

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
NEWS & EVENTS



**UL Honours its Founding Father as 2010 Honorary Doctorates Conferred**



The University of Limerick today conferred Honorary Doctorates on five exceptional individuals from the worlds of education, sport, business, the arts and the public sector. Dr Ed Walsh, the Founding President of the University of Limerick (UL), Jerry Kennelly, a successful entrepreneur; Frank Daly, former Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners; Oliver Murphy, who established the Irish Wheelchair Association and Professor Anya Peterson Royce, a world renowned academic in the area of anthropology of dance were conferred with Honorary Doctorates at the University of Limerick today.

"This is a very special event here at UL. It is the day when we get the opportunity to honour five exceptional people, who have inspired, who have led with courage and passion and have made great contributions to public life, in Ireland and abroad. Today we bestow upon these worthy recipients the University of Limerick's

highest honour and a place in the history of this institution." Professor Don Barry, President of the University of Limerick, commented at the conferring ceremony.

### **Dr Ed Walsh**

Dr Walsh is the Founding President of the University of Limerick, the first new university established in the history of the State. His name is synonymous with ground-breaking advances in third level education in Ireland and he has been described as an educational visionary and a transformational policy influencer.

Dr. Walsh is credited with significantly expanding the University of Limerick with support from private philanthropic sources and pioneering a wide range of education innovations. Under Dr Walsh's leadership the University introduced unique new programmes such as Cooperative Education and international student and faculty exchanges through European Union schemes such as the ERASMUS and Socrates programmes.

Dr Walsh has served as founding chairman of the Irish Council for Science Technology and Innovation, the National Technology Park, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Citywest's Growcorp and the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland. He has also served as chairman of the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities and of Shannon Development.

### **Jerry Kennelly**

Jerry Kennelly started his first business in 1981, Newsfax a transmission service for news pictures. Stockbyte was established in 1997 after Jerry Kennelly noticed a gap in the marketplace. Within five years, it had become the third largest supplier of royalty-free photographs in the world. The sale of Pixel Images Holdings which included the brands Stockbyte and Stockdisc was completed in 2006 to Getty Images in 2006 for over €110 Million and represented one of the most significant indigenous Irish success stories of the modern era.

Since becoming recognised as an internationally successful entrepreneur, Mr Kennelly has dedicated himself to fostering entrepreneurship among young people in schools and colleges. He created the Young Entrepreneur Program - a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to illustrating the validity of entrepreneurship as a career choice. Its mission is to help identify, inform, recognise and celebrate Kerry's next generation of business leaders - and their educators.

### **Frank Daly**

Frank Daly is the Chairman of the National Assets Management Agency (NAMA). Mr Daly was appointed Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners in March 2002 for a four-year period which was subsequently extended. During his term as Chairman he oversaw the most fundamental restructuring of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners since its establishment in 1923. Mr Daly was appointed as Chair of the new Commission on Taxation in March 2008 when the then Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen cited his "wide-ranging senior public service management experience".

During his time as Chairman of Revenue, Frank Daly played a key role in supporting the development of an academic partnership between Revenue and the University of Limerick, the first such partnership in the Irish Civil Service. Under this partnership, which commenced in 2004, Revenue and UL jointly developed two unique programmes for Revenue staff, the Diploma in Applied Taxation and the BA (Honours) in Applied Taxation.

### **Oliver Murphy**

Oliver Murphy represented Ireland at the very first Paralympic Games in 1960 and became determined, with other athletes, to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Ireland. The Irish Wheelchair Association was founded by Mr Murphy and seven other wheelchair users who put ten shillings each into a hat on 10th November 1960.

Thanks to the work of the IWA, people with disabilities in Ireland can now expect to continue to live in their communities, realise their full potential as individuals and participate fully in every aspect of life. Mr Murphy is the last of the founding group of eight still alive and is actively involved in advocacy work on the National Access Advisory Group as a mentor for young members and is a truly exceptional advocate for people with

disabilities.

**Professor Anya Peterson Royce**

Professor Anya Peterson Royce has 36 years of field experience in Mexico, along with 25 years of teaching experience at university level in the areas of anthropology of dance and performing arts, cultural and ethnic identity, and the ethnography of Mexico. She has written six books, edited two others and is a published poet. She was also a professional ballet dancer. Professor Royce has served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties at Indiana University and Provost and Academic Vice President at Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

Professor Royce spent time at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL as one of several international consultants for the Stepping Stones initiative which is concerned with the introduction of theatre-linked interests into the Academic mission of the Academy. She consolidated and in an essential way defined the entire field of Ethnochoreology with the publication in 1977 of her seminal book *The Anthropology of Dance*.