



**Richard Payne: academic staff development consultant**

## Presenting voice skills to lecturers in Co Limerick

“Historically,” said Richard Payne, a UK-based trainer and consultant to University of Limerick (UL) “there hasn’t been much attention paid to the lecturing methods of academics. But it has improved in the last seven years. In England, all the universities are now quality assessed.”

Payne, who will be giving a talk on Effective Voice Skills and Voice Care for Lecturers on April 15 at the Castletroy Hotel in Limerick, originally trained as an actor and spent several years working in drama-in-education.

He went on to obtain a certificate in education.

For the last 12 years, he has been involved in the provision of staff development training for academic staff within the university sector in the UK. His company, BSPS Training Consultancy Limited, deals with over 30 major universities.

“There is a big drive in the UK to improve training for lecturers. As well as focusing on presentation, I help lecturers present their research orally.

“I teach academics how to give a paper. An important part of my work is in the dissemination of information to specialist and non-specialist audiences. It’s about accessibility and coherence.”

Lecturers, Payne pointed out, are increasingly having to address growing numbers of students in the lecture theatre and part of his work is to help them project their voices. “They’re definitely the most popular courses that I do.”

Payne’s forthcoming lecture in Limerick (which is for UL staff only) is part of that university’s Teaching and Learning Programme. The teaching and learning series consists of interactive workshops, training opportunities and presentations intended to help faculty members to experiment with their repertoire of teaching/presentation techniques.

“It’s all about promoting conversations about teaching issues and highlighting innovative approaches to teaching in a university setting,” explained a UL spokeswoman.