

**Press Release: Thurs 28 April 2011**

## **Historic visit of Edouard Braine, General Consul of France**

On Wednesday 27 April, Edouard Braine, General Consul of France, made a historic first visit to Cornwall accompanied by Olivier Cadic, elected representative for the UK of the Assembly of French citizens living Abroad (AFE).

A highlight to the General Consul's visit to Cornwall was a comprehensive tour by Geoff Smith, Deputy Rector of University College Falmouth and Mark Overton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University of the Tremough Campus. A social event hosted by University College Falmouth at Tremough House was attended by members of the French community, as well as representatives from the local authorities, local business and Higher Education who were interested in Anglo French collaboration.

Edouard Braine fulfilled his aims of his visit and met with local authorities, University College Falmouth, local Cornish business people, the French community (400 families in Cornwall); Edouard Braine also considered how he could facilitate three projects of cooperation between Cornwall and France, in particular Brittany. Edouard Braine was genuinely moved by the warm hospitality he received from everyone at UCF. He was equally impressed with the exceptionally open minded people he spoke with during his Tremough Campus tour.

Following Edouard Braine's visit he concluded that University College Falmouth will be one of his cross-border projects that he will officially facilitate success in France working on a strong international partnership between UCF and Rennes 2 University. Brittany is Cornwall's nearest cultural and geographical neighbour, and the General Consul of France has committed himself to forging strong links between Cornwall-IOS and Brittany.

The two other cross-border projects are: 'The Green Line' Ferry link between Cornwall-IOS and Brittany and an increased artistic and cultural collaboration between Cornwall and Brittany.

**Ends**

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### **Notes to editors:**

UCF is the only independent Higher Education institution in Cornwall with the right to award degrees in its own name. The University College has two campuses – at Woodlane in Falmouth and Tremough in Penryn (which it owns and jointly manages with the University of Exeter).

UCF's merger with Dartington College of Arts in 2008 created a new institution focusing on the expansion of Falmouth's expertise in Art, Design and Media and Dartington's expertise in Dance, Music, Theatre, Art and Writing. The Dartington-based courses have now relocated to an impressive, high-specification £19M Performance Centre at the Tremough Campus, which launched this October.

The ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Convergence Programme invested £12,266,667 in this development which will prepare performance students for success within the creative industries. The South West Regional Development Agency's Single Pot Fund contributed a further £3M, with the remainder being invested by the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Strategic Development Fund.

The Performance Centre is the latest phase in UCF's ambition to create a new specialist Arts University in Cornwall by 2013/2014 that will be unrivalled in the South West. UCF is a founding partner in the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC), a unique initiative to promote regional economic regeneration through Higher Education, funded mainly by the European Union (Objective One and Convergence), the South West Regional Development Agency and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, with support from Cornwall Council.