs & Societies. Over the previous 5 years we had begun to develop a new system for Clubs & Societies that empowered the Club to run such an elaborate event and he was probably only in 3rd Year at the time. It was a real life adventure and an experience of a lifetime. He captured it nicely when he mentioned to me about their conversation standing on the Mountains summit as the sense of satisfaction and success oozed through the group and they pondered about what were other students in UL doing at that precise moment in time?

Tangentially to the above account, in January of this year I was at a two day event run by the Board of Irish Colleges, the "National Forum" hosted in Dublin Institute of Technology. Basically it is a society



network & training event but they had a really insightful session with Bob Coggins – Managing Director of Havas Worldwide, Sean Coughlan – Chief Executive of Boards.ie & Lou Conlon – Marketing Manager for the Irish Times where they spoke about Leadership and the theme was "Maximising your skills through societies". A lot of it resonated with me as I interact with and see student creativity and leaders in the making every day. As the 3 took to the stage and each in turn presented,



discussed and took questions from students there was however one quote from Lou Conlon formerly of a DIT Fashion Society and now the Marketing Manager for Ireland's paper of record that resonated loudly. In response to a question

from a student she remarked that "the standard college experience is the classroom, you are already one step ahead, and you are leaders by sticking your heads above the parapet" (by being involved in Clubs & Societies).

Normally when I write a piece for the second semester "Clubs & Society News" I am constantly extolling the virtues of those students that Lou Conlon refers to, and like the intrepid students from the OPC in 2003 to try and convince others of what the "full" University experience actually has to offer. You can read within the covers straight from your fellow students of those Clubs & Societies that were in Japan, Lanzarote, Copenhagen and the two separate groups that were in different parts of Morocco from when the Christmas exams ended to when the new term started.

The one big springboard, perhaps the secret ingredient to the empowerment and growth of Clubs & Societies and indeed student development in the intervening years that enabled groups like the OPC in 2003 and the powerful culture that exists today, was that we moved into a brand new €7 Million Student Centre in the Christmas of 1999/2000. We moved from two very dingy separate shoe boxed sized premises as a Students Union, so those returning at this time of the year 16 years ago inherited a huge opportunity for growth and exploration from the selfless

decision of others years previously. It was indeed a state of the art



Student Centre at that time. Clubs & Societies thrived as we were all now under the one roof, we had assets we never had before, dedicated meeting rooms, a music room, a photographic dark room, a radio room, a common room, a games room, ultra-modern offices and all under the one roof and it created a huge sense of community, friendship, opportunity and excitement that ultimately all students benefited from. In 2000 we actually hosted the Board of

Irish Colleges National Society of the Year awards here in our SU such was prestige that the building was held in at that time on the intercollegiate scene.

16 years later with close to a doubling of the number of Clubs & Societies, double the campus population and more full time Students Union staff in key service provision area's we have simply outgrown the current Student Centre. After all it was designed for a very different landscape back in the mid 1990's. At the time of writing the Student Council have voted to reduce the super majority for referenda from 66% to a simple majority so personally considering the last 2 referenda achieved 62% & 63% of vote respectively I think it's fair to say that it is a significant game changer.

So there have been ALOT of meetings in the background with the senior management of the University, architects, and consultations with students, Students Union staff, Students Union Executive, members of Clubs & Societies and Students Council about the potential a new student referendum offers in April 2016.

The New Referendum at present includes something for everyone

in my own humble view based on my years of employment with the Students Union. Certainly a new proposed state of the art multi-story Student Centre to meet the needs and demands of the Students in 2016 and into the future would be amazing. A long overdue climbing wall for the Outdoor Pursuits Club to replace the one that was demolished years ago with the re-furb' of the PESS Building, a two court handball alley (they have no facilities), student sport specific pitch renovation of Maguire's (the training fields on campus) complete with floodlights and synthetic pitches (the new plan is to include 2 such surfaces due to the continuous flooding of grass facilities during the academic season). Finally the re-furb of the second floor of the Arena once the new Munster Rugby HQ is completed, for the benefit of student martial arts clubs and the UL Dance Club. Incidentally we had a student group last semester that wanted to set up a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club but unfortunately all available training slots are full so that opportunity for another strand of student creativity died – with new facilities comes more opportunity. Interestingly there is a conversation at present that IF the students agree

to all this then the Maguire's based multipurpose pitch facilities would be more than capable of meeting existing student Club demand which opens up time to the non-C&S student for extracurricular activity or intra mural sports as it is termed in the USA. "Intra mural" being class v class for those who perhaps due to academic and other commitments cannot commit to structured formal student clubs activities or don't make the cut after trials for some of the more competitive clubs on campus. Our surveys suggest this figure to be in excess of 40% across those areas.

From my meandering article I think of an Alumnus called Darragh Dolan who woke up on that mountain side 13 years ago and used that extra experience from his time in UL to complement the degree and sell the capabilities of the person, in his subsequent job interviews. The last time we spoke he has done very well for himself professionally and works in Haiti for one of Denis O'Brien's companies'. I think of the Irish Times Marketing Managers analogy for what constitutes a "standard" University experience. I think of the survey I conducted last May with the UL Quality Unit where I asked the Students within the 4000+

membership to tell me what the buzz words "University Experience" actually means to them and within the 66.9% of respondent's some 568 people copper fastened Darragh and Lou's views even more.

So what types of "University Experience" do you the Students of the University of Limerick in 2016 want? I liked this last time we ran a referendum but post-recession it might be better received now, it is a quote from within a former C&S members UL Presidents Volunteer Award application in 2012: "A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit".

Have your say in April 2016 – the referendum is provisionally set for 13th

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Hi All,

Welcome back to what promises to be another great semester for the UL Wolves! While most were warming their toes by the fire over the Christmas our Karate Club were hard at work in the Dojos of Japan, our Architecture Society were studying the buildings of Copenhagen and our Outdoor Pursuits, Surf and Sub Aqua Clubs were practising their skills in the altogether different climes of Morocco and Lanzarote. Our Handball Club alone have kept Ryanair in business this winter ; they are enjoying a stellar year of International success competing in Belgium, Netherlands and Spain and are gearing up for competitions in Minnesota (USA), France and London. Last semester brought us many achievements and rewards and one example

of the fruits of our labour was the resounding success of SoUL Arts Fest 2016 which provided us with a weeklong festival of events that celebrated "all things Society" ; from the presentation of Deb U's Auditors Medal to the RubberBandits to dance-offs in the courtyard, "Tae agus Plé" with Cumann Gaelach, Debates, Games Nights, "Puppies and Chocolate", Karl Spain live in Scholars, an international food fair, Fireaters celebs at our doorstep for Music Soc's Hudson Taylor and the Academic concerts and Tea Parties with our favourite historical figures (Oscar Wilde, Audrey Hepburn & Cleopatra!) amongst other fun events!

Already this semester is looking to be just as successful and progressive as the last. In the coming weeks we will no doubt see more of the renowned Wolfpack allegiance and commitment with a packed timetable of Hustings, C&S Ball, Intervarsities, Charity Week, Easter trips, summer trips, budget submissions and the Board of Irish College Societies Awards (BICS). Your Society members have just returned from the BICS Forum in Dublin where they learnt valuable

methods for running their Societies effectively as well as handy hints and tips for the BICS Awards process. Limerick will be hosting the Awards this year- we are looking forward to giving the colleges of Ireland our famed Wolfpack welcome on the 14th of April (as well as keeping some of the silverware within the county's borders!).

Even without the Society Awards on our doorstep we have a hectic semester ahead. With lectures keeping us on homeland for another few weeks the Wolfpack is busy preparing for exciting domestic events as well as Intervarsities!

plenty of trophies and accolades making their way back to ULSU in the next few weeks. As always I am constantly impressed with the dedication of C&S members to their relevant community; our Kayak club are currently rounding up their alumni to celebrate the club's 40th Anniversary in April whilst also in-training with the hope of winning their 7th National intervarsity in a row.

Let's show them what the Wolfpack has to offer!

As always, anyone with general C&S related queries or questions relating to the: Wolves Vehicles, our personal accident/

travel insurance, Wolf Mascot, Room Bookings, Foreign Trips, Deliveries, Special Applications Fund, Finance, SoUL Arts Festival, BICS Awards/Portfolios/Interviews is always welcome in my office which is located on the first floor of the Student's Union Building.

Beir Bua agus Beannacht!

Michelle
Clubs and Societies
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The New Seamus!

BY AISLING MCCARTHY



Hi Guys. Welcome back after Christmas break, and of course Happy New Year. I hope you all had a great Christmas, and I hope that Santa was good to ye! Anyway, I'm Aisling, and I'm the new Clubs & Societies co-op student.

I suppose I should tell you

a bit more about myself before we find out what I will be getting up to during my time here in the C&S office. So let me introduce myself, my name is Aisling McCarthy and I am currently a second year student here in UL, I am studying New Media and English. It's still hard to believe I'm half way through already! So far so good I guess. I hope what I've learned from my studies will benefit me in my work here and I hope this experience will give me a better idea of where I want to go after college. As at the moment, I'm pretty clueless but sure look. I'm hardly the only one.

I am the new co-op student working for clubs and societies here in UL and I will be here until the end of June. So what will I be doing for the clubs and societies? Well, I will be spending this semester working closely with Michelle and Paul in order to help them keep the Wolf pack healthy. I will be helping them organise Recruitment drive 2 which is coming up in February. I'm also very excited about being involved in organising the BICS Awards ball and of course the Clubs and Societies Ball too. I will be regularly updating our Facebook and YouTube page, and not forgetting our new

Instagram page. I will also be able to assist you with room and vehicle bookings. As well as all these, I will be doing a lot of other exciting bits and pieces, far away in the background. So I'll be here in the clubs & societies office with Michelle, and if you need a bit of help I would be more than happy to lend a hand. If I can't help, we can find someone who can. I will be sitting at the desk, so don't be afraid to ask me anything.

I only started a few weeks ago and I absolutely love the vibrant atmosphere around the students union. It really is a great place to be. Even though it's been a

bit quite without the other students around, I've been kept busy. I'm really looking forward to meeting new faces and getting to know more people around UL.

So, I suppose that's that really. I would like to wish you all the best for this semester ahead and best wishes for 2016. I look forward to meeting more of you wolves throughout my time here, and I encourage more of you guys to come and join the pack!

Trampoline victorious Cheerleading Squad of 2015



What a semester it has been so far! We hope all of you have settled in well. ULTGC really kicked things off with a bang this year! Not only did we travel to Glasgow for our first international competition of the year but we also organised an

awesome, glowtastic UV Paint Party!

Our trainings are back to their usual times (Tuesday 7pm-10pm and Thursday 7pm-8:30pm) so don't be shy and bounce along! We have a range of stations for you guys to try! From

gymnastics to DMT to trampolining.. There is never a dull moment!

For those of you who were at the UV Paint Party this semester we hope you got absolutely covered in paint and had the time of your lives! We hope you loved

it as much as we did. It was an unreal night to say the least. Shout out to the UL Trampoline Club for making it happen! Also, a huge thank you to the PhotoSoc and the International Society for helping us out too. You can check out all your photographs from the night on the UL PhotoSocs Facebook page. (Tag all your friends in the cringest photos you can find!)

Congratulations are in order following our recent Trampoline competition, the Scottish Student Trampoline Open of 2016! ULTGC travelled overseas to Glasgow to compete in one of the biggest European

college competitions of the year. We are proud to say that as a club we did fantastically well and brought home the medals to prove it! The standard was incredibly high so a big well done to our medallists: Brendan Golding - Bronze in Novice Mens Trampolining Rachel Cahalane - Silver in Novice Ladies DMT Joe O'Connor - Bronze in Mens DMT Brian Finnerty - Bronze in Advanced Men DMT Clodagh Doyle - Bronze in Advanced Ladies DMT Brian Finnerty - Gold in Advanced Two Trick

To keep in touch with the club you can visit our Facebook page 'UL Trampoline and Gymnastics Club'. You can also follow us on Instagram at 'ultrampoline' or find us on snapchat with 'ultrampclub'.

Shooting for the Stars

BY ELEANOR WHYTE – PRO OF UL ATHLETICS CLUB

WE'RE only halfway through the academic year and the archery club already has tons to talk about! We do a lot for both the competitive archers amongst us and the casual archers. In this club, we not only participate in competitions and training sessions but also raise money for charity by hosting "Have a go shoot" events where a few members go and set up a shooting range for the public. So far we have done two, the first shoot was in the Boathouse. In this shoot, our members helped raise money for Ronald McDonald House as part of their National Fundraising day, to support the accommodation for the families of long stay sick children at Crumlin Hospital. All ages were welcome and it turned out very successful.

Another group of archers from our club attended another hugely successful shoot, as part of an episode for "At Your Service" with Francis Brennan. This was included as part of a family fun day where people of all ages could take part in the shooting including Francis Brennan himself who turned out to be quiet good! These days are great for members of the club as it helps the members to learn the layout of training sessions and it also teaches you how to teach all different levels. In these shoots, we had archers ranging from beginners to advanced shooters who just wanted to do a fun shooting session. We also had a CPR training session on Wednesday where 5 of our members were trained to be Cardiac

First Responders. This was co organised by a member of our club who was able to set up this training session for Archery and Krav Maga.

The Archery club is forever improving and organising new events. In the midst of all our competitions and charity events, we also organise member events such as our Pub Quiz in the Sports Bar. It was an extremely successful night with many in attendance and lots of bonding. This quiz had many of our returning archery members as well as some of our new members and other guests. Another event that was planned for members showed the attendees how to set up a bow from scratch including preparing a new string, ran by one of our members. We had our annual Pro

Am competition which is an event where a senior member of the club will be teamed with three new members and competed in a club competition. This is a member event that's run during one of our training sessions. This event is largely used to teach new members about competition set up and scoring. By this stage in the year, we have entered our Inter Varsity season which kicked off with our own Inter Varsity where we brought our new members to their 1st competition. This weekend included a college Inter Varsity as well as a fun shoot for anyone who wanted to shoot. People from many local clubs attended ranging from young children to adults, as well as several other college clubs from

around the county. It was a hugely successful event that included the presentation of last year's prizes for the season. We also brought members to another competition in DKIT. Competitions are a great way for budding archers to meet archers from all over the country from all different colleges and we will be attending 4 more competitions this year. If you want to join us we will be beginning training at 7:30pm on the 10th of February

Feel free to like our facebook page UL Archery Club or check out our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/archeryul/>. Or contact us at archery.ul@gmail.com. This club is a great way to make new friends and we

ANYTIME IS SHUTTLE TIME!

BY BRIAN CROWLEY - PRO

A new semester presents new opportunities! With excess of 200 members, UL Badminton Club is one of the most active clubs on campus. The interest has been exceptionally strong from fresher's and international students who have poured through the doors in their dozens each evening to have a laugh, make new friends and most importantly play some badminton!

Training times are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.15pm to 11pm with new

members welcome to join anytime. Come join up at the Semester 2 Recruitment Drive in the Concert Hall in Week 2. If you've missed it, don't worry, it's never too late! Are you an international student looking to join? We'll welcome you with open arms! The UL Badminton Club has always been very popular with international students.

The annual Irish International Student Badminton Tournament (ISBT) hosted by the UL Wolves Badminton Club last October brought

colleges from all over the country and even as far as the Czech Republic together. Over the course of the three days, participants got to play plenty of badminton. The event was graded based on ability and players got to partake in two of either the men's or women's singles, men's or women's doubles or mixed doubles.

The night time socialising saw students "gettin' jiggy with it" in Crush87 nightclub, and swamping the Stables Club in fancy dress associated with this year's

theme of board games. Participants' appetites were also well looked after with a delicious cooked lunch and dinner in the Stables Club each day over the weekend. On the final day of the event (Bank Holiday Monday), participants played one extra round in each event and then watched the finals of each event while eating pizza.

Anyone interested joining the club is advised to request membership on the UL Wolves site and turn up to training on Monday

or Wednesdays from 9.15pm. Membership for undergraduate students is just €10 for the year with equipment provided on the night if you don't have your own. Like their Facebook page (UL Badminton Club) to keep up to date with what is happening in the club and email ulbadmintonclub@gmail.com if you have any queries. It's never too late to join so head on down to the Sports Arena and join in on the fun!

Dancing into 2016

BY KAREN GOLTZ, CHAIRPERSON



Picture by James Mac Inerney

Are you ready for the new year? Dance UL is back and rearing to go! After finishing off an incredible first semester, we're incredibly excited to welcome all those interested in busting out their best moves. Last semester our members performed

at several different outings, including the UL Open Days and Queer Bash; participated in the All Ireland Dance Experiment at the Helix with other dance societies from all over Ireland; and put on an amazing end-of-semester showcase with routines they

learned in classes. We're looking forward to an even more exciting semester, and invite everyone to join us for the fun. We offer classes to ALL LEVELS of dancers, in hip-hop, contemporary, jazz and Irish dancing. We also have Zumba classes to keep

you fit and active! Be sure to look for us at the Clubs and Societies Recruitment Drive, where you can sign up to be a member and learn more about what our society has to offer. You can also check out Dance UL on Facebook, where we're constantly

posting updates, timetables and important information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at danceul@gmail.com. Come dance with us!

Why Kayaking?

BY SAM O'CONNOR, ULKC POLO OFFICER



It's not often you can say that joining a club or society changed your life incalculably. Since I joined the Kayak Club, the sport has taken me to the most scenic areas all over Ireland, across Europe and hopefully further afield. Kayaking has something for everyone, whether you're into team sports, racing or just hanging out with a really cool bunch of people, kayaking has it all!

First Semester Review

After our recruitment drive in the first semester, our pool sessions had a massive influx of new members

wanting to try out kayaking. Over the space of the first few weeks of the college semester members were taught basic skills, some even learned to roll their capsized kayaks!

The Kayak club kick-started the first weekend away of the semester with their hugely successful trip to the sandy shores of Lahinch, County Clare. The trip involved over 70 ULKC paddlers trying their hand at surf kayaking. The waves proved a challenge to the beginners but all succeeded in surfing a kayak for their first time on water outside of the pool. The night out consisted of a few social drinks in the hostel and then heading to the local nightclub for a night out!

The club's first large scale white-water trip came in the form of a weekend away to The Wicklow Mountains where paddlers

of all abilities tested their skills on rapids for a whole weekend. Both river-leaders and beginners brushed up on their paddling as the rivers formed new challenges for those who had never experienced them before.

In amongst our big trips we had the tri-weekly pool sessions, club swap nights, roller jam, paddling day trips and also our weekly beginner's whitewater trip!

What's planned for the second semester?

Inter-varsities took place from the 5th-7th of February in GMIT Mayo. This is the largest student kayak event in the whole country, with over 400 students attending. ULKC have won their 7th consecutive inter-varsities trophy. It does not matter what your ability is, if you come to Varsities you WILL represent the college in at least one discipline! There is also a fancy dress night out with the theme being Heroes and Villains. #7inrow

The club's 40th anniversary is this year and will be celebrated with a black tie event in the South Court hotel. There will be over 250 members from the past 40 years of the club's existence, guaranteed to be a great night.

The club's annual pilgrimage to the Alps is guaranteed to be a trip of a lifetime. This year we will be hitting up the Slovenian and French Alps in a 3 week trip full of banter, paddling and some more banter! Members of all paddling abilities going on the Alps trip will experience the crystal clear whitewater and the beautiful scenery that's on offer in some of the world's best paddling destinations!

Contact us at: ulkayak@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook at: University of Limerick Kayak club

HULA HOOPS, JUGGLING BALLS AND A YOYO

Just over an hour ago I was at my first training session with the Circus Society and the whole time I couldn't help shake the feeling this was something very different. There was a consortium of equipment including hula hoops, juggling balls and a yoyo, there were several bearded men, someone called Vilus, one guy was wearing what could only be described as XXXL parachute pants and in the background a selection of pop punk and alternative music played. In fact I think that described it best, alternative. Everyone was very clearly an individual and yet we got along fine together. For the first few minutes (definitely no longer than an hour) I fumbled with my balls (no jokes please) and every time I dropped/flung a ball a few metres away from me it was quickly retrieved and chucked back to me with a friendly smile. Everyone was polite and the more knowledgeable members shared tips and pointers. I even ended up able to juggle not one, not two but three balls. More so I took part in two person juggling and didn't kill someone. All of this was a shock to me, a kid who growing up, attempted juggling plenty of times and was scolded probably every single one of those times

because I would throw things in the air and they would land/hit/collide/smash and crash into something valuable. But in the Kilmurry Village Hall there were no flatscreens, no ming dynasty vases and no puppies for me to cause harm to. So after my hour of fumbling I managed a solid ten seconds of juggling without dropping a ball or chucking it into someone's face. I had made progress.

Members came and went as they pleased and everything was as relaxed as the man in the XXXL parachute pants, we chatted a little, shared names (this was where I learnt of Vilus) and joked about the changing of the society to the Paramore appreciation society upon the realisation we were all humming along to Haley Williams' vocals. It was to sum it up, fun. I got to learn something new, it was quick, I made some friends (hopefully), I was tired by the end (I'm not unfit I swear) and I had fun laughing at my constant failure and even more when I finally succeeded. So now I'm looking forward to learning diabolo, unicycling, how to be a clown and the very many other things encapsulated by circus society.

It wasn't long ago (one semester

to be exact) that Michelle Whyte (C&S coordinator) and Paul Lee (C&S development manager) would joke about a juggling society, it was their go to imaginary society, they even laughed about it during Orientation week. But that same week one group was asked is there any society they'd like to see in UL this year. Ciara Brien spoke up and said cheerfully, "A juggling society". Naturally the C&S department assumed she was in on the joke but at the end of her orientation she came up to Paul Lee and was in talks of setting up UL's first ever Circus society. A first year, before the semester had even started, was already paving her way to president's position of UL's quirkiest society and with good reason too because shockingly we are one of the last colleges to have a circus society in Ireland. A few weeks later the society had a committee and were beginning to meet up and this semester it is fully realised and building momentum. So unfortunately for Paul and Michelle they're now going to have to find a new imaginary society to laugh at because the Circus society is real and it's here to stay.

So like us on Facebook at UL Circus Soc, join up on the wolves site and



UL handball travelling to the four corners of the global alley

BY DANIEL RELIHAN, PRO



It was an eventful and busy semester for the UL handball club. It started in the cold climate of Calgary, Canada

in August and ended in the cold alley of Ballinahinch, Co. Tipperary with several stop in between. Competitions

ranged from club run tournaments to the World Handball Championships and included the Golden Gloves, two Irish Collegiate Intervarsities, three European One Wall Pro stops and four of our own tournaments. Players got the chance to travel to parts of Kilkenny, Belfast, Wexford, Limerick, Tipperary, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands and Canada throughout these series of tournaments. It was the busiest semester since the foundation of the club and also the most successful. Fifty medals were claimed across all major tournaments including ten World

medals, fourteen European medals and twenty-three Intervarsity medals. This semester promises to be even busier.

The semester starts off with the biggest Intervarsity on the calendar in Kingscourt, Cavan. This kicks off a whistle stop tour around Ireland, Europe and Northern America for the club. London, Minneapolis, Northern France, Dublin, Cork, Northern Italy, Inis Mór, Roscommon, Galway, Canada are all included in the clubs trips for this semester. The club will also be running its own series of tournaments in Limerick and Tipperary.

The Limerick Metropolitan Handball Series is run by the UL Handball Club and is the only Series run by a club in Ireland.

The club will also have a series of social outings and fundraising events in the semester. We welcome all levels of ability from beginners to senior players. For further information on the club visit ulhandball.com, UL Wolves Handball Club on facebook or email ulhandball@gmail.com. We hope to see you during the semester.

UL GAA CLUB

In what proved to be a building league campaign, UL secured two league titles. The senior camogie team are undefeated after winning all group games to set up a final against Maynooth University who proved stiff competition. Our camogie girls held out to win by 1-11 to 2-4 and capture their third Division 1 title in a row. Our senior hurlers won all but one of their Division 1 group games, reaching a quarter final and losing out to

Carlow IT. Our senior ladies footballers cruised through the Division 1 group stages undefeated, but met stiff competition in the league semi and lost out to DCU in what was their first real test of the year. Our senior footballers are making great progress and 2 wins from 3 in the Division 1 league saw them qualify for a quarter final where they were beaten by UUJ. Both the fresher 1 hurlers and footballers won 2 of their 3 Division 1 group games but the

hurlers lost out to UCC in the quarter final, while the footballers lost out to NUIG in the quarters. The fresher 2 hurlers captured their 'B' league title with an undefeated run though the league and a final win over UCC. The fresher 2 footballers qualified from their Fresher Division 2 group and after a quarter final win, lost out to CIT in the semi-final. The intermediate ladies footballers won 2 from 3 in the Division 3 league but were

defeated by DCU in the league semi-final. The intermediate hurlers had a tough run in the Munster intermediate league securing a win and a draw which wasn't enough for them to qualify for the knock out stages. The intermediate footballers struggled through the intermediate league failing to secure a win which ended their league campaign. The intermediate camogie team won 3 of 4 games in the Division 2 group stages, but with only one

team to qualify, didn't reach the knock out stages. The junior hurlers won 2 and drew 1 of their 4 Munster junior hurling league games, this wasn't sufficient to see them through to the knock out stages. With championship still to come, the league will be seen as building blocks for all of UL's teams, so it's back to the pitch and gym for players as the club prepares for what promises to be an interesting and exciting championship campaign.





'The hiking-climbing-caving-mountaineering- orienteering-all-round-good-craic-club (i.e. the OPC)'



Wowzers, what a first semester that was! With over 500 members, the club has gone from strength to strength. A rock climbing trip to Wales in October and the more recent mountaineering trip to Morocco have both taken place and have been hugely successful. We back home were kept updated with the goings-on of each trip through very descriptive yet hilarious blogs in what I can hope was English or else there was something in the water that the lads were drinking. Normally the club would go to Scotland for the winter mountaineering trip but we decided on a change of scenery this year and head off to Morocco. The lads jetted off to the African nation on January

3rd for 9 days. After two flights and a long bus journey from Marrakesh to the Atlas Mountains followed by a 6 hour trek of 3200 metres, they arrived at their accommodation; staying with a shepherd called Hassan with no Internet access or anything of the sort. Nevertheless they were well-prepared for the challenge that lay ahead. Mount Toubkal; the highest mountain in North Africa. Some of our members got to try some ice climbing not dissimilar to their shenanigans in the Alps over the summer which received much praise by our blogger and Climbing Officer Ryan O'Hanlon (who sacrificed the start of his co-op in London to go on the trip). A few 'sickies' were incurred along the way but nonetheless the

trip was a huge success.

In all the time I've been in the club this is the first time that two foreign trips have been organized in the first semester. A small gang of members travelled to Wales in October for a long weekend for some rock climbing. The odd comical blog was published by our somewhat sane members of the daily activities. It was also a chance for international students who were only with us for the semester to go on a foreign trip to practice, improve and perfect their mad climbing and bouldering skillz. The club has also participated in the G-Force Climbing Competition at the Gravity Climbing Wall and the interest in participation in the club is increasing every year. This semester we also held a climbing competition or rather OPClympics as it was also known and we have also done a swap night with the kayak club whereby members of the Kayak Club joined our club and got to try a bit of climbing at our bouldering wall and, in turn, some of our club members joined their club and attended a pool session of theirs.

We haven't forgotten about hiking,

caving and orienteering. We have been very active in these activities last semester. A small group of members jaunted off to Banna Strand in Kerry for an orienteering competition in which they did very well. Aren't we class like. We had our weekend trip to Letterfrack which was on rail as it is every year. The semester ahead promises to be as exciting and action-packed as last semester with an Easter climbing trip to Sardinia planned and a caving trip to Yorkshire as is an annual tradition. Our climbers are also preparing for climbing intervarsities which are being held both at Gravity Climbing Wall and Awesome Walls in Dublin so we wish them all the best of luck with that. We also got club fleeces and t-shirts designed for our club members. They're pretty slick if I say so myself and it was a nice gift for our fellow International students to bring home with them. We're looking forward to next semester so come join us.

You can sign up by pre-registering on the Wolves website under the clubs section and then come to us at the recruitment drive and we will approve your membership. Costs €5 to join. Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @ulopc also.

Skydive UL off to a great start (besides the weather)!!

BY CORMAC DALY (EVENTS OFFICER)

Semester one was great for UL's skydiving club. Over 50 students completed tandem jumps at 14 thousand feet and another 30 students did their first jump course with follow up static line jumps at 3 thousand feet, With 5 other students receiving A licences.

UL is the largest and most active skydiving club of the 2 in Ireland, ourselves and UCC. For all students who missed out on signing up in semester one or for all new students coming to UL for only semester 2 come to the recruitment drive which will be held in the UL sports arena week 2. Being a part of the club means you have the opportunity to jump out of perfectly good airplanes at a discounted price!

This semester the club will be offering tandem skydives (where you are attached to a highly experienced instructor) and a skydiving first jump course (this is where you learn the basics of skydiving and how to skydive safely). This course includes your first static line jump. Just like last year the club will also be running weekly packing classes which give you the opportunity to learn how to pack a parachute. At the end of May skydive UL will be running our annual skydiving training camp. This trip will be 2

weeks long in the sunny south of France. On the trip students can go from 1 jump to being a licensed skydiver. There will be more information about the skydiving trip throughout the semester and during the information night we will be going through the costs involved along with being able to talk with people from last year's France trip.

For more information, find us on Facebook or come to the information night where you will be able to talk students who are currently part of the club. So what are you waiting for! This is an opportunity of a lifetime, sign up on The UL Clubs & Soc's website and come along to our packing classes.

www.Facebook.com/skydiveUL
skydiveu@gmail.com



Kick-starting the New Year

BY MEGAN BARRY, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



TRAINING SESSION: JOSH BYRNE AND DOMINIC FALVEY

The second semester is on the rise and our wolf pack is ready to start howling again. If you're looking for a club to join, that provides you with an enjoyable workout and allows you to let loose and have fun at the same time, then we welcome you with open arms. We had an extremely successful first semester with medals being fought for left right and centre. Many of our members placed in competitions all over Ireland in the last couple of months, this includes the Connacht's in Galway and the Munster's (ITF Ireland), in Little Island, Cork. At the ITA Irish Championship and the RITA open, we also managed to win a few more fights for our club. We are a close club, and during the competitions, we support and cheer on our team mates until our voices are raw. If you're a beginner there's no need to fret over the thought of sparring in tournaments, there is no pressure in the club and we'd be delighted just to hear you shouting the other members on.

Alongside the many tournaments, we also had a grading in November for some of our members. The grading took place in the training hall, located in the PESS Building on campus. We had some of our new white belts grade for their yellow belt and

we even had some of our more experienced students go for their next grade. The grading was very successful and everybody preformed to the best of their abilities. During the grading there were many parts to the sport that had to be tested, such as: hand and foot techniques; patterns; sparring; self-defence; and board breaking. The standard was very impressive and all participants deserved what they had worked for.

We train three times a week: Monday at 18:00; Wednesday at 21:00; and Thursday at 18:50. All training sessions take place in the PESS Building on the UL campus. An average class usually has a mix of some traditional hand and foot techniques, some sparring and some general fitness. We occasionally do self-defence classes along with classes that will include jumping techniques and patterns, which are needed to grade through the belts. The instructors are very clear and easy to understand. For beginners, if you are unsure of any movement demonstrated in the class the instructors will have no problem going through it with you. We are a very friendly club and would love to see a few more faces at training.

If you'd like to get in contact with us or

ask us any questions you can find us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/UL.TaeKwonDo or you can send us an email through ul.taekwondo@gmail.com.



The Dive Tribe

In January each year UL Sub Aqua Club (ULSAC) heads off on an SCUBA diving pilgrimage to Lanzarote for a week with a group of very enthusiastic trainees in tow. Each year we bring the newest members here to experience warm weather, balmy waters and amazing dive sites in an opportunity for them to develop their SCUBA skills. Up until now our trainee members would have been through a series of lectures, pool sessions and a handful of open water dives in the Atlantic, in preparation for the trip. With 13 members from ULSAC going, we decided to expand the trip this year and extended an invite to other regional clubs we had met at the Intervarsity event earlier in the semester. With an additional 5 divers from UCC Sub Aqua Club, this year's trip was undoubtedly a memorable one.

Early in the morning on the 3rd of January, our 13 divers made their way to the airport in the mild miserable mist that was depressing the nation. A four hour flight later and

we couldn't have been further from Ireland's cold wet misery. Arriving at the holiday villa located directly on the beach, factor 50 was slapped on. We were ready for the 25°C sunshine! The first day was taken at a leisurely pace. Settling in and having a group briefing on the weeks' planned activities took place. The more experienced members shared their knowledge of the locality, gained from previous trips. Beyond that sun, sea and SCUBA was the order of the day!

The following morning diving began and continued on until Saturday morning. By diving two to three times a day novices gain a vast amount of experience and familiarity with SCUBA equipment. We would don our gear at the front of the villa; walk across the footpath and onto the beach. The water a pleasant 20°C and visibility far better than what we're used to in Ireland. We would be in the sea before jackets had time to deflate and descend into a vastly different world. There were huge

quantities and varieties of fish, from the very boring Bream to the super flamboyant Ornate Wrasse and everyone's favourite the Canary Damsel. There was octopus and Cuttle Fish, Rays and Angle Shark. Reefs and wrecks littered with predators like Groupers and Barracuda.

A highlight, from the variety of dives, among trainees is always the first night dive. A seemingly crazy idea, of diving in the dark with a flashlight, lets us see another wondrous underwater world that just isn't visible in daylight. The sunset and its amazing colours projected across the horizon each night occurred at approx. 6pm. Diving after this time turned out to be awesome with various fish illuminating and catching the eye. By far the most amazing sight was the natural Bioluminescence lighting up the darkness caused by our fin movements when the torches were turned off briefly.

Once dried off, we took the opportunity to soak up some of the culture



Lanzarote had to offer and went for dinner a couple of nights. Unexpectedly we got to experience the coming of the Three Wise King's Parade through the local town. Each year this trip is the most fantastic event for a variety of factors, namely; our trainees get great experience amazing dives in a comfortable environment, the ability to

socialise and bond with other members and it takes the edge off heading into a new semester of study. Where else would you be in January but jumping into 20°C waters explore the sea life within Lanzarote's shipwrecks. Check us out @ <http://subaqua.csn.ul.ie/>



Windsurfing is a Breeze

BY ELEANOR COLLINS, SECRETARY OPC

As well as being a hilarious headline it's also the truth. Really, the wind does most of the work and you just glide across the water majestically. Doesn't that sound like fun? You're right, it does. To further sweeten the deal, 2016 marks ULWC's 30th anniversary so there's no better time to get involved.

We welcome everyone to join, whether they have years of windsurfing experience behind them or whether they hadn't heard of windsurfing before reading this article. Most of our members join as beginners and roughly half of the members on each trip are complete beginners so all levels are catered for. You may have noticed that the UL campus doesn't provide the most suitable environment for windsurfing so we base our activities in the glorious Castlegregory in Co. Kerry. Coaching is provided by former professional windsurfer Jamie Knox, a colourful character that runs a watersports school and shop in the area. He will have you soaring across the bay in no time, while maintaining his signature coaching style and always interestingly phrased instructions.

A typical Windsurfing Club trip involves leaving from UL on a Friday evening and heading down to Kerry for a weekend of daytime windsurfing and nighttime socialising. We stay in a hostel located over Fitzmaurice's Bar in the heart of Castlegregory, an ideal spot to mix with the locals



and get to know your fellow windsurfers. A trip usually costs €35 which includes transport, accommodation, food, gear and instruction but the memories are priceless. We also throw in fun and friendship for free so you really can't afford not to go. We normally go windsurfing every couple of weekends but fret not, we have a weekly club social night to cure your ULWC withdrawals between trips. This normally involves having a big windy get together on a Friday and

then heading to The Stables for international night which never fails to entertain. We also mix it up from time to time, with last semester's social nights including a club cinema night and a potluck where we got to sample each other's dishes from around the world, filling our stomachs with food and our hearts with windy love.

Intrigued? Drop by our stand at the recruitment drive and say hi or check us out on Facebook at 'ULWC University of Limerick Windsurfing Club'

for more info and to see some pictures of the club in action. You can also get in contact by dropping us a line at ulwc.committee@gmail.com. You have nothing to lose by joining except the €5 membership fee but that's a small price to pay to be a part of UL's windiest club. You also get bragging rights because windsurfing is cool and will sound impressive when you tell your friends. Joining the Windsurfing Club could be the best decision you ever make so you can't take the

risk of not joining. Maybe you'll blow everyone away with your windsurfing skills. You could be the Bill Murray of windsurfing and not even know it yet. At the very least you'll have a great weekend away in Kerry and make new friends so you might as well go for it. In case you need some final convincing, here's my last attempt: You can't spell windsurfing without 'win' and in ULWC, everyone's a winner. My work here is done.



Successful Semester for UL Ladies Rugby Club.

BY UL LADIES RUGBY CLUB PRO.



ULLR Division 2 team in action against IT Tallaght in October, winning 34-10.

We kicked off last semester with not only two new coaches, but two teams. Both our Division 1 and Division 2 team kick their league title races off

to a great start by winning all of their matches so far, with the Division 1 team beating Waterford IT, UCC and Cork IT. While the Division 2 team overcoming

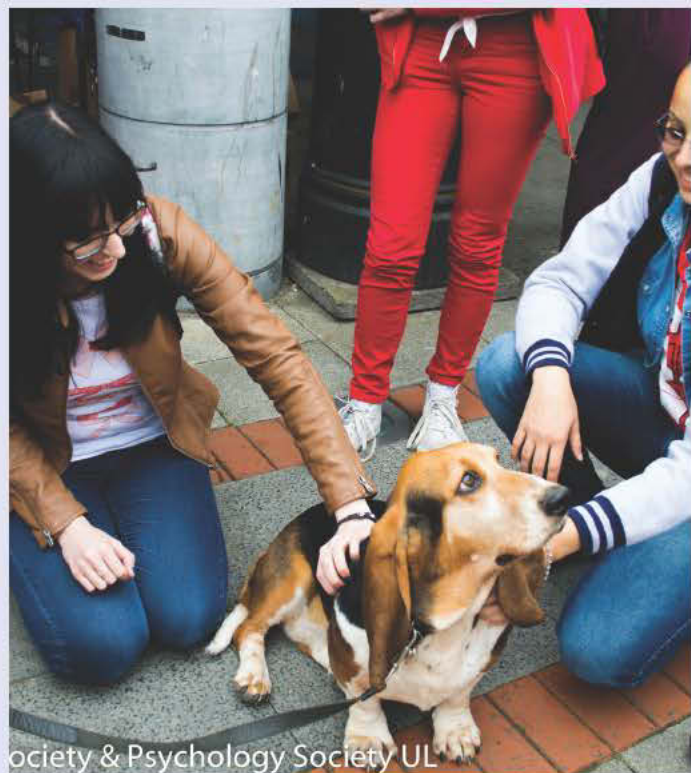
IT Tallaght, Maynooth University and DCU just before Christmas on a score line of 38 – 0. These results show the hard work put in by both our old

and new players, with the competition for positions on both teams stronger than ever. We are looking forward to continuing this winning streak with both our final league games this semester and intervarsities in March. We would like to thank everyone who supported our hypnotist night with the basketball club, which was a huge success despite the rain. I would like to congratulate Paula McCarthy who represented Ireland in the tag rugby world cup in Australia in December. Just before Christmas we said goodbye to some of our Erasmus students who had joined the ULLR family this year and we hope to welcome many more new players to the team this year. We hope to see everyone at the recruitment drive on Wednesday of week 2.

Animal Welfare Society: Spreading a Positive Message!

BY MARIA MCGRATH, CHAIRPERSON

We had a fantastic semester going from strength to this Autumn. The society strength and we hope that



society & Psychology Society UL

this will continue for a long time. We are a society with a heartfelt cause to encourage the positive treatment of animals. This semester we began by having a couple of getting to know one another evenings - coffee and hot chocolate in The Scholars was the perfect start. During this we were able to discuss what all the members wanted to get out of their involvement with the society: what issues they wanted to help with and what activities they wanted to do. This was followed with an enjoyable yet interesting movie night where we watched the documentary 'Blackfish' which follows the controversial captivity of killer whales for the theme park, SeaWorld. We raised awareness regarding the issues across different uses

of animals in entertainment across the world and the members all found this information surprising. This was furthered by an inspiring talk we received from the Animal Rights Action Network whose mantra "Make Cruelty to Animals History" was an idea that we were able to share. John Carmody who runs ARAN spoke to us about circuses, hare cursing and many other issues and really encouraged everyone to be confident in standing up for issues that they feel are unjust. Our next activity was hugely successful as it attracted a lot of attention on campus due to the event being called 'Puppies and Chocolate'. It would appear that everyone loves puppies and chocolate!!! Volunteers from Limerick Animal Welfare were

kind enough to agree to bring some of their rehomed dogs from LAW to visit UL. Many happy faces and wagging tails could be seen that day and even better we conducted a bucket collection which raised no less than €344.45 and had an additional €150 cheque to present to LAW for a fundraiser we held for them last semester. On top of this, the volunteers left with a van load of donations of food, dog beds and blankets for all the animals at the sanctuary. We got to visit these animals at the sanctuary a couple of weeks later. Despite being a very rainy Sunday morning, all of the society were in high spirits with the prospect of all the furry friends waiting for us! After a day of kitten cuddling and dog walking we all returned home very happy to

see the worthy cause that our fundraising efforts had gone to. Already we are bustling with ideas for the semester ahead and we would love to see some new faces next semester. So please don't be shy to contact us via emailing animalwelfaresocietyul@gmail.com or through our Facebook page UL Animal Welfare Society to find out about our weekly activities. The more the merrier! And a big thanks to The Scholars for always being great hosts, Michelle and Paul for all their continued help, ARAN and LAW for the work they do every day and all of our members who understand the value of what we are trying to do. Naturally I would like to thank my committee for all their effort this semester, it was very much appreciated. See you all next semester!



Addicted to Craic? Join the Comedy Society

BY DARA FITZGERALD P.R.O



The Comedy Society's 5th birthday will be marked in 2016, and what a long way we have come. From our humble beginnings in 2011, we have grown year on year to become the award winning society we are today. Last year marked our most successful year yet. We hosted (and won) the very first Comedy Society Intervarsity, featuring teams from Trinity, UCD and UCC. It was for this event we were also honoured by being awarded the "Best Event" as part of the UL C&S awards, which earned us a place representing UL at the

BICS, the All-Ireland Societal awards. One of our members, Stephen Ryan, also got to the Chortle student awards finals for the second year in a row, the UK's premier student competition

Last semester was a very busy one for us as well. We ran four of our popular Stand-up Comedy Shows in The Scholar's Bar, including a showcase of first time comedians breaking their comedy cherry in front of a packed crowd. We also arranged for a performance from one of Ireland's best comedians Karl Spain,

marking one of the highlights of this year's Soul week festival which also included a live Improv workshop in the SU. Our very own quiz night dubbed "Big Fat Quiz of the Semester" was also a fun event with the panellists



ripping on each other while the crowd won great prizes. Now to what we do: We run two workshops a week. Our ever popular Stand-up Comedy Workshops run every Tuesday night at 7pm, so if you want to dip your toe into the Comedy world, or have some stuff you'd like to try out, then come along. We also run Improvisational workshops at 7pm on Monday nights, you if you want to learn and

play games a-la "Who's line is it anyway" and "Saturday night Live" then bate down. These workshops culminate in either a Stand-up comedy show or an Improv show, so you want to take part then attend. We will also run other shows or specials as the semester progresses, so keep an eye out! Trips to a major comedy gig are also part of the society experience, we'll be taking deposits early in



the semester. Look us up on facebook, tweet us at @UL_Comedy or email us at ulcomedsociety@gmail.com for more information. See ye soon

“TÍR GAN TEANGA, TÍR GAN ANAM” AN CUMANN GAELACH TAKES SEMESTER ONE BY STORM

LE AEDÍN NÍ THIARNAIGH

Bhí seimeastar thar a bheith rathúil ag an gCumann Gaelach sa chéad sheimeastar i mbliana, mar is eol do na daoine ar fad a ghlac páirt linn ar fad inár n-imeachtaí éagsúla.

Ó Dhaingean Uí Chúis go dtí an Oireachtas agus chuide “Tae agus Plé” idir an dá linn, thugamar loads of opportunities d’ár mbaill páirt a ghlacadh agus an teanga a labhairt lena chéile i suíomh

neamhfhoirmiúil, cairdiúil.

Bíonn cúpla imeachtaí i gcónaí, áfach, a sheasann amach ó gach rud eile agus ceann amháin dóibh siúd dúinn is ea “Seachtain SoUL” ach go háirithe. D’oibríomar i gcomhpháirt le Trad Soc agus leis an Tea Appreciation Soc chun imeacht speisialta “Tae agus Play Music” a chur ar siúl, in ionad ár normal weekly event “Tae agus Plé” a bhíonn ar siúl go seach-

tainiúil. Tháingamar ar fad le chéile ar feadh dá uaire chun seisiún ceart a bheith again i Seomra na Gaeilge (Seomra atá oscailte an lá ar fad, by the way). Chun cur leis sin, bhí tráthnóna unreal againn amuigh sa Courtyard ag an bhféile SoUL week ag roinnt tatúnna Gaeilge is ag labhairt le chéile duine a chas orainn.

Thar aon ní eile however, ní féidir liom leanúint gan Oireachtas na Samhna a lua. Ní mór dom a rá chomh maith, it’s not the Dáil people, let’s make that clear. Is féile ceoil traidisiúnta é Oireachtas na Samhna a bhailíonn Gaeilgóirí na tíre le chéile chuile bliain chun ceol a sheinnt, Gaeilge a labhairt agus cóisir mór milteach bheith again go dtí the crack of dawn! Bhí an t-ádh linn slua de 20 daoine a thógáil linn i mbliana agus táimid ag tnúth leis an gcéad

bliain eile already!

So tá seimeastar a dó ag bagairt orainn agus tá cúpla surprises in store daoibh go léir ó thaobh an Chumainn de. Beidh Seachtain na Gaeilge 2016 ag teach agus ag tógáil léi an “Muc Run 2016”, Bál na Gaeilge, Réabhlóid an

tSamhraidh agus go leor leor imeachtaí eile! Glac páirt linn. Celebrate your language.

Bí bródúil asti agus above all, bain sult asti.

Tuilleadh eolais le fáil ag www.facebook.com/cumannngaela-chul.



Cinema should make you forget that you are sitting in a theatre

BY EILIS WALSH P.R.O., UL FILMMAKING SOC

A quote by Roman Polański on how film should make you feel. This is what we’re trying to emulate at UL Filmmaking. Established last semester, we are new to the scene, but are no less excited about gaining new members and we’ve genuinely got a lot of things planned for semester two. Last year we introduced our members to the world of filmmaking, literally, lights, camera and action. Our talented committee worked tirelessly to attract members to the society, putting together PowerPoints on storytelling and lighting and carried out workshops on creative writing. Seeing films together was a huge must for us. Together we watched Macbeth and Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Then in November, we held our first major event: a lock-in the Students’ Union. It was of the nicest atmospheres I’ve ever experienced. Doing what we all loved, watching films, discussing them and having a good time. We wanted our society to be something you go to when you want to be cheered up, to have a lively debate or just to watch films.

Semester two is where we are going to up our game. As soon as humanely

possible we will be purchasing our own equipment for all our members to use. With that equipment we’re going to do something else: make a film. Or two, depending on how many ideas we get. So because of this the society is really excited to call on those of all talents, skills and interests to get involved. There multiple jobs needed to be done when writing, organizing and filming your own films so we would love to have your help. We’re so excited for this. Who knows? We may enter it into a festival?

Speaking of festivals, that’s another goal for UL Filmmaking Society 2016. Attending film festivals. So if you are aware of any upcoming events please give us a shout and we can see what we can do. Other planned trips include trips to studios and literally anything film related. We want to know about it all!

We’re also planning to: JUST WATCH FILMS. Yes that’s right we want to screen more films, because there is nothing better than sitting down with almost limitless junk food around you watching something you’ve never seen before. We’re hoping to get the latest releases possible so the more

members we get, the better. We know for a fact that Irish people have a gift for storytelling and it’s our aim to bring these rich, captivating and beautiful stories to the screen. Can you help? Your support and input is greatly appreciated. A graduate of UL, Niall Murphy has gone on to set up one of Ireland’s leading film websites, Scannain. Who knows? That could be you someday if you give it a try. You

might discover a talent you’ve never known about. As P.R.O I’ve learned a lot more about the technicalities of filmmaking. A big positive was learning this information among people who have the same interests as you.

So whether it’s holding a camera, writing a script, doing an actor’s makeup or just watching it all happen, why not try UL Filmmaking?



Welcome to the Skynet Project!

BY CATHAL FERRIS, SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

So, have you an interest in pressing all the right buttons? Want to share your time with other people that can also press all the right buttons? If so, consider joining us, and you'll be on the winning side after the machine wars occur..

Skynet is the UL Computer Society, and we've been in existence since 1992. We've grown from a system running on a computer under a desk in Plassey

Village, to the current setup where we've got our systems running on a cluster of servers in an air conditioned room in the Student's Union. We have always been run by students for students

On the computing side, we provide email addresses of your choice, web hosting that you can control that you can install pretty much whatever you want there, and we provide the ability

to put your computing ideas into practice. We also host the websites and mailing lists for a good few of the Clubs and Societies, as well as hosting the ULWolves website itself.

We regularly have meet ups on campus, giving us opportunities to run through our projects for the semester. These include visits to places of computing significance in Ireland and the UK, a Skynet Android app,

Oculus Rift projects, as well as general tech talks - all usually accompanied by tasty pizza. We also are in regular contact with the other Irish university computer societies and we meet every so often with them for chats and more. To join, either call up to our stand during the Orientation Drive, or apply for membership through the Wolves site.

UL Fan Forum Society

BY DARA O'DWYER, PRESIDENT

UL Fan Forum Society is a wonderful opportunity for like-minded people to get together and celebrate the things they love, whether it be film, tv-shows, comics, and anything in between. For many, it is a fantastic chance to get to know new people, and have the chance to show their enthusiasm in a fun and friendly atmosphere. Our meetings are always held in Red Raisins every Thursday at 6pm, where all are welcome to drop by and take part in discussions, quizzes, games and events. It's a brilliant way to make friends with people who share the same passions as you do, and have a fun time doing so. The best aspect of being in this society is the long-lasting friendships that come out of getting involved with our meetings, and we are very happy to say that the past year has brought us many new friends, both Irish and international, and we're really glad they have enjoyed

their experience in Forum so much.

Semester One was kicked off with Harry Potter Week, where the high point was by far the excellent game of Quidditch played by our members. This was our fourth annual Quidditch match, and was a step above the rest as the players mounted broomsticks as the zoomed around the pitch in search of the Snitch and control of the Quaffle. It was a fantastic event, one that all of our members thoroughly enjoyed. We're looking forward to a few more games of Quidditch with our fellow clubs and societies in Semester Two!

November saw Forum involved in the wonderful Nerd Ball in the Castletroy Park Hotel, in collaboration with Games Soc, Anime and Manga, Science Soc, and Lit Soc. It was a brilliant night as the members of these societies donned their masks

and finest clothes, and had a great time. It gave everyone a really good opportunity to get to know the members of other societies. We will definitely be doing it again in 2016!

Cinema trips and film screenings have always played a large role in Fan Forum's activities. In Week Four, our film officer arranged a charity screening of The Good, The Bad and The Weird in Scholars, with proceeds going to the Calais Refugees. In Week Eight, to celebrate Hallowe'en, we held a screening of Carrie in the Millstream. We had a number of cinema trips, to see The Martian, Crimson Peak, and Spectre in the evenings. In December, we headed to the midnight premiere of Star Wars The Force Awakens at the local Odeon cinema. It was a brilliant night as exams were finishing up, and we headed out armed with lightsabers. Midnight

premieres are always among our favourite events of the year, and we're looking forward to more in Semester Two.

One of our best and recent additions to Fan Forum is our weekly radio show, the newly named "Asylum of the Bumblebees". Each week, our committee members get on the air to discuss the latest nerdy news, the latest films and tv shows, and provide their lists of various favourites. We're always welcome to our members getting involved with the

show, so if you'd like to join in, let us know!

We've great hopes and plans for Semester Two, and after all the lovely new members we met in the first semester, we're looking forward to meeting some more! So come along to Red Raisins at 6pm on Thursdays, and see what we're all about!

Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ulfanforum/>



The Games Society: Get In The Game For Level 2 This Semester!

BY DEAN MALONEY, CARD GAMES OFFICER

Another semester has passed for the Games Society, and it has been one of our most successful in years thanks to an absolutely amazing community. We thank you all for making it happen, but now we have a new semester to anticipate, and we hope you're looking forward to everything we have in store for you.

For the newly initiated, we hold events that allow you and your friends to enjoy playing games of all sorts. Read on to find out how you can be a part of our weekly events.

Our Monday Games Nights are a great way to start the week. Along with simple games which anyone can learn to play, like Exploding Kittens and Cards Against Humanity, we also provide all the fan-favourite board games, such as Settlers of Catan. We have recently merged with the Chess Society, so we will now be running chess for all who are interested. You can also bring your PC to play some League of Legends or Smite with fellow members. It's also the perfect chance to meet fellow TCG players; no better time to get in some good games of Yu-Gi-Oh or Magic the Gathering against players old and new, along with trades or drafts. From 6PM

until 10PM, it's perfect for winding down after a tough day. You'll find us in the Main Building in EG010, left of the Main Reception (Skislopes) You can become a member here if you aren't one already. Once you're a member, you'll be able to attend our Games Nights for absolutely free.

Need your dose of video games during the week? That's what our Console Games Day is for, every Wednesday. With our very own PS4, Wii U and Xbox 360's and a variety of games, it's truly a great way to take it easy in between lectures, whether it's some casual rounds of Black Ops Zombies, or epic 8-player brawls in Super Smash Bros. We also have some older consoles to enjoy, such as the Nintendo 64. Interested in joining in? Be sure to check out the scene all day from 12PM to 6PM upstairs in the Students' Union. You'll find us in Room 3, before the pool table room. As with our Games Nights, joining in is free for all members, and you'll be able to register here if you haven't already done so.

The highlight for many Games Society

members last semester was undoubtedly our Friday Lock-In's, held once a month throughout the semester. This is where we book out the Students' Union for 12 hours, from 8PM to 8AM, allowing for every sort of gaming to go on. Expect intense Commander games at 3AM and taking part in heated LAN games of League of Legends and Counter Strike. Our lock-ins are our most popular event, and it's the perfect way to meet fellow gamers.

Last semester saw our intense game of Zombies take place, and those who crave more will be glad to hear that we have something similar taking place this semester. That's right, Assassins is returning once again! The campus-wide adventure requires interception, cunning and strategy to find your target, while also protecting yourself



from an unknown pursuer. Assassins has been immensely popular over the past few years, and it's your time to take part. Expect it to happen mid-semester.

We are always welcoming of new members, no matter what your interests in gaming may be. Our Facebook page "Games Society UL" is the best way to find out about future events, so be sure to check it out. We hope to see you throughout the semester.

ÓGRA – Be at the forefront

BY LISA COLLINS, PRO & BRIAN CROWLEY, SECRETARY

Looking for a new society to join this new year and have interest in politics? Creating a society based on equality? Positive progression? Ogra Fianna Fáil has had a presence on the University of Limerick Campus for quite a long time and stood the test of time unlike other political societies here.. Although the senior party had gone through a turbulent few years, a corner has been turned. It is without doubt that the party will have a strong presence and loud voice in the next Dáil after the General Election, regardless whether that be on the government or opposition benches.

Ogra was founded in 1975 to serve as the dedicated youth wing of the Fianna Fáil party. It gives a voice to the youth in the party and a stage in which to exercise our ideas and plans for the future of not only the party but the future of Irish society

and the country we want to live in and partake not only during university but as active citizens following graduation. One way in which Ógra effects change is during the Ard Fheis every year. On 16th January of this year Ógra UL joined its counterparts from across the country North and South in the Citywest in Dublin for the 77u Ard Fheis. Yet this year's event was much more pivotal as we approach election territory. There a noticeable uplifting mood at the Ard Fheis this year and Michéal Martin's leader's address was heralded as one of his best public performances. The event provided plenty of opportunity to meet other Ogra members from across the country and meet up with old friends, with a sneaky pint of the black stuff thrown in for traditional measure! One thing that will strike you about Ógra and the Fianna Fáil party is that we are a

fairly "mixed bag". Some of us joined because of political family ties, others joined because of their interest in politics, some dragged in by their friends but a lot of us for some fun and a chance to meet other like-minded students. If you are unsure as to what separates Fianna Fáil from Fine Gael, then we will put it simply - Fine Gael are centre right conservatives on all aspects. Fianna Fáil is rather special in this instance and is the reason why it is the most historically successful political machine in Europe. Fianna Fáil is centre left in terms of its social policies.

One only has to look at Fianna Fáil's whole lifetime. The fruits of a growing economy have always been shared to all and everyone – "An Ireland for All".

Last semester was a fruitful and successful year for Ógra UL with many new members. With a general election lingering in the air, the Spring Semester is set to be blood pumping and action packed! This semester, other than our bi-weekly meetings we will hope to go on our annual trip to Dáil Éireann, take part in a national Ogra debating competition and commemorate the centenary

of 1916 in particular the death of Conn Colbert after who our Cumann is named in honour of. There is also plenty of opportunities to canvass for our local hero Willie O'Dea. If you're still not convinced, come to the upcoming Recruitment Drive in the concert hall and have a chat with us! We won't bite! Follow us on twitter @ulograff or like us on Facebook: ULOgraFiannaFail to keep up to date or find out more.



'IT'S NOT A GOODBYE, IT'S MORE OF A SEE YOU LATER'

BY AOIFE RYAN & CLODAGH MURPHY

Said by many a student as they embarked on their trip home to Mammy and Daddy or even their cat. But anyway, it's been a great first semester here at the University of Limerick especially for all of us here at the UL International Society, with nearly 800 International as well as Irish students signed up to our delightful society it has put us in the running as being the biggest society on campus. Last semester was a busy and

fun filled semester for us all. With impending deadlines and the daunting loom of the Final Year project we didn't let it deter our Friday night plans of draping the sheet off our beds on ourselves for our weekly as a god awful excuse for a Toga costume for our weekly themed T.G.I.F parties. Along with this many other great events were held. We had a Bachelor/Bachelorette auction where our lovely committee members

auctioned themselves off to one lucky person for charity. We held our yearly international food fair where students had the chance to show off their culinary skills and delicacies from their country and most importantly our first ever international ball, yeah you heard right, our first in UL International Society history, all tickets were sold out and with live music, formal attire, a photo booth and just general great

craic a wonderful night was had by all.

We started the semester bi-weekly trips to Dingle and the Dingle Peninsula and many more trips were to follow including a medieval tour of Tipperary, a weekend trip to Belfast, Blarney Castle and Cork City.

Also, we would just like to say a quick thank you to everyone for being apart of the society last semester; we have had

a blast with each and every one of you and we look forward to seeing you again as well as new members and international students this semester. We have many events and trips in store for you all, so don't forget to sign up on the UL Wolves website. Have a great spring semester!

QUEER WOLVES ARE COMING OUT... IN UL

BY BRIAN MCCARTHY, CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Coming off the back of an award winning year Out in UL prospered last semester with record breaking membership and unforgettable events. Each semester we do our best to provide a fun, safe space for LGBTQ+ students through our weekly meetings, workshops and events. Our annual Rainbow Week where we organise two events every day was the best in its history with workshops on Sexual Positivity and Erasure by G.O.S.H.H. Our Gender Bender Big Night Out during Rainbow Week was a huge success as we filled Stokers Bar in Limerick with members and curious regulars. We had brilliant performances by members, Dance UL and our very own Drag Queen, Wednesday Tuesday. Each week we also hold Queer Hangouts on Thursday from 1-3 in the Students Union where members have a chance to get together and chill out with music and games during the busy college week. In some of our weekly meetings we covered Queer Icons, Coming Out and Queerphobia both within and outside the LGBTQ+ community. During UL's SoUL Week our Light for Life event was a touching tribute to those struggling with depression and a solemn remembrance to those in the community we lost to suicide. Overall our first semester was packed full of events and we hope to keep that going heading into 2016.

Coming up this semester we have some very exciting plans in the works. Our meetings will run every Monday evening at 7pm in the Schuman Building

where we will be addressing the idea of pride, positive and negative representation and holding our annual society awards "The Mary Pinkhairs". We will be holding our sixth Alternative Miss UL, the one and only amateur competition in UL, we will crown the best drag performer of the year. We are also organising our Sparkles Workshops for later on in the semester. Sparkles is a series of interactive workshop held over one day, in the past we have done sexual health and positivity as well as looking as representation of LGBTQ+ in everyday life. This year we hope to hold our biggest Sparkles yet with an all new series of workshops. Our main event of each year is Queerbash, started over a decade ago by the late Paddy McHugh we aim to bring the queer and straight communities in Limerick together for a fun filled night of performances and laughter. In the past we have chosen themes like Pride by the Tide and Queers through Time, this year's theme is top secret but is sure to have everyone excited. Come along to our events during the semester to get a special sneak peek!

Out in UL's main priority is its members; all of our meetings, events and workshops aim to support and inform people on issues regarding gender and sexuality. Out in UL is an LGBTQ+ society, everyone is welcome no matter your sexual orientation or your gender. Make sure to check out our Facebook "Outinul Soc" or Out in UL or our website www.outinul.ie

there we have blogs on events we have held going back years, as well as committee profiles and links to support services that cater to the LGBTQ+ community in Limerick and nationwide. If you have any questions or would like to meet a member of committee don't hesitate to contact us at outinul@gmail.com and we will get back to you ASAP.



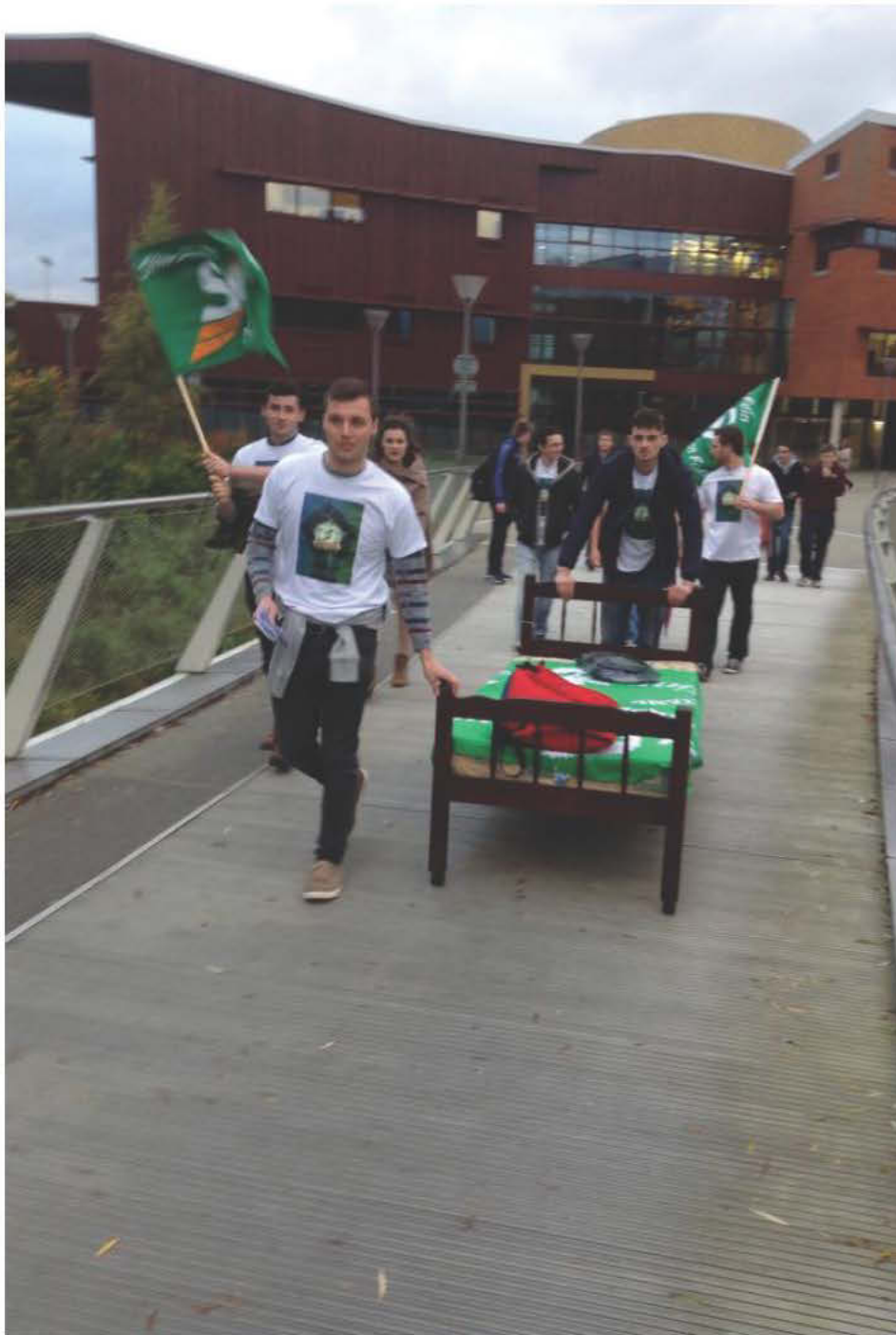
START THE NEW YEAR IN TOP GEAR!

BY PAUL JORDAN

First of all, we here at ULRM want to wish all our members a happy and healthy new year. It's the start of the new semester. For some, it's their final semester in this university. For ULRM? Well it's business as usual for us. We're going to be karting in NKC, the world's largest indoor karting centre, just a 10 minute walk from campus. We're going to be karting at tracks all around the country such as Louth, Cork and Galway aswell. We'll be standing roadside to see some of the most committed men on four wheels in the country when it comes to rallying. If you prefer to spectate from the comfort of your armchair, we'll have the return of the F1 Fry. And we'll be going on our biggest international trip yet. If you want to find out how to join us, then you can like our UL Racing & Motorsport page for all the info and updates you'll need. Can't wait to get going? Well if you're not yet a member of our society, you can sign up at the C&S recruitment drive on Wednesday February 3rd. Membership is €5 and we can guarantee you it's the best fiver you'll spend this year.



Sinn Féin UL - C&S Newsletter January 2016



Half way there, but there is plenty more to do!!!

Over the past 8 to 10 months our Cumann has not only started but has grown from strength to strength and continues to take huge strides both on and off Campus.

Since the start of this Academic year we have had some keynote speakers in for chats which have included Paul Hayes of Sinn Féin for a history of Irish Politics discussion, both Seamus Browne and Maurice Quinlivan Sinn Féin's Candidates from Limerick City and County in the forthcoming elections and also Cllr. Malachy McCreesh brother of hunger striker Raymond McCreesh who died in the H-Blocks in Belfast.

We also took part in SoUL week where we had 3 very successful nights. Firstly we partook in a debate with Young Fine Gael and Orga Fianna Fail in which we discussed and debated the Budget

2016.... And again we seen how neither of our opposition where able to fully defend their own party's ideas while being unable to pick proper decent holes in Sinn Féin's full costed budget "A fair recovery is possible". Following from this 3 members attended a debate hosted by the UL Debating in Plassey House.

The following evening was our "Bed Push" in which we pushed (and carried) a bed from North Campus to the Student Courtyard. This was to raise awareness for the lack of suitable accommodation around UL for students on TP and most recently the lack of housing in general with some student having to commute from Nenagh and Ennis for College. This is an issue which needs to be addressed now before it becomes a serious issue. Probably our biggest achievement of the last semester would have to be our fundraising efforts with Novas Initiatives a homeless charity based

in Limerick City. For the month of November 4 of our members went sober for the month to raise money... We then finished the month with a sleep out in the SU Courtyard in which 5 committee members took part. All our efforts paid off when we were able to present Chris O Connor from Novas with a cheque for €1,037.70 just before Christmas to help feed the homeless of Limerick City.

We also had a great evening at the Vincent Browne peoples debate in The Strand Hotel where we got to meet the man himself and have a brief discussion on the topics facing students at present in Ireland.

We have thankfully had a very productive Semester, however our hard work has only began. With an election on the horizon we will be mobilising the troops to hit the streets in the coming months canvassing and getting the Sinn Féin message out there and get a government voted

in the is fully committed to making a lasting impression in the Country. And what year would be better only on the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising a celebration that has been ignored by previous Governments over and over again but remembered and celebrated by Sinn Féin each year. So this semester will also be filled with commemorations which was kicked off on the 3rd with a huge number turning out for the Sean Sabhat Commemoration in Limerick.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining please do not hesitate to contact us.... you can find us on Facebook at Sinn Féin University of Limerick or e-mail us on sinnfeinul@gmail.com and we will get back to you asap!!!

UL Social Democrats Society C&S Newsletter Article

Building a Better Future

BY CIARÁN HEHIR, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

THE Social Democrats was founded in July 2015 by the three leaders Catherine Murphy, Roisin Shorthall and Stephen Donnelly. They had a vision to create a more inclusive and progressive Ireland and do away with the auction politics that has disengaged people from politics.

The UL Social Democrats were formed in October 2015 by people who believed in the principles and core values that the Social Democrats represent.

With the General Election looming, we at the UL Social Democrats believe it is of vital importance that young people to reengage with politics and seriously consider which candidate to vote for as the result of the election will impact their lives for the next five years.

We are lucky to have a Social Democrat candidate contesting in both the city and county constituencies. Sarah Jane Hennelly, a graduate of the University of Limerick, is contesting in Limerick City while Senator James Heffernan is contesting in Limerick county.

As a newly formed society, we have not participated in any events during the autumn semester but we have several events planned for the spring semester such as a Sleep Out in partnership with the Simon Community and inviting the Leaders of the party to talk at the University.

If you believe in the core social democratic principles of openness, equality and progress then the UL Social Democrats is the society for you. You can find us on the C&S website under the Societies page.



SoUL Arts Fest 2015

It took months of planning and was gone in just a short few days but SoUL Arts Fest last semester was the biggest incarnation of the event we've seen. We had it all from events performed by our very own societies like our historical tea party and the international food fair to professional high class events on campus like Hudson Taylor and a set of fire-breathers.

The week was a success from beginning to end, does anyone remember the plague of students for the very first event? We do, swarms of students came down on the courtyard for our first event, Puppies and Chocolate! It helped raise awareness for Limerick Animal Welfare and they managed to raise some money from the event as well. Wolfie made an appearance too and was welcomed with head rubs from his adoring fans.

In the next few days we held event after event, frankly there's too many to list, but they all went off without a hitch, mostly. Our historical tea party was a joint event held by both the History society and the Tea Appreciation society. We had characters from history chatting over tea in the very posh Plassey House, our cast of characters included Oscar Wilde,

Winston Churchill and Cleopatra.

Wednesday was our pride and joy, we had a collective event which featured over 10 societies all taking place in the courtyard from 5 to 7pm. It was great, new comers Sinn Fein and Science were there, Sinn Fein pushed a bed across campus to raise awareness for the accommodation crisis and the Science society held a few experiments to shock and wow passers-by. Capoeira and Dance performed along to the background of music as selected by DJ society and this is where our fire-breathers made their appearance. Other societies that featured included An Cumann Gaelach, the Society of Architecture, Anime and Manga, Tea Appreciation, Out in UL, the Computer society and the Comedy society.

This was followed by three of our biggest events, including Out in UL's Light for Life, the International Food Fair and The Rubberbandits Auditors award. Out in UL's event was poignant and peaceful and the food fair was what you'd expect, students domestic and foreign joining together to eat lots of weird and wonderful food. The Rubberbandits receiving their award from the Debating Union was one of the more surprisingly serious and interesting events. Blind Boy Boatclub

represented the two and gave an hour and a half long presentation discussing their art, where they get their motivation from and then answering questions from the crowd, all while smoking an e-cigarette through a plastic bag on his head and making jokes about drugs and use in a thick Limerick city accent.

Following this ambitious day was an equally grand event filled day, centred around a stage in the courtyard several societies including Games and Drama set up before Music soc's finale of the day featuring several acts from within the society and both the Academic and Hudson Taylor. Games held a dance off utilising the video game Just Dance. Dancers included Student Union's sabbat team and the famous Wolfie. Drama performed a play

called Limbo to a captivated courtyard audience who moved benches just to comfortably watch. The night was of course the highlight and both Hudson Taylor and the Academic performed great on the night with Hudson Taylor ending with a cover of the Drop Kick Murphy's "Shipping Off to Boston".

This concluded our week of fun and laughs and we won't forget the memories made (because they're on video) listening to some trad music over a bit of tae in the languages building or watching Young Fine Gael, Ogra Fianna Fail and Sinn Fein resist the urge to bare knuckle brawl in their budget debate or Glee society's performance on stage before the Academic.



Tea-riffic Things to Come in 2016!

BY SARAH GUERIN, TRIPS AND EVENTS OFFICER



Tea Appreciation Society is diving into 2016, full of excitement for another jam-packed semester of events and activities. This semester will be bursting at the seams for our members, whom you can join for just €4 (what are you waiting for?!). Firstly, of course, we have our weekly Wednesday meet ups in the gorgeous Millstream Common Room, across from the languages building. Here you can enjoy limitless access to

our 30+ varieties of tea and sample scones, brownies and biscuits. Our knowledgeable committee members are always on hand to recommend a tea, give you a tea tasting selection, or even provide you with a full lesson on the art of preparing exotic teas. Here you can sprawl on the couch with a cuppa away from the chaos of college life and get to know lots of new people.

Tuesdays are always something a bit

different, and this semester we are going above and beyond to make your Tuesdays tea-mendous (sorry, you'll get used to all the puns, I promise). We will have bigger and better versions of our well known events, including our International Tea Night, Irish Culture Night, and Table Quiz Fundraiser. However we also have a whole host of shiny NEW events, such as our environmental tea workshop in week 5 in Plassey Village Hall, and our not-to-be-missed TEA BANQUET in week 10, where our members will get to experience a full 5 course tea-themed menu in the Hook and Ladder, Castletroy for only €20 (Iced Tea Lemon Sorbet anyone?!).

Lest we forget, Limerick's hallowed halls of tea, the Stormy Teacup has reopened in the city centre! We will be bringing our members regularly to this amazing venue with its outstanding teas (check them out on Facebook and Instagram). Our benevolent leader Aaron will be hiding out there each and every Saturday if you want to add some chilled out tea drinking to your weekends.

Speaking of weekends, we have FOUR trips away this semester to tea havens across Ireland and Scotland. You can come with us for a day to Galway to sample Toffee Popcorn tea and stroll around the bay. You can also join us for a day trip to Ennis, where you can indulge in afternoon tea after visiting its amazing monasteries and churches. This semester though, we have two ah-mazing first time trips. The first is a weekend trip to Dublin, where you will visit a plethora of tea shops and tea cafes around the capital, including the Tea Garden, Oolong and Clement & Pekoe. Then comes the Easter break, when we are heading on our very first foreign trip to Scotland for four days. Here we will spend time exploring the tea culture of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and you will have the chance to do everything from drink matcha tea with Japanese Tea Masters, to having afternoon tea on the Royal Yacht Britannia! (There are only four spots remaining so do get in touch quickly)

So pre-register immediately, check out our social media links (below), and in the words of Mrs Doyle:

Ah go on, go on, go on, go on....

facebook.com/
TeaAppreciationUL
twitter.com/ul teasociety
Snapchat: UL Tea Society
ul teaappreciationsociety.
wordpress.com

First semester has been kind for UL soccer



Plenty of ball has been kicked this season for the excelling University of Limerick sides. Three out of the four adult teams enjoying league action this semester and proven to be first class too.

Our women's side under the guidance of UL's own Martin Hayes and Liam Duffy endured a marvellous opening semester with a 100% win rate in their Women's League First Division Group C.

Overcoming neighbours LIT in their opener 3-0, UL went and inflicted the same punishment on their other local rivals Mary I in this First Division clash. Goals by Kristen Delcellier, Meadhbh O'Neill and Anna Tuohy. Kaura Mannion and Jenny Soliman both found the net in a close contest against UCC. These three points would prove extremely important in the race for top spot. A double from Claire Keating along with goals from Jenny Soliman, Kristin Delcellier, Kate Hurley, Megan Carroll and Megan Foley gave UL all three points versus CIT. They now face

GMIT in the semi on 28 January. UL have also drawn in the group of death, IT Carlow, NUIG and DIT.

UL Seniors kick started their season with a hard fought point away to IT Carlow. A brace from Garbhan Coughlan rescued a well deserved point. UL were on the road again, as they dispatched Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, Ian Fletcher and Garbhan Coughlan got the goals to inflict a first defeat upon Premier division new boys Colaiste Stiofain Naofa. WIT travelled to UL hoping to take all three points, but it was the home side that prevailed, on a score line of 4-2, goals courtesy of Eoin Roche, Oisín McMenamin, Ian Fletcher and Garbhan Coughlan.

It wasn't all plain sailing for UL in this seasons CUFL Premier Division, UCC emphatically defeated the home side 0-3. Dave Walsh's goals proved the difference and inflicted their first defeat of the season, but this unsettled them blitzing CIT 2-8. When CIT raced into a 2-0 lead at half time through Danny O'Connell and Eoin McGreevy,

UL knew they had a daunting challenge in the second half. UL came out in the second half on a mission. Their pressure paid off and opened up the floodgates as Garbhan Coughlan's quartet and individual efforts from Killian Hayes, Oisín McMenamin, Jack Lynch and Ian Fletcher ensured that UL leapt over CSN and UCC to confirm their home fixture in the next round.

UCD travelled to UL hopeful of securing their name in the hat for the semi final draw. Holders UCD suffered a surprise 2-0 defeat at University of Limerick in their Colleges and Universities Premier League quarter final tie.

Killian Hayes had the home side in front with the opener on 35 minutes and a top class strike from Sean McSweeney with ten minutes remaining sealed the win. UL now look forward to a meeting with CSN on the 2 February in a neutral venue.

But it wasn't just senior side soaring high this season, the intermediate side are enjoying the sweet taste of triumph, as they await a challenging

task of Maynooth in the semi final of the third division League.

After slaughtering WIT 5-0 in their opening fixture, they received a setback when they let a two goal lead slip eventually tying the game versus UCC 2-0. UL defeated CIT and LIT convincingly, leaving them top of the summit. Drawn against IT Tallaght in the quarter final, UL enjoyed dominant spells but Tallaght led twice in this fixture, but goals from leading goal scorer, Jamesy McConigley and a double from Shane Stack, helped UL one step closer to the promise land.

University of Limericks Collingwood side that defeated UCD on ULs 3g The annual fresher's league consisted of just four teams. Team two proved too strong and captured the trophy.

UL can say a job well done so far, but not yet finished. A special mention towards everyone involved in the clubs, gratitude is shown towards everybody involved.

Making Life Dramatic.

BY AINE BARRY – SECRETARY

Here at the UL Drama Society, there's always something going on! At our home in the Jonathan Swift theatre we aim to make everyone feel welcome. It's a space for people to explore their creativity whilst also making lasting friendships. The general assumption is that you have to act if you're in Drama, but there's so much more to do! In Drama, you will have the opportunity to be involved in every part of our world, whether that's working the lights, using the camera or controlling the action! We run workshops for stage fighting, makeup, costume making, script writing, stage management, lighting, and tonnes more!

We stormed UL during the first semester and weather forecasts expect these trends to continue well into the second. October saw the first of our amazing productions, Limbo a dark comedy where two peoples' lives are reviewed by Saint Peter and their fates decided. Come November, it was on to The Affairs at Meddler's Top, a suspenseful murder mystery set in the 1920s that drew rave reviews from all.

That's not all we did though! We had a variety of workshops with topics such as stage fighting, special effects makeup, Shakespeare, improv and we have plenty more to pull out of the bag this semester. Our workshops are arranged to train you in every part of the theatre world but most of all they're for you to have fun!

Trips outside our lovely campus are sometimes in order and last semester we did just that! Drama isn't just about participating in theatre, it's about watching and enjoying it as well! This year so far we went to see different plays run by theatre groups in Limerick city, like Noises Off in the Lime Tree Theatre by the College Players Theatre Company. A massive trip is being planned for the new year so keep your ears peeled about that!

But what does the next semester have in store I hear you ask. Well we've got plenty of amazing weekly workshops, held in the Jonathan Swift Theatre on

Wednesdays at 7pm. We'll be doing at least one production this semester, including a play based on the movie The Waitress. Auditions will be held during week 2 so keep an eye on our Facebook for more information.

The most important thing that we will be doing in the coming weeks is getting to know you, so contact us on our

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ulldrama>, find us at the recruitment drive, or turn up to the Jonathan Swift at 7pm on a Wednesday and talk to one of our committee members to become part of our show circle. It will be the best decision you make all semester!



Sun, sea, surf and souks

BY ELEANOR COLLINS, SECRETARY



Escaping the Baltic winds and being hit with the Moroccan heat at dusk was just the beginning of what was to be a great start to 2016. January saw the return of UL Surf Club

to Moroccan soil with 46 eager surfers ready for sun, sea, camels and some 'gnarly' waves! The first adventure of the year was off to a good start after being chauffeured from the airport to Taghazout for some rest in preparation for the epic week ahead.

Day one, with the heat blaring from the North African sun, the group hurried down for breakfast before setting off for the first dose of surfing. Banana Beach was hopping with waves for all levels. After lashings of sun cream on pasty Irish skin, we were ready to surf to our hearts content. The hectic day of surf and sun saw the return of ravenous students ready for the spice infused dinner awaiting us. After some rest, the bonding began which carried us through a night full of laughs, tending to each other's sunburn and of course new friends.

The sound of crashing waves beckoned the group from their balcony slumbers. Another surf filled day soaking up the rays had begun. Haggling commenced on the beaches, where we were met with everything from 'peanuts, doughnuts, macaroons' and parachute pants to camel rides along the

water. Improvements were already being seen surf-wise with some beginners advancing from foamies onto hard boards!

The following day saw some of the better waves of the week followed by exploring of beach caves, hills and Moroccan huts. After another tiring day, we returned for a big mashup with a fellow surf club. Stories were shared of the adventures so far before dancing and singing through the night. Under the stars was the perfect way to end the jam-packed day.

The build-up about Paradise Valley and the souks was finally met with an epic finale to the trip. Driving through winding mountains after sunrise was perfectly picturesque. A pit stop was made at an Argan oil hut where we learned how much labour goes into the jars of joy that bring nourishment to so many. After that it was off to the mystical Valley at last! The hike brought a breath-taking view of blue above and below. Diving in below wore us all out so the delightful downward trek back through the mountains was more than appreciated! A sleepy journey back to the apartments was well deserved before another great Moroccan feast. The warm night was spent chilling out on the rooftop after another long day.

Following some shut eye, a day of haggling awaited us. After our morning surf, the Agadir adventures were under way. The group, with their Dirham and sub-Arabic phrases, were ready to find the best bargains. Laughs were had as the now well-bonded group ventured around seeing everything from scarves and hand-carved statues, to authentic dress and Geckos. The afternoon came to a great end, and even involved a new addition to our Surf Club family.

The final night was spent on the beach below, sharing laughs, chats, music and stories with our fellow (rival) surf club around the bonfire. Sad as it was to pack up, we were all happy, parachute-pants-wearing, haggling, multicultural surfing pros when we arrived back on the fresh, frozen Irish soil. From new friends and laughs to adventures and some epic photos, it is safe to say that Morocco 2016 was yet another unforgettable UL Surf trip.

Sydney Harper - Trips Officer, UL Surf Club



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UL WOLVES
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