

Paul Mc Kevitt, Professor of Digital MultiMedia at Magee campus, reveals a little about himself to **inside**.



1. WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

Inishowen Peninsula, Co. Donegal – Ireland's best kept secret. I first grew up in Moville beside New Park house, where Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery ('Monty') spent much of his youth with his mother Lady (Maud) Montgomery.

2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY?

Primary school Halcyon day summer tours to The Giant's Causeway, Causeway Safari Park – now closed – and Barry's Amusements, Portrush. At Barry's, the ghost train and dodgem cars were my favourite!

3. WHAT IS AN AVERAGE WORKING DAY?

Typically, the average day involves thinking, research in digital creativity with colleagues and Ph.D. students, teaching Intelligent MultiMedia – BSc and MSc – involvement in projects such as Digital Arts and Humanities (DAH), InterTradelreland Fusion, Invest NI Proof of Concept and Office of Innovation patents. Finally, tackling ever mounting bureaucracy, which I tend to forget, or lose, sometimes gets me into trouble!

4. THE GADGET I COULDN'T DO WITHOUT IS...

A bottle opener – called 'society helper' in Danish – for opening Carlsberg (probably the best lager in the world!), Murphy's stout and English bitter. I'm a Northerner, hence the beer.

5. LIFE BEFORE ULSTER?

Inishowen; Dublin, 1981; New Mexico, 1986; Exeter and Sheffield, 1990; Aalborg and Paris, 1996; Belfast, Londonderry and Inishowen, 2000. I've re-reconnected with everyone from these different lives on LinkedIn and Facebook. People ask which is best, there are positives and negatives with them all, but there's no place like home!

6. WHAT OTHER HISTORICAL PERIOD WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE LIVED IN?

The early 1600s would have been exciting: Flight of the Earls (1607), Cahir O'Doherty, Derry Rebellion (1608), The Ulster Plantation (1609) and the Londonderry Royal Charter, King James I and City Walls start (1613), soon to be re-remembered by the first UK City of Culture, 2013.

7. WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WEBSITE?

First UK City of Culture, 2013; www.cityofculture2013.com.

8. DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY.

Walking Donegal beaches, islands and hills; no arrivals/ departures, no check-in, no immigration/visas and no flights; keep it simple!

9. WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL?

Danish; marinated 'sild' (herring) on rye bread and Aalborg Akvavit schnapps.

10. WHAT THREE POSSESSIONS WOULD YOU SAVE FROM A FIRE?

My car keys, bank cards and photos.

11. YOU CAN INVITE FIVE PEOPLE FROM ANY ERA TO DINNER. WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

James Joyce (language), Marc Chagall (vision), Sergei Rachmaninoff (music), Albert Einstein (science) and Audrey Hepburn (Breakfast drama).

12. WHO/WHAT HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE?

God, dragons and goats; I was born in the Year of the Dragon, Capricorn.

13. HOW WOULD YOU SUM YOURSELF UP IN ONE SENTENCE?

Ulsterman tall Paul, Digital Prince of the North.

14. WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

1986, looking for eggcups in New Mexico, USA and soon realising they don't use them there!

15. HOW DO YOU UNWIND?

Relaxing is walking from Moville to Greencastle, Co. Donegal along the Foyle shore path. Sometimes I run into John and Pat Hume and pass by Brian Friel's house. The shore recreation green was granted to the people of Moville by the Montgomery family and left to them in perpetuity.

16. THE LAST BOOK I READ WAS...

JFK in Ireland by Ryan Tubridy (2010).

17. BEST SONG EVER...

Lovesong by The Cure.

18. MY ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FILM IS...

Citizen Kane (1941), directed by Orson Welles. Many believe *Citizen Kane* to be the USA newspaper magnet, William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951).

19. WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

You see things; and you say, "Why?" But I dream things that never were; and I say, "Why not?" George Bernard Shaw, *Back to Methuselah* (1921), part 1, act 1.

20. ARE THERE ANY DREAMS OR GOALS THAT YOU HAVE YET TO FULFIL?

I want to visit Hearst Castle, San Simeon, California, USA which was originally William Randolph Hearst's hilltop mansion. I also wish to visit the grave of my great, great grandmother, Annie Louise Linehan (nee Pool), Lodge Hill Cemetery, Ladywood, Birmingham.

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