

New high-tech university to be fourth for Dublin

IRELAND is to get a massive new technological university – the only one that will be able to offer education from apprenticeships to doctorates.

Technological University Dublin will be the capital's fourth university, and will see the three institutes of technology come together to form the country's largest college.

There will be more than 28,000 students across the campuses of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Institute of Technology Tallaght, and Dublin Institute of Technology's new Grangegorman site. Three other consortiums, representing seven ITs, are aiming to be designated as

By **Ronan Smyth**

TU: Munster Technological University, Connacht Ulster Alliance, and the Technological University for the South-East.

The creation of a technology university requires the consolidation of at least two institutes of technology.

Each consortium applying must meet criteria relating to the qualifications of its staff, the quality of its research output, and the proportion of students engaged in lifelong learning, among others.

In order for the new TU Dublin to be established, the three current Dublin ITs will need to be dissolved. The move comes

after it was revealed last month that six of Ireland's eight universities had dropped in the QS World University Rankings.

Ireland currently does not have a university in the top 100 in the world, but Leo Varadkar said yesterday that the Government is increasing funding for the third-level sector.

The Taoiseach said: 'The funding is coming. We've increased €50million every year... Also, Project Ireland 2040 provides a massive multi-million-euro investment in higher education and further education. So the money is there, budgets are increasing, but it is also important to make sure that money and resources are used well.'

Dr Mark Dooley



MORAL MATTERS

I was reborn the moment we said 'I do'

ON Saturday, Mrs Dooley and I will celebrate our 18th wedding anniversary. I can hardly believe it has been so long because, in many ways, I still feel we are freshly married. So much has happened, so many memories stored and saved, and yet it all seems so novel and new.

My wife often says that we grew up together. Looking back, I firmly believed I had the measure of the world. I thought I was so self-contained that nothing could change my ways.

Marriage changed all that. I soon realised that life only reveals its true secrets when you surrender yourself to another.

That is because marriage forces you to cooperate, to concede that you are rarely in the right.

Could I have faced life's challenges alone? Many do so with great courage and conviction, but not me.

I now know that I could never have triumphed over all my trials and tribulations without the support and love of my lifelong companion.

The first thing that marriage teaches you is to let go of self, to drop your guard and to reveal who you truly are.

You can't live with someone without being totally yourself. And, if you are honest, you soon discover that your old goals and aspirations no longer matter.

What matters now are your shared plans and purposes. To enter fully into a relationship of love means looking at the world through the eyes of the other. It is to see that the goal of life is not your own happiness, but theirs.

In so many ways, commitment gives you the best moral training you are likely to get.

To love another, to share their hopes and relieve their worries – that is what true commitment is all about.

Learning that lesson is not a question of mastering theory, but is simply a matter of living with someone day by day.

To open your arms and accept another for who she is, is to learn tolerance, patience, understanding and compassion.

It is to learn that the greatest joy in life comes not from receiving, but from giving. It is to recognise that a shared life is one that cannot survive selfishness.

I know, of course, that everyone's experience of marriage is different and that things don't always work out that way.

But when people firmly resolve to give it their all, when they enter fully into the spirit of their commitment, it will surely change how they think, love and live.

It certainly changed me, and for the better by far.

Eighteen years of marriage has not given me the answer to every problem, but it certainly has taught me that a problem shared is a problem halved.

Indeed, the very idea of personal problems goes out the window. We have only 'our' problems and we solve them together.

Isn't that what love amounts to: sharing the burdens of another so that they no longer have the power to hurt or harm?

At so many junctures throughout our marriage, when the road seemed impassable, Mrs Dooley has cleared a way.

I know for certain I could never have done that by myself.

And now we are a family of five. I like to say that our children are a vindication of our vows – proof that we were always meant to be.

We both feel that they have summoned the better angels of our nature by opening us to the little miracles of daily life.

LIFE is complex, often strange and rarely devoid of its tragic sense. But it is more often beautiful, wonderful and miraculous. As I frequently write, our world reveals the marvels of creation in things as simple as a flower, a baby or a smile.

Today, after 18 years of love, friendship and shared parenthood, I can honestly say that another of those marvels is marriage.

To wake every morning and know that someone is there to hold your hand, to walk with you no matter how rough it gets, is one of the great blessings of our earthly journey. It is the promise of a life lived in the golden glow of a person for whom you would sacrifice everything.

That, at least, is my experience and, although I have an awful lot to learn, I can safely say I know this much: 18 years ago, I was still a child. Now, I have grown up into someone I could barely have imagined when I made my marriage vows.

We said, 'I do' and were reborn in love. Forever.

—mark.dooley@daily mail.ie—

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