



University College Dublin

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**  
SEPTEMBER 2006 – AUGUST 2007



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**University College Dublin**  
**National University of Ireland, Dublin**

September 2006 - August 2007

For presentation to the Governing  
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National University of Ireland, Dublin  
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“Positioning UCD as an international centre of excellence in an exceptionally competitive environment is an immense task on which the entire community at UCD has worked ceaselessly.”

## Introduction by Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President

### Vision

Within days of the opening of the Catholic University of Ireland in 1854, Cardinal Newman famously asked — what are we here for? Providing a contemporary answer to that question is what inspired our work in framing the UCD Strategic Plan 2005-2008. I am very pleased to report that across all elements of the Plan we are making excellent progress towards our goals.

We are now in a tremendously exciting period for UCD. As did Newman in his time, we too have a clear vision of where UCD can make a telling difference and contribute to Ireland and the world. Positioning UCD as an international centre of excellence in an exceptionally competitive environment is an immense task on which the entire community at UCD has worked ceaselessly.

Approximately 23,000 students are now enrolled across five Colleges and 35 Schools. Twenty five percent of the student body is now engaged in graduate study, and UCD’s research community is now at the forefront of international efforts to expand the frontiers of knowledge.

UCD continues to attract exceptional students. In turn, these students are met by a teaching and learning environment that maximises their potential, stretches their curiosity and meets their thirst for knowledge. The excellence of our fourth level programmes is making graduate research and study an increasingly attractive option. Over half of the class of 2007 continued into further education or training.

We are committed to becoming a leading European research-intensive university that drives innovation and creative discovery within a community of world-class researchers. Combined with being a

national and European leader in graduate education, the excellence and distinctiveness of research in UCD contributes to the social, economic and cultural objectives of a knowledge society.

The number of international students attending UCD rose to just under 3,300, an increase of 4% on 2005/06. These students come from 110 different countries.

In other ways, it has been a momentous year as UCD brought an end to its 124 year link with Earlsfort Terrace in the centre of Dublin city. We continue to advance our ambitious plans to develop the Belfield campus as a dynamic 24/7 centre of living and learning at the heart of a vibrant academic and local community.

We have taken further steps towards meeting our objective of developing the campus into a truly world-class facility. Under the over-arching guidance of our Campus Development Plan, an international competition for the Gateway Project produced a striking proposal by German architect Christoph Ingenhoven. His winning design will enable the UCD Gateway Project to transform the student and staff experience, enrich the local community and contribute to the social, economic and environmental development of the city of Dublin and the county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Elsewhere on campus a number of major projects such as the creation of the UCD Science District are under way. Others have been masterfully completed such as the restoration of Belfield House.

The *National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP)* articulated a continued commitment to research and investment in capital projects in the higher education sector. The NDP was underpinned by the Government’s *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation*, published in 2006.



Both documents are driven by a vision, which I share fully, of placing Ireland firmly on the map in terms of the excellence of our research and its application for the benefit of society.

Cycle 4 of the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII), funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), was launched in 2007 and UCD received almost €30 million for transformative initiatives in both the sciences and humanities. This timely investment in fourth level and research infrastructure will ultimately contribute to Ireland's development as a vibrant knowledge society.



### Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2005-2008

We are now well over half way through the period of our current plan which sets out a vision in three areas where UCD will strive to be the best:

- Teaching and learning;
- Research;
- Impact on Irish society.

The year has seen continued outstanding progress.

*UCD Horizons*, - our modularised, semesterised and credit-based curriculum has been a great success with all of the undergraduate and majority of graduate programmes modularised. I have been particularly encouraged by the imaginative ways in which Schools are collaborating to combine different subject areas and by the focus on defining programmes through learning outcomes.

Some years ago UCD took the major decision that we needed to be a research-intensive university. Research develops our capacity to learn, to inform policy and to innovate. The total value of research contracts rose by 16% this year compared to 2005/06.

As Ireland's largest educational institution, many of our staff are to the forefront of areas of national and international activity where they advance knowledge and offer insights and advice. At a student level too, there has been a marked growth in programmes and activities to develop active citizenship and community engagement.

### Research

UCD continues to build its reputation as a destination of choice for leading research talent, providing an environment in which research leaders can innovate and excel. We are forging exciting educational and research partnerships and collaborations with academic and industrial organisations, enhancing confidence in the university as a destination for quality investment and making it a national leader in research funding.

*Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President, accompanies HM King Harald V of Norway during his visit to UCD*

We have had impressive successes in securing funding from a wide range of sources. A significant number of these are for collaborative research projects. Outstanding work is under way and being recognised by peers in Ireland and abroad. There has also been remarkable progress in commercialising research.

### Student quality

In a period when the demographics of Irish society are offering students a greater choice at third and fourth level than ever before, the students with most potential are still choosing UCD. We increased our market share of high achievers with over 456 students attaining more than 545 points in their Leaving Certificate or equivalent. A major focus has been the development of a student-centred recruitment model which aims to reach out to prospective students at their time of choice with better quality and more accessible Information.

### Student experience

The university continues to make a major investment in the physical and mental development, health and wellbeing of students in UCD. The sporting and society based options continue to grow with major investment under way in enhancing facilities.

The student counselling service has been significantly expanded and initiatives are under way to develop a greater sense of community and shared purpose on campus. As the university

Pictured at the presentation of the President's Teaching Awards were (l to r): Dr Oonagh Breen, UCD School of Law, Dr Katherine O'Donnell, UCD School of Social Justice, Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President, Dr Debra Laefer, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering, and David Jennings, Deputy Director, UCD Centre for Teaching and Learning

continues to grow, community building becomes ever more important to build a shared sense of our collective work and to make a contribution to the wider communities that surround us.

### Honorary degrees and awards

During the year, UCD honoured a diverse range of people who have made significant contributions to Irish and international life in the fields of business, sport, science, arts and human sciences. Among these was the renowned author Maeve Binchy who received the Foundation Day Medal. She also contributed entertaining reminiscences about her student days in Earsfort Terrace to *Farewell to the Terrace*, a commemorative book published during the year.

Maeve Binchy with her husband, Gordon Snell, after receiving the UCD Foundation Day Medal



### Staff

The ability to meet the ambitious goals of our strategic plan is entirely dependent on the quality of UCD's staff — academic, administrative and technical — who support our endeavours. Across the university the recruitment, promotion and retention of excellent people is a priority.

The quality of our teaching is informed by research. The best students are those taught by the best teachers and researchers. We get the best teachers and researchers by funding and supporting their research work in an environment of diversity, critical thinking and openness to ideas.



### Conclusion

UCD has benefited greatly during the period from the wise counsel and experience of the Governing Authority and its chair, Kieran McGowan. I deeply appreciate their support.

We are now emerging from a period of major change that at times has involved some upheaval and disruption. The many noteworthy initiatives which have been completed would not have been possible without the application and resolve of so many staff colleagues.

In my report last year, I expressed the view that having made enormous progress the university was about to enter a much more creative, although still demanding phase. I believe that this creative period is now well under way and across all areas of academic endeavour the committed work of researchers, teachers and students is building an ever growing reputation for UCD.

In a report like this, it is not possible to describe all that goes on in the university. We are all part of a large, diverse and growing community where a very large number of individuals together make valued contributions to our shared goal of collective success for UCD. I am very grateful to them all.

*Hugh R. Brady*

Hugh Brady  
President

## 2

### A Dynamic Academic Structure

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The UCD Strategic Plan 2005-2008 sets out the principles and criteria to guide the academic restructuring process necessary to meet the university's goals. Over the last three years, UCD has been completely restructured into five Colleges and 35 Schools.

While still relatively new, a dynamic academic structure has been created which will be the foundation of all that UCD achieves in the future. In a rapidly changing environment, Colleges and Schools need to constantly adapt to new circumstances and demonstrate excellence in all their activities.



## UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies

The primary focus of the College and its eight Schools is to:

- Continue to enhance and enrich the educational experience and attainment of the largest concentration of humanities scholars in Ireland;
- Build further on this reputation for excellence in its research spheres;
- Maintain and enhance its priceless collections in the Irish Folklore Archive, the UCD Archives, and the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute;
- Broaden understanding among the wider national and international community of its range of learning, research and resources.

### Programme developments

The most important task in the 2006/07 year was completing the transition to a fully modularised degree programme, and consolidating the new Schools and College committees. During the year academic staff in the College also reviewed their teaching and research strategies, and sustained their strong record of publications, and research awards.

Modularisation has brought a new and very welcome diversity to many undergraduate classes, with veterinary science students taking modules in Irish folklore and medical students studying classics and modern languages. New offerings under *UCD Horizons* include drama studies for undergraduates; modules in Irish studies; a full three year programme in Irish folklore, and a new BA/MA in Liberal Arts, which aims to bring some of the traditions of Newman's curriculum to today's UCD students.

Members of the UCD Sinfonia and Chamber Choir can now gain academic credit for performance and participation. A new Law with History degree is

re-establishing the traditional links between these two disciplines. Places on the new MA in Creative Writing are in demand; the College is confident that its graduates will in time nurture a new generation of UCD writers.

The College's Teaching and Learning Committee piloted a module on study skills in the humanities; encouraged colleagues to substitute examinations with new assessment and teaching methods, such as enquiry based learning, and worked closely with the UCD James Joyce Library to equip students to make full use of new electronic resources. These achievements are reflected in the College's success in the President's Teaching Awards. The newly-established Graduate School means that incoming PhD students are now enrolled in structured training programmes, which give them a wider range of skills that will enhance their career options and promote a more collegial research environment.

Many people have come to know UCD's humanities scholars through summer schools, conferences and other out-reach activities. The 2007 UCD Summer School adopted a new format, with a focus on Irish foreign policy from 1919 to 2006. Attendance included locally recruited staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs from embassies throughout the world, and international graduate students. The James Joyce Summer School was successfully relaunched under the direction of Professor Anne Fogarty, in partnership with the James Joyce Centre, Dublin and Boston College-Ireland. In July the UCD School of English and Drama hosted more than 300 international scholars at the bi-annual meeting of the International Association for the Study of Irish Languages. The UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute

*Professor Anne Fogarty, UCD Professor of James Joyce Studies and Dr Fritz Senn, founder of the Zurich James Joyce Foundation, who attended the Joyce Summer School in July 2007*



has played a leading role in the government's programme of commemorative events to mark the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls and establishment of the Irish College at Louvain.

### Academic appointments

The subject area of Art History was strengthened with the appointment of Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, formerly of the University of California at Berkeley and a distinguished scholar of 20th century architecture, as Professor of Art History. Professor Liam Mac Mathúna has returned to his alma mater, to take up the headship of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics. The appointment of Professor Anne Fogarty, from the UCD School of English and Drama, as Professor of James Joyce Studies will establish UCD's place as a world leader in this field. The appointment of Frank McGuinness as Professor of Creative Writing honours one of Ireland's most distinguished playwrights, and one of the most popular lecturers in the UCD School of English and Drama.

### Research and awards

The calibre of the College's researchers has been acknowledged in the awarding of five Irish

Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) research fellowships for 2006/07 with the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics carrying off a remarkable four awards. While continuing to celebrate and support traditional sole scholars, the College is also fostering research clusters among its staff and graduate students. The past year has seen very successful workshops and seminars devoted to the early modern period, Irish studies, textual editing, material culture and the Atlantic world. Other research landmarks include a Wellcome Trust Enhancement Award to develop the history of medicine in Ireland (in partnership with the University of Ulster), and a further transfer of priceless manuscripts and books, notably the Wadding Papers, to the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, which is a partnership between UCD and the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans).

Towards the end of this academic year the College received an award of €3.6 million from the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), Cycle 4 for the Global Ireland project — a joint proposal from the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies and the UCD College of Human Sciences — to support the Colleges' ambitious goal to transform the study of Ireland.



*Frank McGuinness  
appointed as  
UCD Professor of  
Creative Writing*

## UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies

Positions held on 1 September 2006



**College Principal**  
Professor Mary Daly



**UCD School of English and Drama**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Andrew Carpenter



**UCD School of Archaeology**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Muiris O'Sullivan



**UCD School of History and Archives**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Richard Aldous



**UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Paula Murphy



**UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Séamas Ó Catháin



**UCD School of Classics**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Michael Lloyd



**UCD School of Languages, Literature and Film**  
*Head of School*  
Ms Cliona de Bhaldráithe-Marsh



**UCD School of Music**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Wolfgang Marx

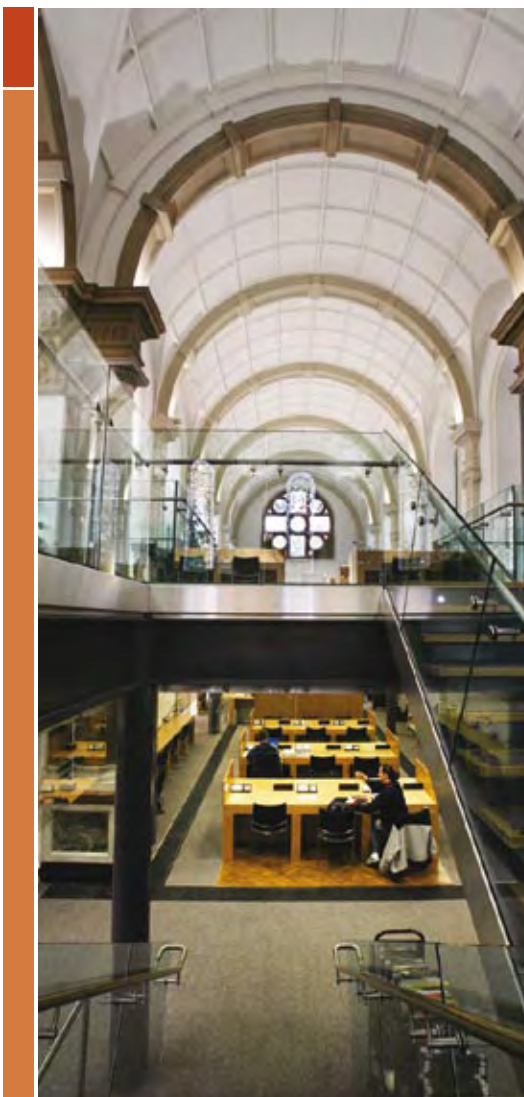


## UCD College of Business and Law

On its establishment the UCD College of Business and Law set out a number of key strategic objectives. Specifically these were:

- Maintenance of undergraduate student numbers in the context of unfavourable Irish demographics;
- Significant increases in graduate student numbers;
- Increased funded research and faculty research output;
- Increased internationalisation of both the student body and academic staff, as well as an improvement in international profile;
- Development of a world class executive education capacity at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School;
- Major facilities improvements.

Both the UCD Smurfit and Quinn Business Schools as well as the UCD School of Law have made solid progress against these objectives.



### Programme developments

UCD Quinn School of Business remains the undergraduate destination of choice for those wishing to pursue a business career, while Law, as a discipline, has seen a recovery in popularity with school leavers. A series of new degree programmes has resulted in UCD improving its share of CAO first choice law students.

Graduate student numbers grew despite unfavourable demographic trends and increased competition, both from other institutions and a buoyant recruitment market. The UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School now offers a Masters in Management for the first time and has introduced several new MBA streams.

Progress was made on developing Executive Education offerings with a successful executive leadership programme for senior officers in An Garda Síochána. A new Director of Executive Education has launched several new programmes, which are achieving strong enrolment numbers.

Work continues to improve physical facilities with the year's most notable achievement being a gift of €4 million from one of UCD's most distinguished alumni, Peter Sutherland SC, to underpin the construction of a new building for the UCD School of Law; this is expected to be ready by 2010.

A major gift from an anonymous donor made possible a new library on the Blackrock Smurfit

*UCD Smurfit School library recently established through a generous gift from an anonymous donor*

*Professor Paul O'Connor, UCD School of Law (left) with Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman who joined the staff of the School as Judge in Residence for the second semester of the academic year 2006/07*

School campus. The old church was imaginatively converted into a state of the art library. Fully wi-fi enabled with space for 150 users, it has over 25,000 books and theses and is fully connected to all major data bases and online repositories.

The Smurfit School advisory board adopted an ambitious proposal for the redevelopment of the Blackrock campus. This will require major fundraising over the coming year to fulfil the School's vision.

The College also hosted a number of prominent visitors and events during the year including An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, internationally renowned management strategist, Professor Henry Mintzberg and the Irish European Law Forum.

Students from over 40 countries studied in the College last year. This trend is continuing with students from Venezuela and Kazakhstan, among others, confirmed for the coming year. The full time MBA programme will have a majority of overseas students for the first time.

Erasmus and study-abroad student numbers at the UCD Quinn School are expected to grow by over 20% in the coming year and the School will continue to have over 1,400 students in South East Asia on distance learning programmes.

Four new MSc programmes specifically designed for overseas students were introduced at the UCD Smurfit School. Deputy Principal, Professor Frank Roche, led a delegation to China which signed an agreement with Wuhan University. The strategy for the Chinese market envisages alliances with a select number of top quality Chinese universities for both students and staff exchange. Chinese students form the largest overseas cohort within the Schools.

*Professor Henry Mintzberg (centre) from McGill University Montreal with Dr Gerardine Doyle, Director of the Healthcare MBA programme at the UCD Smurfit School and Professor Tom Begley, Head of the UCD School of Business*



The College is collaborating with the business community to develop new research streams and educational programmes in Finance, under the aegis of the Global Finance Academy.

### Academic appointments

There was continued enhancement of both management and academic capabilities with several senior appointments at College level, including new Directors at the UCD Smurfit and Quinn Schools. An intensive international recruitment campaign filled five new chairs at the UCD School of Business, mainly from overseas.

Professor Paul O'Connor, the university's longest serving Dean has stepped down after 15 years at the UCD School of Law. His many achievements include the establishment of the State's only Institute of Criminology, as well as the creation of new degree and diploma programmes, new Chairs and a major expansion in staff numbers. Professor Joe McMahon is the interim Dean pending a permanent appointment next year.

### Research and awards

The numbers of doctoral students is at an all time high and the introduction of the structured doctoral programme has significantly enhanced the extent and quality of training provided to research students. These enhancements will be capitalised on through the development of further funding sources to improve financial support for research degrees.

Both Schools significantly increased their participation in the university's seed funding scheme, with 22 new grants awarded.

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform provided major funding for a project on the codification of Ireland's criminal law.

## UCD College of Business and Law

Positions held on 1 September 2006



**College Principal**  
Mr Paul Haran



**UCD School of Law**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Paul O'Connor



**UCD School of Business**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Tom Begley



## UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

The key strategic goals of the College are to:

- Ensure its Schools are comparable to leading European institutions in respect of research and teaching;
- Double graduate intake in line with government targets;
- Recruit the best students and maximise their potential;
- Continue to develop new Bachelors and Masters programmes and to increase the choices and opportunities for students. In particular, the development of its Bologna programmes is central to offering students one of the widest ranges of educational choice available in Europe.

### Programme developments

The College is committed to maintaining the high quality of teaching and learning support for which it has an international reputation. New BSc programmes were launched in Engineering Science, Landscape Architecture, Climate and Earth System Science, and Physics with Astronomy and Space Science. A new ME programme in Structural Engineering with Architecture and a MEngSc in Biopharmaceutical Engineering (in conjunction with Dublin City University (DCU), Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT)), were also launched.

During the year the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL) was set up. It brings together over 150 researchers from across the College in to Ireland's largest multi-disciplinary centre focused on providing solutions to key problems in science through the application of mathematics and informatics.

The operational structures for the Graduate School have now been implemented and new PhD regulations came into effect for all students from September 2006. Schools have developed School and programme level implementation plans for the structured PhD programme and a number of new inter-School, inter-College and inter-institutional thematic PhD programmes were designed and launched.

In collaboration with the UCD College of Life Sciences Graduate School, the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Graduate School offered a module for new PhD students which provided an introduction to core research skills, documentation for new students was developed and the website was redesigned

to offer an additional resource for both staff and students. Marketing collateral was developed and the Graduate School and its constituent Schools were represented at graduate recruitment events throughout the year. Through networking with UK GRAD and the UK Council for Graduate Education, a number of potential collaborations have been investigated such as that with the Graduate Schools at Imperial College London in the area of transferable skills.

### Research and awards

The College promotes interdisciplinary research and teaching both between Schools and Colleges in UCD, and with other institutions within Ireland and abroad. The College also carries out research, training and technology transfer in collaboration with industry. A central part of the College's mission is to produce high quality leading edge research with an international profile. External research funding awarded to the College in the year was over €24.3 million, a significant increase of 70% on the previous year.



*A runner up image from the Images of Research competition, titled Time to Reflect by graduate student Oran Morris, showing a custom designed optical system by the atomic and molecular physics group to study radiation and ion emission laser-produced plasmas*

The period also shows a steady increase in SFI funding from €4.6 million (2005/06) to €6.4 million (2006/07) with 82 SFI funded principal investigators currently in the College, 25% of whom were newly awarded in 2006/07.

Research capacity has also increased substantially. The number of postdoctoral researchers in the College has grown by 30% to 111 in the period 2006/07. Doctoral student numbers have also increased, with 427 PhD students registered in the College in the academic session 2006/07. The equivalent number in 2005/06 was 389. Sixty five PhD students graduated in 2006/07, an increase of 58% on the previous year.

The Mathematics Support Centre continues to provide valuable learning assistance to students across the university. Plans are currently being developed to establish similar centres in other key areas.

Researchers in the College were very successful in the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)/IRCHSS Exploratory Grants for Graduate Research Education Programmes in October 2006. The College had significant involvement in nine of the 22 successful proposals.

Funding of \$9.3 million/€7.1 million was awarded by Intel Ireland Ltd and the IDA to UCD for the Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) Centre. The collaboration was led by Professor Richard Reilly of the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering. Other collaborators in the \$30 million / €23 million investment overall include TCD and NUIG.

Two Griffith Geoscience Research Awards worth over €2 million were made to the Marine and Petroleum Geology Research Group, led by Professor Patrick Shannon, UCD School of Geological Sciences and the Geophysics Group, led by Professor Christopher Bean in the same School. These awards are key components of the National Geoscience Programme 2007–2013.

Funding of €2.27 million from the SFI Mathematics Initiative 2006 was awarded to Gary McGuire, Director of the Claude Shannon Institute for Discrete Mathematics, Coding and Cryptography. The Institute involves collaboration between UCD, University College Cork, DCU and NUI Maynooth.

Other research highlights in the College include the Enterprise Ireland Informatics Commercialisation Award 2006 to Professor Barry Smyth for his leadership in commercialising university research and a Charles Parsons Energy Research Award to the UCD Electricity Research Centre under the direction of Professor Mark O'Malley.

The National Digital Research Centre, led by Professor Paddy Nixon, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics was established in 2006 by a consortium of third level institutions with funding of over €25 million from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

The College has two key goals for the coming year: to support the enhancement of the research capacity of the Schools and to build distinctive and internationally competitive inter-School research centres. School support will be targeted to continue the success in attracting research funding and to enhance the School research capacity.

At a College level the goal is to develop in a number of key strategic areas including energy, computational modelling, complex and adaptive systems, nanobiology, and biomedical engineering.



Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey TD (left) presenting a Charles Parsons Energy Research Award to Professor Mark O'Malley (centre) and Professor Nick Quirke, Principal, UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

## UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Positions held on 1 September 2006



**College Principal**  
Professor Nick Quirke



**UCD School of Electrical,  
Electronic and Mechanical  
Engineering**  
*Head of School*  
Dr David FitzPatrick



**UCD School of Architecture,  
Landscape and Civil Engineering**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Mark Richardson



**UCD School of Geological  
Sciences**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Pat Shannon



**UCD School of Chemical and  
Bioprocess Engineering**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Don MacElroy



**UCD School of Mathematical  
Sciences**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Adrian Ottewill



**UCD School of Computer Science  
and Informatics**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Barry Smyth



**UCD School of Physics**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Gerry O'Sullivan

## UCD College of Human Sciences

The College consists of ten Schools which bring together the social sciences, a range of interdisciplinary areas, and other disciplines including psychology, geography and philosophy.

The College aims are to:

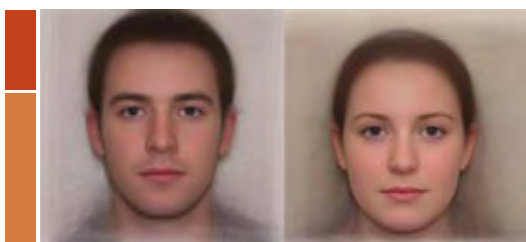
- Contribute to the understanding of changing national, European and global dynamics and to address national and international policy issues;
- Further develop as a leading centre for high quality research in the social and human sciences;
- Enhance undergraduate programmes and attract the best students to meet emerging societal and economic needs;
- Develop an internationally esteemed Graduate School.

### Programme developments

2006/07 saw the continuation and consolidation of important developments within the UCD College of Human Sciences. The ten Schools engaged actively in the School planning process, new degree combinations were launched, the Graduate School was established and academics in Human Sciences won major research grants and fellowships.

A number of exciting new undergraduate programmes were launched in September 2006, notably degrees in Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, History, Politics and International Relations, Economics and Politics, Law with Politics, Law with Philosophy, and Law with Economics. An innovative large class teaching project was launched jointly by the UCD Colleges of Human Sciences and Life Sciences. Within this project the UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy redesigned one of the large stage one modules with over 400 students using innovative enquiry-based and blended learning teaching approaches. Research into the outcome of the module revealed a higher level of engagement amongst students, improved attendance and higher grades.

The College, funded by the HEA Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), was to the fore in developing a scheme for university teaching and



academic development fellowships. This scheme recognises and rewards outstanding teachers who work in leadership roles both in their individual Schools and across the university. Three of these prestigious fellowships were awarded to scholars in Human Sciences who will be working specifically on improving the first year experience and in helping colleagues to develop more effective assessment approaches.

During the year the College further developed its Graduate School and established Graduate Boards for research and taught programmes. The College was the first in UCD to introduce a structured taught component to all its PhD programmes. The College Graduate School provided an organised programme of modules on research methods in conjunction with the UCD College of Business and Law Graduate School. The College commitment to developing the professional formation of its graduate students was underlined by the appointment of a lecturer in the Philosophy of Science and in Quantitative Research Methods. Significant enhancements of the graduate student experience in the College included the establishment of more than 30 new dedicated office spaces for graduate students and the launch of the first Graduate Research Innovations Fund for graduate research students.

The Graduate School held its first PhD conference in May 2007 with over 40 participating graduate students and guest speakers Professor Frances Ruane, Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Mary Davis, Chair of the Task Force on Active Citizenship.

*A runner-up image from the Images of Research competition, titled Averaged by Dr Nuala Brady, UCD School of Psychology, made by blending 70 male and 70 female faces to create composites representing 'average' young Irish faces. The images are used in research on caricature effects in face recognition*



Professor Brigid Laffan, Principal, UCD College of Human Sciences with Professor Ian Shapiro of Yale University



The College hosted a number of prestigious lectures by internationally distinguished scholars. In November 2006 Professor Ian Shapiro, Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University and Director of the Macmillan Centre for International and Area Studies at Yale delivered the inaugural UCD College of Human Sciences Lecture. His lecture was entitled *The Flight from Reality in the Human Sciences*. In March 2007 the distinguished philosopher Professor Hilary Putnam, Harvard University, attended a colloquium in his honour as part of the celebration for his 80th birthday. Professor Putnam delivered a lecture entitled *The Fact/Value Dichotomy and its Critics*. In June 2007 UCD awarded an Honorary Degree to Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate in Economics. Professor Sen delivered a public lecture on the theme *Identity, Poverty and Violence* and conducted a seminar for graduate students in the UCD School of Economics. Professor Sneja Gunew (University of British Columbia) and Professor Marco Mattiniello (University of Liège) participated in the activities of the Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative.

### Academic appointments

The College made a number of professorial appointments during the academic year. Amongst the new appointments were two professorships in the UCD School of Applied Social Science, Professor Tony Fahey, Professor of Social Policy, and Professor Brian Nolan, Professor of Public Policy. Professor Karl Whelan was appointed to the UCD School of Economics and Professor Alun Jones to the UCD School of Geography, Planning

and Environmental Policy. Professor Daniel Thomas and Professor Paul Walsh joined the UCD School of Politics and International Relations. The increasing international orientation of the College was reflected in the recruitment of early career academics from the UK, continental Europe and North America.

The Graduate School welcomed Dr Christopher Mole (UCD School of Philosophy) and Dr Jos Elkink (UCD School of Politics and International Relations) who will work as a team to redesign and strengthen the taught provision to graduate students.

### Research and awards

The College had substantial research successes during 2006/07. These included major publications with international book publishers and in leading international peer-reviewed journals. They also included research grants from IRCHSS, the European Union (EU), the European Social Fund (ESF), Norface, Irish Aid, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a variety of non-governmental agencies and organisations. Scholars in the College were also successful in a European Science Foundation bid to develop an ESF European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) programme. This was the first time that a EUROCORES research programme was developed in the social sciences. The programme is designed around the theme of the interaction between human values, institutions and behaviour. Funding for the programme comes from 18 national funding agencies, the agency in the Irish case being the IRCHSS.

The College was successful in two aspects of the university's PRTL, Cycle 4 application. Both projects involve interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration. One (the Global Ireland project) involves a joint application with the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies as part of a wider Arts/Humanities programme. The second was for the further development of the Irish Social Science Data Archive in conjunction with the UCD Geary Institute. Research contracts signed during 2006/07 totalled just over €5.75 million.

## UCD College of Human Sciences

Positions held on 1 September 2006



**College Principal**  
Professor Brigid Laffan



**UCD School of Information and Library Studies**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Mary Burke



**UCD School of Applied Social Science**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Valerie Richardson



**UCD School of Philosophy**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Gerard Casey



**UCD School of Economics**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Rodney Thom



**UCD School of Politics and International Relations**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Attracta Ingram



**UCD School of Education and Lifelong Learning**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Sheelagh Drudy



**UCD School of Psychology**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Barbara Dooley



**UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Joe Brady



**UCD School of Social Justice**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Sara Cantillon



**UCD School of Sociology**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Aogán Mulcahy

## UCD College of Life Sciences

The primary strategic objectives of the College have been an increase in academic and research unit size with increased critical mass and the fostering of cross-School initiatives. These focused primarily but not solely on research initiatives, driven by success in competing for the currently available high level of national and EU funds.

A number of factors have contributed to current successes:

- Increased research income generated by existing research teams;
- Strategic recruitment of additional researchers in selected disciplines;
- A significant increase in cross-School collaborations leading to larger thematic research grants.

Cross-School collaboration has not been confined to research but has led to the initiation of several new interdisciplinary degree programmes outlined below.

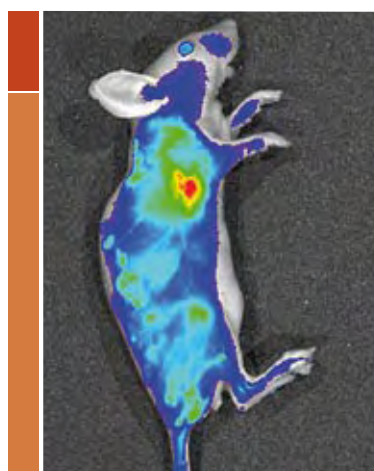
### Programme developments

*The Colour of Life, an image created by William Gallagher, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, entered in the Images of Research competition*

The year 2006/07 has been a year of constantly increasing activity. All eight Schools consolidated their new structures and increased their staffing with the appointment of senior academic and administrative staff. Probably the biggest structural change announced by any of the Schools was an initiative of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science to join with two of Ireland's largest teaching hospitals, St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH), to create Ireland's first academic medical centre, Dublin Academic Health Care (DAHC). This model of interlinking medical schools and their affiliated hospitals within a single umbrella organisation has been used successfully in North America and elsewhere in Europe and is the first such initiative in the academic healthcare system in Ireland. DAHC will pool the expertise and resources of the three organisations to improve integration of patient care, enhance medical training and advance collaboration between biomedical researchers and clinicians.

Three new four year undergraduate degree programmes were initiated in the College in September 2006 resulting in a projected increase of 240 undergraduate students by 2009. These were BSc programmes in Neuroscience (intake of 10 students per annum), Midwifery (intake of 20 students per annum) and Children's and General Nursing (intake of 30 students per annum).

This year saw an increase of 11% to 790 in the number of PhD students in life sciences. Research spending was approximately 17%



higher and the increase was concentrated in the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, and UCD School of Biology and Environmental Sciences.

As detailed later in this report, the first phase of the redevelopment of UCD Science Centre has begun.

Building work began and is at an advanced stage to allow the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS) to relocate from Earlsfort Terrace to a modernised development within the Health Sciences complex.

Increases in research income indicate that research funded staff and graduates will grow by approximately 500 over the coming 18 months while newly appointed academic staff are also bringing significant research teams with them.

All Schools completed five year plans in the past year. Targets for the planned activities include:

- A growth in annual research income by 136%;
- A growth in graduate research FTEs by 101% from 1,131 to 2,269;
- A growth in undergraduate/graduate taught FTEs by 14% from 4,876 in year zero to 5,557 in year five. Contributing to this will be new programmes in Nutritional Science, Biomedical Science, Medicinal Chemistry and Performance Science;
- A net investment for the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science of €2.2 million per annum in year one peaking at €4.3 million per annum in year three – mainly on academic staff. A new graduate entry stream is also anticipated by this School;
- Development of the new UCD Institute for Sport and Health allied to the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Sciences starting with an investment of €750k in equipment.

### Academic appointments

Several senior academic staff members joined the College through regular recruitment and a thematic recruitment exercise. Recruitment will continue into 2007/08 with the SFI Stokes recruitment process. Among the new appointments are professorships to lead the interdisciplinary UCD Institute of Food and Health (Professor Michael Gibney) and UCD Institute of Sport and Health (Professor Colin Boreham). Professors were also appointed in the disciplines

of Bioinformatics (Professor Brendan Loftus); Medicine and Therapeutics at St Vincent's University Hospital (Professor Michael Keane); Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St Vincent's and The Coombe Womens' Hospital (Professor Michael Turner); Performance Science (Professor Giuseppe De Vito); Epidemiology of Nutrition and Food Borne Diseases (Professor Patrick Wall); Soil Science (Professor Christoph Muller); Veterinary Clinical Studies (Professor Michael Doherty) and Veterinary Surgery (Professor Pieter Brama).

### Research and awards

Research contracts signed should exceed last year's total of €45 million (net of overheads) by the end of the year. Schools figuring prominently in this are the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine and the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science.

Two new interdisciplinary research institutes were created in Food and Health, and Sport and Health. The first of these had a very successful 2006/07 with major contracts from Enterprise Ireland (€8.5 million), EU Framework 7 and the PRTL programme funded by the HEA. Within the latter PRTL programme, the College was also involved in several successful initiatives in (bio)pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences, nanoscience and nanoscale technologies and a graduate training programme in biomedical science.



A safe pair of hands, a runner-up image from the Images of Research competition created by Dr Eamonn Gormley, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine. The badger is one of Ireland's largest native mammals. This cub was given a helping hand before being returned to his mother



## UCD College of Life Sciences

Positions held on 1 September 2006



**College Principal**  
Professor Brian McKenna



**UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Michael McGlinchey



**UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Maurice Boland



**UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Bill Powderly



**UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Tom Bolger



**UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Marie Carney



**UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Paul Moynagh



**UCD School of Public Health and Population Science**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Cecily Kelleher



**UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Catherine Blake



### 3

## Achieving Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Excellence in teaching and learning must underpin every aspect of life in the UCD community if the university is to realise its ambitious vision to offer the very best in undergraduate, graduate and lifelong learning and compete successfully for the most talented students.

Curriculum reform in the period of the UCD Strategic Plan has been dramatic and the university is now offering an innovative and exciting, fully modularised suite of degree programmes. The development of *UCD Horizons* has allowed the university to make the most of its tradition of educational excellence with new and flexible approaches through modular curriculum design.

In parallel, there has also been a major expansion of taught and research graduate activity including structured doctoral programmes. Quality teaching at UCD benefits from internationally recognised research excellence, and the finest students are taught by the best teachers and researchers. By investing in its undergraduate, graduate and research programmes, UCD is building on its past and present to further attract outstanding students and staff who will work together in a shared culture of sustained excellence and innovation in teaching and learning.

Sixth year student  
Amy Browne from  
Ballygarvan speaks  
to John Buckley  
of the Agricultural  
Science and  
Veterinary Medicine  
Programme Office at  
the December 2006  
Open Day



### Student Numbers

Modularisation, Semesterisation  
and UCD Horizons

Student Recruitment  
and New Programmes

International Student Activity

Innovation in Teaching  
and Learning

Quality

## Student Numbers

The number of students choosing to study at UCD continues to rise. The total number of students at undergraduate and graduate level rose by just under 2% from 22,528 in 2005/06 to 22,929 in 2006/07. Table 1 shows the breakdown of student numbers by programme.

Students are attracted to UCD from all over the world, with almost a fifth of the graduate student body coming from outside the island of Ireland. The university's international profile continues to rise and 110 countries are now represented. Table 2 shows the origin of undergraduate and graduate students.

Table 3 shows the breakdown of international students by undergraduate (52%) and graduate (48%).

Table 4 shows the breakdown of students awarded qualifications in 2006/07.

**Table 1 — Student Numbers by Programme**

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Honours Degree	12,602	1,177	13,779
Certificate/Diploma	43	2,181	2,224
Exchange Students	246	285	531
Occasional	312	176	488
<b>Total Undergraduate</b>	<b>13,203</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>17,022</b>
<b>Graduate Students</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
PhD	1,393	154	1,547
Masters Research	307	54	361
Masters Taught	1,578	646	2,224
Certificate/Diploma	704	1,070	1,774
<b>Total Graduate</b>	<b>3,982</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>5,907</b>
<b>University Total</b>	<b>17,185</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>22,929</b>

**Table 2 — Student Origin**

	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Graduate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dublin City and County	7,421	2,455	9,876
Rest of Ireland	7,245	2,271	9,516
Northern Ireland	206	47	253
Great Britain	239	139	378
EU	691	439	1,130
North America	574	110	684
Asia	489	263	752
Africa	96	145	241
Rest of World	61	38	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,022</b>	<b>5,907</b>	<b>22,929</b>

**Table 3 — International Students**

	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Graduate</b>	<b>Total</b>
International	1,217	1,134	2,351
JYA/Occasional/ Exchange	933		933
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>3,284</b>

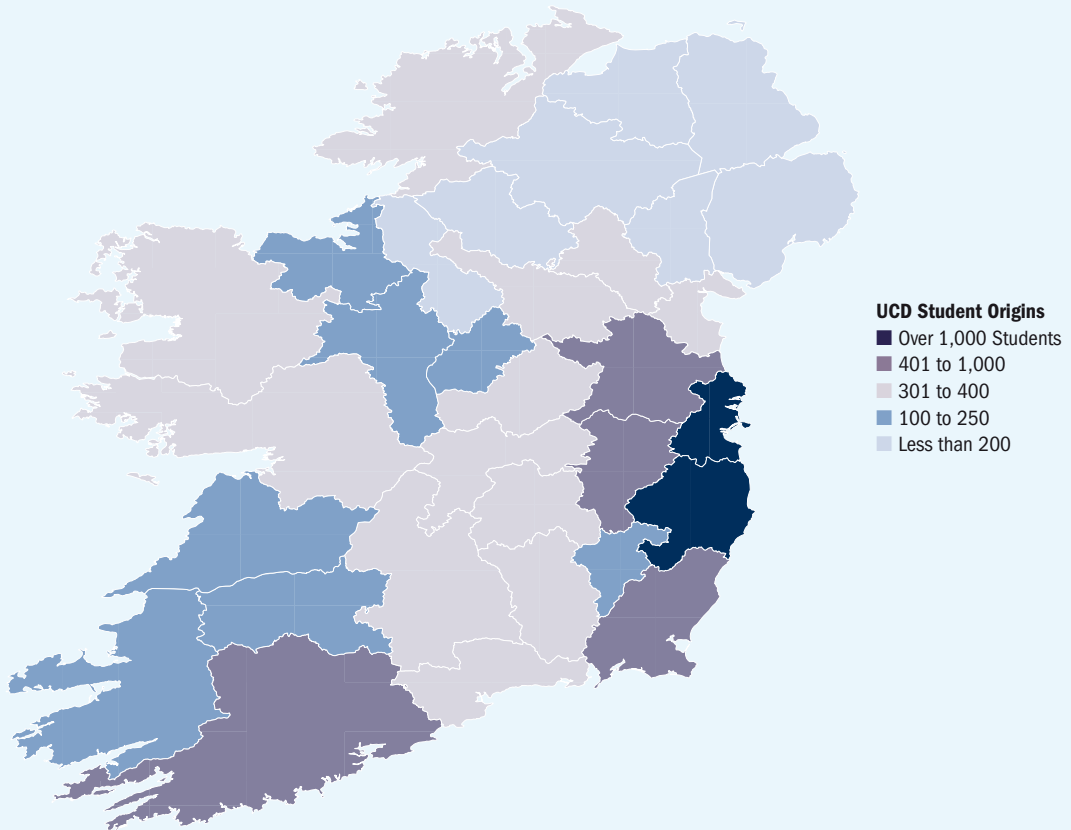
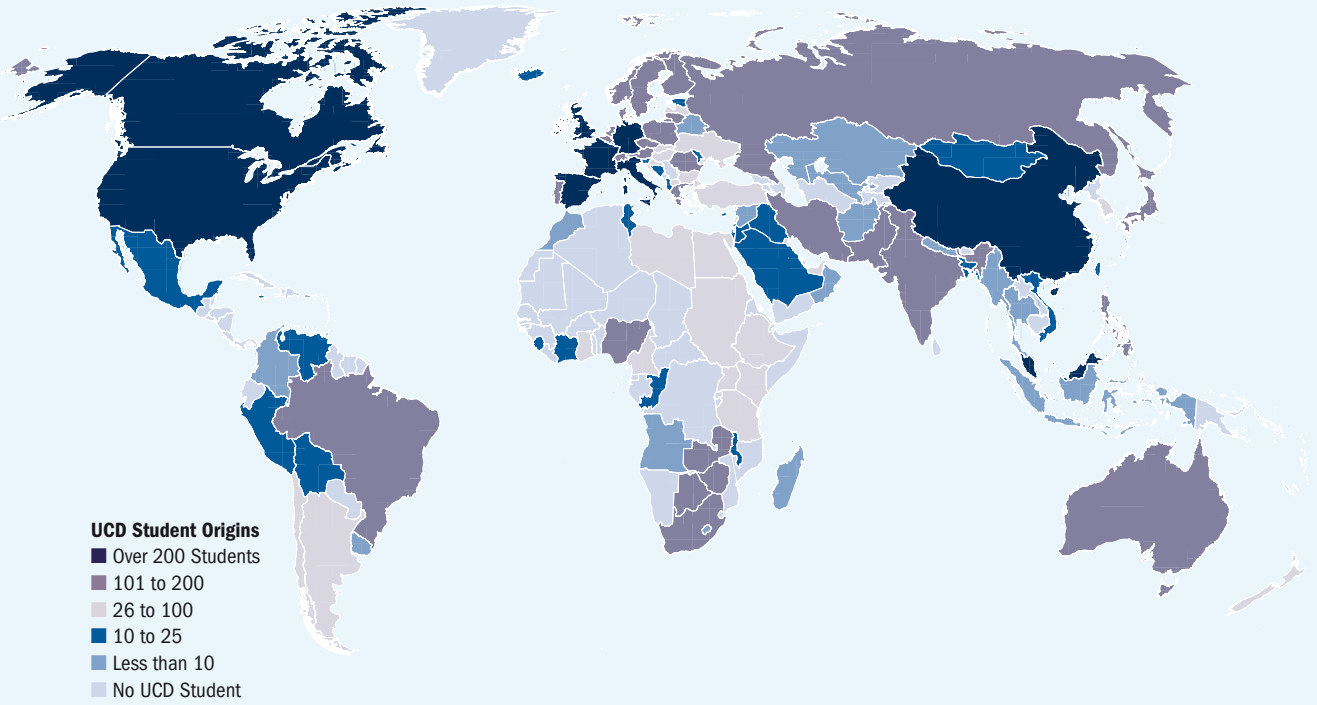
**Note:** International is defined as students with domicile outside the Republic of Ireland and excludes those students on Exchange, JYA or other occasional programmes. These are presented separately.

**Table 4 – Students Awarded Qualifications**

<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Honours Degree	3,265	289	3,554
Certificate/Diploma	15	1,503	1,518
<b>Total Undergraduate</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>5,072</b>
<b>Graduate</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
PhD	101	96	197
Masters Research	114	28	142
Masters Taught	1,300	340	1,640
Certificate/Diploma	637	722	1,359
<b>Total Graduate</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>3,338</b>
<b>University Total</b>	<b>5,432</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>8,410</b>



## Student Origins



## Modularisation, Semesterisation and *UCD Horizons*

The ambitious objectives of the Strategic Plan are to:

- Implement a modularised and semesterised curriculum and drive curricular reform at module and programme level;
- Focus on defining the core curriculum and learning outcomes;
- Enrich the student learning experience through the provision of *UCD Horizons* electives.

UCD has made strides in embedding the mechanisms and processes to govern and enable the effective management of all graduate programmes — taught and research — while facilitating continued programme development. This extends from undergraduate programmes to thematic doctoral programmes, an area identified as key for development by both the UCD Strategic Plan as well as the Government's *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2006–2013*.

### Progress to date

The majority of the university's undergraduate programmes are fully modularised and semesterised, with learning outcomes expressed at the programme and module level.

Schools are collaborating on new and interesting ways of combining different subject areas and are focusing on defining programmes through learning outcomes. New programmes have been established which bring together areas of study for a unique degree.

Students have the opportunity to register to elective modules outside of their area(s) of study, which enable them to develop a broader knowledge base in diverse subjects. Students also have the opportunity to register two options within their programme which enable them develop a deeper understanding of their subject area. Modules in Applied Languages and Psychology were very popular elective choices for students in September 2006. See Table 1.

Policy on the provision of electives was developed and approved in 2007. It sets out the general principles maintained by the university on the provision of electives, including how elective 'blocks' can be structured within a School or subject area.

Online registration for September 2007 entry began on a phased basis in mid August 2007, with the system offering very significant improvements

**Table 1 — First Year Top Elective Choices September 2006**

Module	Number of first year students
Psychology	284
Applied Languages	221
Computer Science	188
Business Management	166
Law	135
Physics	130
Philosophy	129
Economics	123
Biology	111

on the previous year. This complex body of work was led by UCD Registry, a new unit which has evolved structurally in line with developments in modularisation and management reconfiguration within the overall Office of the Registrar and Deputy President.

UCD Registry is headed up by the Director of Registry, Kevin Griffin and comprises the following five units: Academic Policy and Programme Development, Student Recruitment, Operations, Assessment and Logistics and SySDM (Systems, Support, Development and Enrolment Management).

Achievement in the undergraduate area has been the result of a collaborative process over time between Programme Offices, Programme Boards, Schools and teams within Registry. The University Undergraduate Programme Board, has been the main forum for discussion and recommendations on curriculum reform and wider programme development issues.

Modularisation and semesterisation has had a major impact on the pattern and modes of student assessment. Significant work has been undertaken to restructure the Exams Office into the Assessment and Logistics Unit (ALU) to support staff in the changing assessment context. Processes and procedures to accommodate the new curricular structures have been the main focus, with a re-structuring of logistics, exams scheduling and hall management system, and the creation of a set of innovative assessment reports to enable the development of a modular grade approval process. This was a collaborative effort between the Assessment and Logistics Unit, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Supervisor of Examinations, Programme Offices, Graduate School Offices and the Management Services Unit.

By August 2007, only five graduate taught programmes remained to be modularised, and all research masters programmes for delivery in 2007/08 have been modularised. Also, 30 new graduate taught programmes were approved for delivery in 2007/08, along with 15 new thematic doctoral programmes.

Concerted effort towards the modularisation of graduate research programmes began in September 2006, when the university introduced the new structured PhD programme for all new doctoral students entering. As part of the new structured PhD, doctoral students are now able to avail of taught modules from throughout the university and are no longer only supported in their research by a single supervisor but by a Doctoral

Studies Panel. All students are now encouraged to develop a Research and Professional Development Plan (RPDP) in co-operation with their Doctoral Studies Panel.

### Future objectives

- Progress at programme level curriculum review and development, particularly in aligning curriculum design with stated learning outcomes;
- Progress at School level in the development of their elective portfolio, particularly in the area of structured electives;
- Strengthening the mechanisms for graduate governance and support for the development of new graduate programmes, including and especially thematic doctoral programmes, and the development of a number of additional policy instruments to provide ongoing guidance and support for all students and staff involved with graduate education;
- International best-practice review and implementation of assessment approaches and methodologies in a modular system, including examining, grading and examination board policies and procedures.

While outlining the institutional achievements above, it is important to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership role played by Vice-Principals for Teaching and Learning and Directors of Graduate Schools in shaping and delivering the modularisation initiative at all levels.



## Undergraduate Programme Deans

During the year, the key role of Programme Dean was introduced to advance the strategic development of programmes. Deans have been appointed for 12 Programme Boards, with approved terms of reference to ensure effective programme governance and management.

The Programme Deans will lead the strategic development of our undergraduate programmes within the modular framework and are responsible

for the academic governance of programmes through the Programme Boards, and the students' welfare and learning experience at programme level. Working with the relevant Programme Office(s) and with UCD Registry, Deans will ensure the co-ordinated provision of administrative supports to students, and the effective operation of programmes.

The Deans appointed in 2006/07 are set out below.



**Professor Jim Phelan**  
*Dean of Agricultural Science*



**Professor Bill Powderly**  
*Dean of Medicine*



**Mr Jim Murphy**  
*Dean of Architecture*



**Professor Gerard Fealy**  
*Dean of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems*



**Dr Joe Brady**  
*Dean of Arts*



**Professor Mark Rogers**  
*Dean of Science*



**Professor Tom Begley**  
*Dean of Business*



**Dr Bairbre Redmond**  
*Dean of Social Science*



**Dr David Timoney**  
*Dean of Engineering*



**Professor Grace Mulcahy**  
*Dean of Veterinary Medicine*



**Professor Joe McMahon**  
*Dean of Law (interim)*



**Professor Cecily Kelleher**  
*Chair of the Public Health, Physiotherapy, Performance and Population Science Programme Board*



## Student Recruitment and New Programmes

Clear objectives have been set to ensure that UCD remains the university of choice for the most talented and ambitious students. As part of a co-ordinated recruitment strategy, the university has worked hard to:

- Increase the quality and number of contacts with individual prospective students;
- Increase the quality and level of information available to the individual student and his or her advisers.

### Progress to date

A key task has been implementation of the first stages of the student-centred recruitment model developed in UCD. The model recognises that prospective students have different needs at different stages in the process of choosing the right university and degree course, as well as the value of better quality and more accessible information. The university must meet this need in recruiting and communicating with prospective students.

UCD increased its market share of high achievers with over 456 students attaining more than 545 points in their Leaving Certificate or equivalent. Nationally 8% of Leaving Certificate students secured over 500 points. In recognition of their excellence, 108 students were awarded entrance scholarships. The top students in each programme were presented with their scholarships at a ceremony which acknowledged their achievements and raised the profiles of UCD high achievers in national and local media.

Activities in the year included a drive to bring prospective students to UCD and improve the quality of contact with them. Fifty UCD Student Ambassadors offered over 8,000 prospective students from Ireland and overseas a campus tour which included an information session in the new UCD Welcome Centre.

The March Open Days were replaced with school group and individual campus visits. The December Open Days for final year and mature students saw significant improvements in programme talks and information provision.

A Graduate Opportunities Day was introduced in the O'Reilly Hall in February.

Stronger strategic links were developed with schools through the inaugural UCD Guidance Counsellors' Seminar with its focus on training the trainer and curriculum information. There was a major research-driven redesign of the prospectus and the development of the UCD Guidance Counsellors' Information Manual for schools and guidance counsellors.

### Future objectives

A focal point for 2007/08 is the development and rollout of *MyUCD*, the first Irish university undergraduate student portal. It will offer additional academic programme search

UCD offered five new undergraduate programmes during the period for students entering the university in autumn 2007. These were:

- Law with Economics
- Health and Performance Science
- Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Climate and Earth System Science

functionality and further opportunities to communicate with prospective students and allow them become part of the UCD community before they arrive on campus.

Efforts will continue to attract potential students to visit UCD through the provision of information talks and campus tour and increased programme-specific open evenings.

Recognition of high achievers will include the introduction of the Entrance Exhibitors' award for all students with over 545 Leaving Certificate points or equivalent.

*UCD Student Ambassadors welcome transition year students from St Colmcille's Community School Knocklyon, Dublin 16 on a campus tour*



## International Student Activity

In 2006/07, the number of international students attending UCD rose to just under 3,300, an increase of 4% from 2005/06. These students came from 110 different countries. Over the last two years there have been particularly significant increases in the number of students from France, Germany, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Singapore and Spain.

### Progress to date

In 2006/07, 281 UCD students spent time abroad as part of the ERASMUS programme and a further 74 students participated in outbound non-EU exchanges.

Progress towards providing UCD students with interesting opportunities to study abroad via exchange programmes has continued. In 2006/07, for the first time, there was student mobility between UCD and the University of Otago in New Zealand, Keio University in Japan and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in the USA. In addition, seven new exchange agreements have been established with universities in Canada,

Korea, New Zealand and the USA, providing an additional 38 new outgoing exchange places outside the EU. This is in addition to 25 new exchange programmes with prominent European institutions via the ERASMUS programme, which together provide almost 40 new exchange places to UCD students.

In 2006 UCD joined *Universitas 21*, a major international network of over 20 research-led universities in ten countries. Membership provides UCD students and staff with a wide range of mobility options, collaborative research initiatives, joint academic programmes and best-practice benchmarking opportunities.



International students at the UCD Cultural Diversity Week in February 2007

Significant steps have been taken towards meeting the objectives of the *Universitas 21* Shanghai Declaration, which promotes the seamless mobility of students between member institutions. UCD now has active exchange programmes with 13 of the 20 *Universitas 21* partners and agreements are being discussed with the remainder for signing in 2008.

UCD students will also have the opportunity to participate in annual *Universitas 21* events such as the summer conference, undergraduate research conference and doctoral students' conference.

In May 2008 UCD will host the *Universitas 21* annual President's meeting and AGM, as well as the annual *Universitas 21* symposium.

In May 2007, during the annual UCD Breakfast at the NAFSA (Association of International Educators) Conference, held in Minneapolis, USA, UCD announced the establishment of its UCD Centre for Study Abroad. The Centre will build on the success and good practice of existing Study Abroad/Junior Year Abroad programmes in Colleges and Schools and will support the co-ordination of incoming Study Abroad opportunities across UCD. It will also provide a high level of service to all of UCD's Study Abroad students and partner institutions.

### Future developments

Consultation is underway with Colleges and Schools on the shape and content of the UCD Internationalisation Strategy, and its specific objectives and targets will form part of the next UCD Strategic Plan.

During the course of 2007/08, the International Office plans to conduct recruitment activities in China, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Middle East and the USA in collaboration with Colleges and Schools, and engage in a range of recruitment activities with sponsors and representatives in other key countries.

Progress will continue towards increasing the range of student mobility opportunities available to UCD students both within the ERASMUS framework and outside of Europe.



#### UNIVERSITAS 21 STUDENTS SUMMER CONFERENCE

In July 2007, five UCD students participated in the *Universitas 21* Student Summer Conference at the University of Virginia in the USA. The UCD students joined students from 15 of the *Universitas 21* partners for a programme of learning based around the theme of *Leadership in a Global Society*. The programme was designed to help participants understand and develop their own personal leadership skills by exploring the lives of leaders from different disciplines and different areas of the world. The curriculum had a strong experiential learning component and made extensive use of cross-cultural groups.

February 2008 will see UCD and the University of Glasgow collaboratively host the inaugural *Universitas 21* teaching and learning conference, entitled *Does Teaching and Learning Translate? A strong network of Universitas 21* leaders, academic and administrative, will be formed to tackle the global challenge of the student higher education learning experience.



## Innovation in Teaching and Learning

### Strategic Innovation Fund

UCD has made further progress during the year in introducing and expanding on its support mechanisms for staff to innovate in their teaching. The university is working to transform student learning, stimulating innovative teaching and widening participation. This work is supported by the government-funded Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), a €300m five-year fund co-coordinated by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) to promote collaboration, support change and enhance quality in Irish higher education. UCD's SIF teaching and learning projects are co-coordinated by the Registrar and a steering committee chaired by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Gerry Doyle, which reports to the University Teaching and Learning Board.

### Stimulating innovative teaching

UCD made a successful proposal, through SIF for a Fellowship Scheme in Teaching and Academic Development. The purpose of the scheme, which is co-ordinated by Dr Bairbre Redmond (Vice-Principal, Teaching and Learning, UCD College of Human Sciences) and Elizabeth Noonan (Director of Academic Policy and Programme Development), is to implement a development structure for the promotion of excellence in teaching and academic development which is responsive to the changing needs of students.

The scheme uses an innovative hybrid model which promotes the strengths of each of the Fellows in specific disciplinary areas, whilst harnessing this through a group approach to address these issues in a university-wide manner for wider change and development. Eight Fellows were appointed in May 2007 from a range of disciplines across the university to form a community of practice focused on developing teaching excellence and with responsibility for leading academic development in two areas of strategic importance to UCD — first year experience and engaging students.



*Pictured is the first cohort of UCD staff who graduated with a Diploma in University Teaching and Learning in the autumn of 2006, along with the staff of the Centre for Teaching and Learning, are Dr Bairbre Redmond, Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning, UCD College of Human Sciences and the Registrar, Dr Philip Nolan (centre)*



The Fellows are:

- Dr Amanda Gibney, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering
- Dr Eilis Hennessy, UCD School of Psychology
- Dr Patricia Kieran, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering
- Dr Feargal Murphy, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics
- Dr Henry McLoughlin, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
- Dr Niamh Moore, UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy
- Dr Sara O Sullivan, UCD School of Sociology
- Ms Maria-Rosario “Charo” Hernandez, UCD School of Languages, Literatures and Film

The work of the Fellows in the initial stages will focus on understanding the expectations of students engaging in university life with a view to tailoring the student learning experience both from the perspective of teaching and assessment. A key outcome of the Scheme will be to foster the development of teaching scholarship through publication in peer reviewed journals nationally and internationally.

### Transforming student learning

The Enquiry/Problem-Based Learning (EPBL) project, co-ordinated by Geraldine O’Neill and Terry Barrett from the UCD Centre for Teaching and Learning, commenced in January 2007. In addition to discipline-specific knowledge, this approach to teaching and learning encourages students, working with a problem/enquiry, to develop their group-work, information retrieval, critical and creative thinking skills. This approach which builds on existing practices in UCD has been implemented since January 2007 in programmes across the university, for example, in Geography, Psychology, Diagnostic Imaging, and is in the design phase in modules in English Literature, Engineering, Physiotherapy and Languages. The project team are developing the use of a variety of models in some varied contexts, for example, with large-group classes in first year to graduate masters programmes in professional practice. Research is being carried out on the project and the findings to date have been disseminated at international and national

conferences. Links have been made with national and international partners, for example, the *Centre for Excellence in Enquiry-Based Learning* at the University of Manchester.

### Widening participation project

This project is the first quantitative evaluation of the New ERA Access Initiative. The primary aim of New ERA has been to promote and support the participation of students from lower socio-economic groups who, in general, are under-represented in higher education. The New ERA programme has been carrying out excellent and important work, yet the effectiveness of the programme has largely been measured by social observations rather than quantitative evidence. If the New ERA programme is to develop and maximise its potential, then an evaluation of the programme is a timely necessity. The first stage of the project will be a retrospective evaluation of New ERA programme over the last seven years. The effectiveness of the New ERA programme will be evaluated across three domains: increased access from disadvantaged schools, retention rates and overall exam performance. The second stage will involve devising and implementing new/modified services that will be delivered across a subset of New ERA and MAP schools. Rigorous social science methods will be used to evaluate their effectiveness.

### President’s Teaching Awards

President’s Teaching Awards are made to recognise excellence in teaching. Awards consist of one semester’s paid sabbatical leave plus €12,000 to be spent on professional development activities during that time. A further allowance of up to €4,000 is available to fund dissemination of any results or findings from these activities.

There were three recipients of President’s Teaching Awards during the year:

Dr Katherine O’Donnell, UCD School of Social Justice

Dr Debra Laefer, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering

Dr Oonagh Breen, UCD School of Law

Funding was also provided to conduct a feasibility study on the use of the modular curriculum to facilitate part-time learning within a broader lifelong learning framework. Work on this project is ongoing.

### UCD Centre for Teaching and Learning

The UCD Centre for Teaching and Learning promotes excellence and innovation in teaching at UCD by:

- Facilitating, creating and providing professional development activities at institutional and individual levels;
- Promoting reflective practice and scholarly dialogue on teaching and learning in universities;
- Conducting research into learning in higher education;
- Disseminating information about good practice in teaching and curriculum design;
- Providing advice on teaching and learning that can inform the strategic management decisions of UCD.

### Progress to date

The Centre hosted the Inaugural International Colloquium on University Teaching and Learning in June 2007, organised on the theme *Communities of Practice in the Digital Age*.

Twenty four students enrolled in January 2007 on the Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning programme. Thirteen sessions took place on the Centre's main workshop programme and there were additional project based and School specific workshops.

Work is ongoing on the National Digital Learning Repository — an online service which allows users to search for and contribute teaching and learning resources. The Repository project is part of the Higher Education Authority's strategic initiative to support collaboration in e-learning within the higher education sector.

The Centre provides mechanisms for peer-observation and self-evaluation of teaching in UCD whereby lecturers can have their teaching observed in a way that they retain control over all elements of the process.

#### President's Teaching Grants

President's Teaching Grants are competitive and given to fund projects for the improvement of teaching and learning at UCD. Grants can be up to a maximum of €8,000 to fund the project, plus a further €4,000 to disseminate findings.

There were eight grants made during the year:

Dr Gavin Barrett, UCD School of Law

Dr Joe Brady et al, UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy

Dr Fionnuala Dillane, UCD School of English and Drama

Dr Juliet Hewish and Ms Katie Long, UCD School of English and Drama

Dr Peter Holloway, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science

Ms Mary Catherine Lucey, UCD School of Law

Dr Patrick Orr, UCD School of Geological Sciences

## Quality

Operating in a globalised competitive environment, the university recognises that it must continually enhance the quality of its educational programmes and its supporting infrastructure. UCD has been a pioneer in the development of quality assurance/quality improvement, establishing the first formal quality assurance unit within the Irish university sector.

The university's implementation of its quality assurance/quality improvement procedures enable it to demonstrate how it discharges its responsibilities for ensuring the quality and standards of its awards, as required by the Universities Act 1997. UCD will continue to build on this to further develop its quality mechanisms and to create a quality improvement culture throughout its educational and related support activity.

### Progress to date

In 2006/07 the university began the process of reviewing its quality framework and a revised review schedule for Colleges, Schools, and support units is under development.

In April 2007, Roy Ferguson was appointed as the new Director of Quality, to take forward an upgraded quality agenda.

As part of this review process, the university also initiated a number of quality-related projects including:

- Establishing a register of university links with professional and statutory bodies and other external organisations;
- The development of an institutional framework for collaborative programmes, including associated policies and procedures for the approval of collaborative arrangements;
- A review of the quality assurance/quality improvement mechanisms for the approval and review of taught programmes.

### Future objectives

UCD is developing ambitious plans to further enhance its quality systems including:

- Establishing an integrated framework for quality improvement in order to systematise the range of quality assurance/quality improvement processes across the university;
- Using the quality assurance/quality improvement process and results, together with an increased institutional research capacity, to support strategic planning and actions;
- Examining how the student body might become progressively more aware of the quality assurance/quality improvement process and involved in this: in particular, the introduction of a university-wide mechanism to measure student engagement.
- Exploring options for synergies between professional accreditation procedures and the internal quality assurance/quality improvement process.



# 4

## Towards a Research-Intensive University

UCD is committed to becoming a leading European research-intensive university that nurtures innovation and creative discovery within its community of world-class researchers.

Combined with being a national and European leader in graduate education, the excellence and distinctiveness of research in UCD contributes to the social, economic and cultural objectives of a knowledge society.

UCD continues to build its reputation as a destination of choice for leading research talent, providing an environment in which research leaders can innovate and excel.

UCD is forging exciting educational and research partnerships and collaborations with academic, community, business and professional organisations, enhancing confidence in UCD as a destination for quality investment and making it a national leader in research funding.



The overall winner of the 2007 Images of Research competition was Maria Cederlund, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences and UCD Conway Institute, for her image Gene Expression in Zebrafish Embryos. The violet stain in this image shows where the gene *mab2112* is expressed in the 28 hours zebrafish embryo



#### Research Funding

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Internal Schemes in Support of Research  
Strategic and Major Initiatives Scheme  
Seed Funding Scheme  
President's Research Fellowship Scheme

#### Research Awards

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PRTL  
President of Ireland Young Researcher Awards  
Enterprise Ireland Award  
Royal Irish Academy  
Charles Parsons Energy Research and Griffith  
Geoscience Research Awards

#### Strategic Achievements

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#### Research Achievements

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#### Fourth Level

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#### UCD Research Institutes

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UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and  
Biomedical Research  
Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology  
(CSCB)  
Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (DMMC)  
UCD Geary Institute  
UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland  
UCD Urban Institute Ireland  
UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute  
UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies  
UCD Institute for Sport and Health  
UCD Global Irish Institute  
UCD Centre for Chinese Studies / UCD  
Confucius Institute for Ireland

#### NovaUCD

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### Research Publications

Details of all research publications for  
the period of the Report are available online at  
[www.ucd.ie/research/publications](http://www.ucd.ie/research/publications)

## Research Funding

UCD has been highly successful in increasing the total value of research contacts won by 16% on 2005/06. In addition to the regular grant activity outlined in the following two tables, UCD has also been extremely successful in securing nationally competitive funding, particularly through the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) funded by the HEA, and has also demonstrated unprecedented success in initiating a number of strategic initiatives, which are outlined later in this section.

**Table 1 – Research Awards**

Year	Total Value Contracts Signed incl. Contributions to Overheads (€ million)	Total Contributions to Overheads (€ million)	Total Number of Contracts Awarded	Number of Proposals Submitted
2003/2004	49.8	5.6	405	685
2004/2005	62.5	8.1	495	1,074
2005/2006	82.9	11.8	664	1,245
2006/2007	96.3	14.8	556	1,234

**Table 2 – Funding Sources**

Funding Source	Number of Contracts	Value (€ million)
Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)	86	23.2
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	32	9.1
European Commission	31	4.7
Health Research Board (HRB)	77	12.0
Enterprise Ireland (EI)	31	4.7
Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)	63	3.9
Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)	20	1.5
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	7	1.0
Business	28	8.6
Others	181	27.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>96.3</b>



UCD Research building

## UCD Internal Funding Schemes in Support of Research

### Strategic and Major Initiatives Scheme

One of UCD's strategic aims is to encourage interdisciplinary research and cross-campus programmes that will see UCD compete for major funding opportunities. Now in its second year, the UCD Research Strategic and Major Initiatives Scheme continues to encourage large scale strategic proposals that are likely to attract funding in excess of €10 million. The scheme is designed to support a number of feasibility studies (with funding of up to €50,000) that can be developed into major funding proposals. The funding is for interdisciplinary programmes including collaborations with external institutions.

### Seed Funding Scheme

Now in its third year the Seed Funding Scheme provides researchers with flexible opportunities for internal funding. The Scheme aims to provide seed funding to researchers at all stages of their careers with particular emphasis on projects that can successfully compete for subsequent external support. A second call for the Dissemination and Outputs Programme, specific to conference attendance, was introduced in June 2007 in recognition of the fact that researchers and the university alike benefit greatly from participation at conferences. Funding available under the Scheme has risen to €1.25 million this year. More than 600 researchers submitted applications to the Seed Funding Scheme in 2007 and 43 per cent of these researchers were awarded funding. See Table 3.

A runner-up in the Images of Research competition was this picture titled Microwave plasma standing wave created by Greg Byrne UCD School of Electrical, Electronic, and Mechanical Engineering, with the collaboration of Denis Dowling



Table 3 – Seed Funding Scheme

Round 2 2006		
Programme	No. of Awards	Amount Awarded €
Dissemination and Outputs	48	109,771
Enterprise and Commercialisation	7	35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>144,771</b>
Round 1 2007		
Programme	No. of Awards	Amount Awarded €
Internal and External Collaboration	39	325,082
Horizon Scanning	29	295,949
Dissemination and Outputs	104	156,647
Small Equipment Award	24	251,895
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>1,049,573</b>
Round 1 (Second Call) 2007		
Programme	No. of Awards	Amount Awarded €
Dissemination and Outputs / Conference Participation Only	63	75,393
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75,393</b>

### President's Research Fellowship Scheme

The President's Research Fellowship Scheme offers UCD researchers the opportunity to apply for an internal fellowship to enhance their research profile in UCD. The Fellowships are intended to support academics whose professional development as researchers would benefit from a period of focused research. In 2006/07, 31 applications were received for the President's Research Fellowship Scheme for 2007 and eight awards were made. See Table 4.

Table 4 — Presidents Research Fellowship Scheme Awards

Name	School
Professor Mark O'Malley	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Professor Gerry O'Sullivan	UCD School of Physics
Professor Adrian Ottewill	UCD School of Mathematical Sciences
Dr Gavin Barrett	UCD School of Law
Professor Alan Carr	UCD School of Psychology
Dr Nuala Brady	UCD School of Psychology
Dr John Brannigan	UCD School of English and Drama
Dr Graeme Warren	UCD School of Archaeology

## Research Awards

UCD was awarded €30 million under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), Cycle 4, funded by the HEA, for transformative initiatives in science and humanities research. This is made up of €17.5 million capital infrastructure funding for the development of the UCD Science Centre and €12.5 million recurrent funding for projects in the humanities and sciences.

Within the humanities, the UCD Global Irish Institute, with its radically interdisciplinary programme will concentrate on the study of Ireland and its diaspora. The Irish Social Science Data Archive will also receive funding to further a national infrastructure in social science data collection and management.

Within the sciences four main collaborative programmes are to receive recurrent funding:

- The Biopharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences programme builds on the €72 million National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) which is being funded by IDA Ireland in the UCD Belfield Innovation Park;
- Food Ireland supports one of Ireland's largest industries, agri-business, through the development of a collaborative national food and health research programme;
- The National Nanoscience Programme is designed to impact on emerging nano-technologies identified as key future wealth generators;
- Biomedical Science will facilitate the national consolidation and co-ordination of research and training activities in the biomedical sciences, delivering a coherent information portal and nationally accessible platform for molecular/translational medicine and biomedical sciences.

### 2006 SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Awards

In recognition of their exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge and research, two UCD researchers were awarded SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Awards (PIYRA). Science Foundation Ireland's most prestigious awards, valued at €1 million each over five years, recognises talented engineers and scientists at a very early stage in their careers. Two UCD researchers, Dr Emma Teeling and Dr Oliver Blacque, were among five recipients to receive over €4 million under the scheme. UCD is the only Irish institution to have been awarded more than one award for the second year running.

Dr Teeling's PIYRA-winning research examines the molecular evolution of sensory perception in mammals using the unique auditory and visual

senses of the bat as a model. Her research aims to identify the genetic variations that are most likely to cause deafness and blindness in humans.

Dr Blacque's PIYRA award goes towards the investigation of cilia biology; primary cilia are short hair-like structures on the surface of cells which play important sensory roles in the body. Defects in primary cilia cause cystic kidneys, retinal dystrophy and bone abnormalities. Using tiny microscopic worms as a model, Dr Blacque will examine the genetic basis of cilia function, regulation and development.



*SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Award recipients Dr Emma Teeling and Dr Oliver Blacque with President Mary McAleese*

### Enterprise Ireland Award

Professor Barry Smyth, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, was awarded the Enterprise Ireland Informatics Commercialisation Award 2006 for his leadership in commercialising university research. The annual award is presented to a researcher, research group or institution that exhibits commitment, innovation and success in relation to the commercialisation of university research. On presenting Professor Smyth with the award, Feargal Ó Móráin, Director of Applied Research Commercialisation at Enterprise Ireland stated that Professor Smyth had achieved a harmonious balance between academic and commercial success, and had also maintained a



strong track record of research excellence while managing to commercialise his work through the company ChangingWorlds.

### Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals and Membership

Professor James Dooge and Professor Peter Neary were awarded Royal Irish Academy (RIA) Gold medals in the fields of engineering sciences and social sciences respectively. Former Minister for Foreign Affairs and emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering at UCD, James Dooge is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of modern hydrology.

Professor Peter Neary (left) and Professor Jim Dooge (right) display their awards received from the Royal Irish Academy



Professor Peter Neary, Professor of Political Economy at UCD from 1980 to 2006, is undoubtedly one of Ireland's most distinguished academic economists. Professor Neary's main field of research is international trade theory, where he works on trade and industrial policy, globalisation, and competition.

In recognition of their outstanding academic achievements, three UCD academics were awarded membership of the RIA in May 2007. This is the highest honour that can be attained by scholars and scientists working in Ireland. The awards were made to:

- Associate Professor Jennifer Todd, UCD School of Politics and International Relations and IRCHSS Senior Research Fellow;
- Professor Desmond Higgins, Professor of Bioinformatics, UCD Conway Institute, the most cited computer scientist in the world;

- Professor Ciaran Regan, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, Professor of Neuropharmacology and Coordinator of the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group.

During the year, Professor Paul Engel was elected Vice-President of the Academy and Chairman of the Life Sciences committee.

### Charles Parsons Energy Research and Griffith Geoscience Research Awards

The implementation of the government's National Development Plan 2007 - 2013 included new initiatives for energy: the Charles Parsons Energy Research Awards and the Griffith Geoscience Research Awards.

UCD was the only institution to win two of the seven Charles Parsons Energy Research Awards, worth a total of €5.38 million. The winning entries were selected by an international peer review panel, from 22 proposals covering 11 third level institutions. The UCD Electricity Research Centre (ERC), directed by Professor Mark O'Malley was one of the winners. A collaboration between the Power Systems Research Group at UCD and the electricity industry on the island of Ireland, its research is focused on three main areas: new and evolving electricity markets, the integration of wind power into electricity grids and power system operations. The UCD Bioresources Research Centre (BRC), directed by Professor Shane Ward, was the second winner. The award of €3 million will contribute significantly to the BRC's work on liquid biofuel and biomass-to-energy research.

UCD also won two of the eight Griffith Geoscience Research Awards which were made to Professor Patrick Shannon of the Marine and Petroleum Geology Research Group, and Professor Christopher Bean of the Geophysics Group. These awards totalled over €2 million.

The Marine and Petroleum Geology research group in the UCD School of Geological Sciences has established an outstanding group of scientists to focus on understanding of slope and deep water sea-bed processes and in providing a geological framework for basin development, petroleum exploration and reservoir analysis in the Irish offshore. The Geophysics research group at UCD is internationally recognised for its contributions in understanding such complex phenomena as earthquakes and climate.

## Strategic Achievements

### Ageing Research

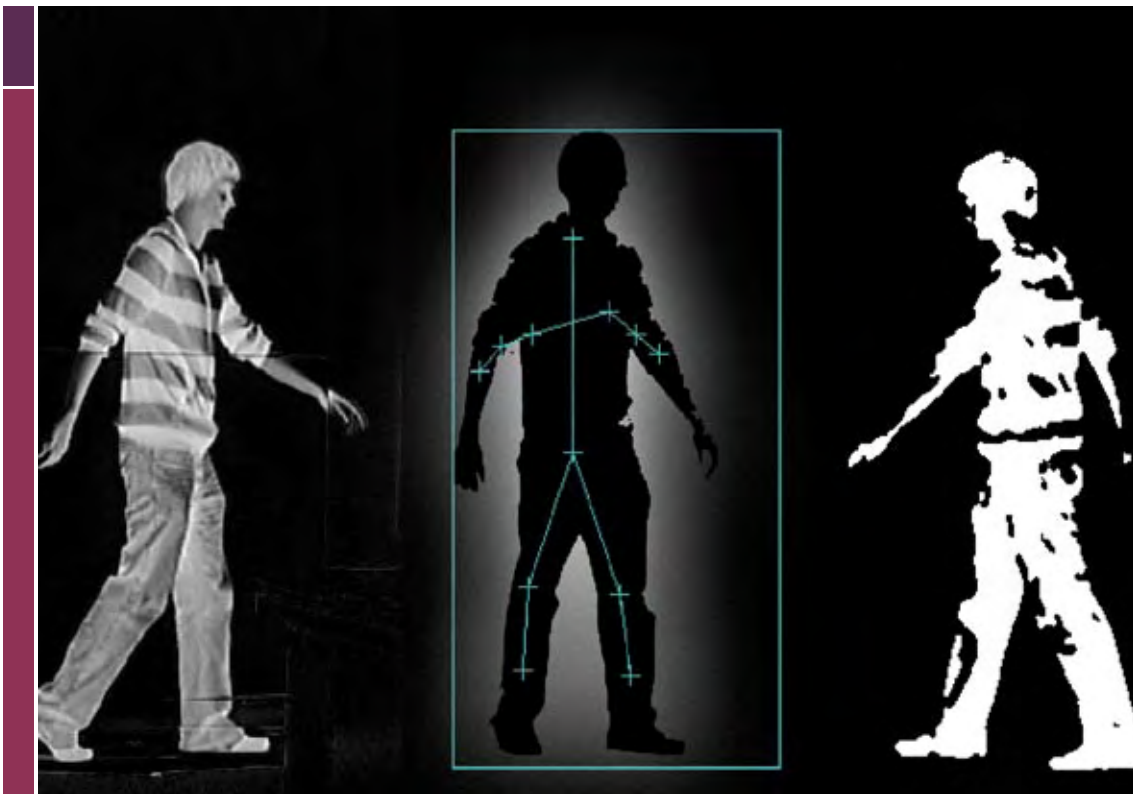
UCD leads the Technology Research for Independent Living Centre (TRIL), a \$30million / €23 million investment that was launched in January 2007 and involved collaboration with Trinity College Dublin (TCD), NUI Galway (NUIG) and Intel's new European Digital Health Group. The TRIL Centre will create one of the largest research efforts into the consequences of ageing across the globe. Its research projects will address the physical, cognitive and social consequences of ageing informed by ethnographic research and underpinned by biomedical engineering. UCD has an active, high-quality research environment in the healthcare domain including biomedical engineering and bioinformatics; the TRIL Centre builds on this and positions UCD as a centre of excellence for biomedical engineering in research in Europe.

Professor Richard Reilly of the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering is TRIL Centre Director and Principal Investigator of the TRIL Centre's Biomedical Engineering

activities. Here a large team of biomedical engineers is focused on the acquisition, collection and interpretation of physiological and behavioural markers of ageing. The emphasis is not just on laboratory research but on the delivery and validation of technical solutions within the home environment. The TRIL Centre at UCD focuses on neural engineering and multimodal signal processing, as well as the technology platform that supports the programme across the consortium.

### Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory

The Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL) was formed in November 2006 and, under the direction of Dr Scott Rickard, brings together over 30 principal investigators and 175 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from the UCD Schools of Business; Computer Science and Informatics; Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering; Geological Sciences and Mathematical Sciences; and the UCD Conway Institute in a dedicated 2,600m<sup>2</sup> five storey facility.



*A runner-up in the Images of Research competition was this image created by Brian O'Mullane titled Gesture Recognition. The TRIL project aims to create assistive technology for the elderly. This is a set of images taken during a unique physical gesture recognition process being developed by the technology research team*

*Cormac Nolan, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science, won third place in the Images of Research competition for his picture titled Sleeping with the Anemone. It is of a Caribbean spotted cleaner shrimp that uses its bright colours and white antennae to attract clients to its anemone. This one was spotted in the shallows after a research dive collecting fish in Turneffe Atoll, Belize*



CASL is comprised of 25 SFI principal investigators in the fields of Computational Biology, Computational Science, Data Intensive Science, Sensing Systems, Mathematics of Information and Communication, and Mathematical Finance to create innovative research and graduate programmes that transcend disciplinary boundaries.

### **Translational Medicine**

A five year collaborative partnership between UCD Conway Institute and Servier Laboratories, a leading French pharmaceutical company, was established in February 2007 with a grant of €3.3 million. The UCD Servier Centre for Translational Medicine, a Franco-Irish collaboration bringing biomedical science to society, initially targets development of new medicines to treat high blood pressure and heart disease. The Centre's research programme will in the future address unmet needs in areas such as heart failure and Alzheimer's disease.

### **National Digital Research Centre**

The National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) is a €25 million programme developed in 2006 by a consortium of third level institutions including UCD, DCU, TCD, Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT) and the National

College of Art and Design (NCAD) with the support of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The NDRC mission is to create value by translating innovative research into commercial potential. It will provide a highly practical and collaborative national focal point to drive the value of research and its commercial applications.

### **Autism Genome Project**

UCD researchers are playing a major role in a leading global project that aims to find the genes that contribute to the risk of developing autism. The international consortium known as the Autism Genome Project (AGP) will receive a total investment of €12 million from a variety of international organisations over the next three years. UCD researchers, Professor Andrew Green and Dr Sean Ennis from the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, and TCD researchers will play a lead role in the project, the aim of which is to find a link between clinical and genetic information in patients and in so doing better understand the factors contributing to autism. This will be crucial to the development of diagnostics, targeted treatment and intervention.

## Research Achievements

### Institute of Biomedical Informatics

The Institute of Biomedical Informatics (IBI) is a collaboration led by UCD which includes NUIG, TCD and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) working with Hewlett-Packard. The new all-Ireland research institute was established in 2007 to develop the software tools needed to investigate the link between genes and diseases such as cancer, cardio-vascular disease and diabetes.

The goal of the IBI is to conduct research and develop international standards in the field of biomedical informatics. The institute will also develop educational programmes on biomedical informatics for the commercial and public sectors and will help create a suite of commercial services for the health industry. There will be strong emphasis on systems research and service provision through large-scale computing, data management and mining, and data visualisation.

### Blaschka Congress and Exhibition

UCD and the Natural History Museum co-hosted the first international conference focused on the work of father and son glass artists Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka. The conference was accompanied by a public exhibition of some previously unseen Blaschka models. Blaschka glass sculptures are renowned for their historical, technical and artistic importance and include anatomically detailed and scientifically correct models of hundreds of species of marine animals and magnified microscopic organisms. Collections-based Biology in Dublin (CoBiD), the UCD partnership that organised the conference, was launched in 2003 to promote teaching and research into preserved biological specimens held in museum collections. CoBiD is the only such collections-based teaching programme in the world. It is run by the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science and the National Museum of Ireland (Natural History).

### Irish Heart Foundation appoints UCD Professor as President

Professor Eoin O'Brien, Adjunct Professor of Molecular Pharmacology at the UCD Conway Institute, was appointed as President of the Irish Heart Foundation. A cardiologist and world leader on hypertension, Professor O'Brien was founder and director of the Blood Pressure Unit and has published over 600 scientific papers on hypertension research. He is author of *Blood Pressure Measurement* and the popular *ABC of Hypertension* and sits on the editorial boards of a number of scientific journals devoted to hypertension; he is Chairman of the Committee on Blood Pressure Measurement in Low Resource Settings at the World Health Organisation.

### Images of Research Competition

A unique event in Ireland, the *Images of Research* competition and exhibition featured over 250 images created by researchers in UCD, showcasing the depth and diversity of research under way in the university. The images submitted in the competition and on display in the exhibition related to all of UCD's academic and research disciplines including Arts, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Engineering and Physical Sciences. The competition and exhibition now run annually in UCD.

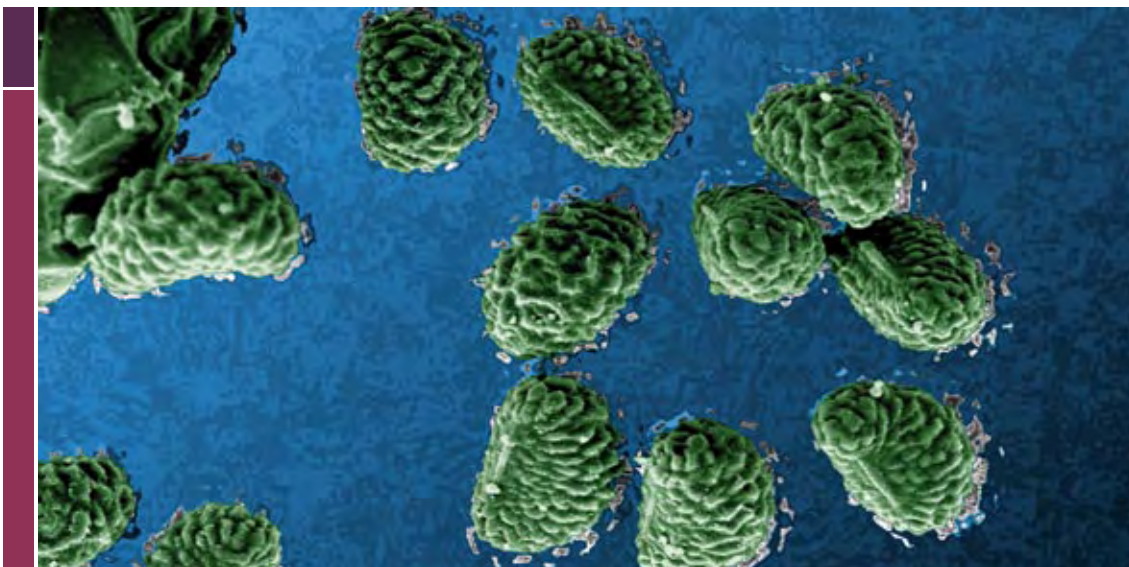


Blaschka glass model of an octopus (©National Museum of Ireland)



Shortlisted in the Images of Research competition was this image created by Dr Alfonso Blanco, UCD Conway Institute, titled Different World II—Islands.

The image shows fern spore analysed by scanning electron microscopy



### Plasma Astrophysics collaboration with Oxford University

A major collaborative research project that will address fundamental astrophysical questions was established between St John's College Oxford and the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences. UCD researchers, led by Dr Peter Duffy in Dublin, will work with research partners in Oxford towards understanding the role played by magnetised turbulence in the transport and acceleration of highly energetic particles in quasars and microquasars. The theoretical and computational models developed in UCD and Oxford will be compared with the data gleaned from the astronomical observations. A unique feature of this project is its interdisciplinary nature; drawing on the fields of observational astronomy, theoretical physics, computational science and developments in transport theory for terrestrial, nuclear fusion plasmas.

### Major initiative to help reduce poverty in developing nations

UCD has received €1.5 million funding in the first round of Irish Aid's Programme of Strategic Cooperation; the programme encourages partnerships between Irish third level institutions and their counterparts in developing countries. The UCD International Development Studies Initiative will establish a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from the UCD Conway Institute, the UCD Geary Institute and the UCD Urban Institute Ireland to investigate poverty reduction in developing countries. The UCD initiative is spearheaded by Professor Patrick Paul Walsh and the key areas of research include: Health and HIV

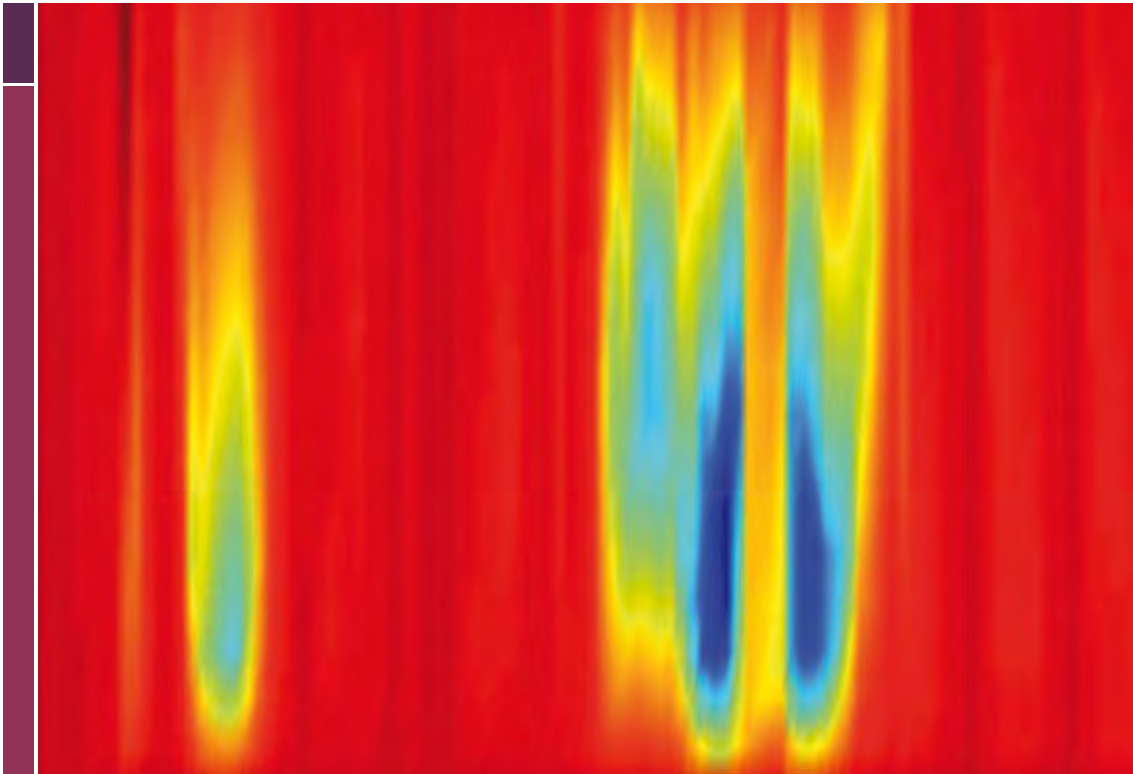
Aids; Poverty and Disadvantage; Good Governance; Pro-Poor Growth; Education; Gender Equality; Food and Livelihood Security; and Environment.

### UCD St Vincent's Genome Resource Unit

The opening of the UCD St Vincent's Genome Resource Unit by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD in April 2007, enables scientists to share and compare genetic data from Irish patient populations with data from patient populations worldwide. Debilitating diseases such as heart failure, cancer, arthritis and diabetes are major research priorities for clinical investigators at UCD and the facility enables clinician scientists working with the UCD Conway Institute to bring emerging technologies to bear on some of the most intractable global diseases.

### Centre for Behaviour and Health

A new research initiative at the UCD Geary Institute which focuses on Health and Health Behaviour was launched in May 2007. The new Centre for Behaviour and Health is set to establish itself as a global centre of excellence which will shape policy debates and examine how people make life influencing decisions. Professor Colm Harmon, Director of the UCD Geary Institute, is one of the key leaders of the research alongside Professor Patrick Wall from the UCD School of Public Health and Population Science. With Ireland as its focus, the groundbreaking research taking place at the Centre is directly relevant to a rapidly changing Irish society and to the policy community.



Second place in the Images of Research competition was Bridge's Soul by Daniel Cantero Lauer, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering. This image shows the relative error of the UNB (Under vehicle Bending moment) for different frequencies of sine wave road profiles, taking as reference the response for 1cm amplitude

### Food and Health Research

Nine research initiatives are underway in UCD in the area of food and health research. Professor Michael Gibney was appointed to lead the interdisciplinary Institute of Food and Health. Funding in excess of €20 million has been won for the following research projects: Food Ireland; National Functional Food Research Programme; National Diet and Health Research Centre; National Nutrigenomics Research Programme; National Food Safety and Nutrition Surveillance; National Graduate Development Programme. Research partners include University College Cork (UCC), Dublin City University (DCU), University of Ulster, University of Limerick (UL), Teagasc and others.

### Pioneering Researcher in Nanoscience joins UCD Conway Institute

Professor Suzi Jarvis and her nanoscale function group have recently joined the UCD Conway Institute from the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) at TCD. Her multidisciplinary team has a skills base that includes physics, electrical and mechanical engineering, materials science, mathematics, chemistry, biology and phycology. Using atomic force microscope (AFM) techniques, Professor Jarvis and her group are investigating the

nanometre-scale functionality of organic and biological molecules. The group has a number of national and international collaborations and Professor Jarvis is also a co-founder of the International Nanotribology Forum, which explores the science of tribiology (science and technology of interacting surfaces in relative motion) at the nanoscale.

### UCD Spin-out Company wins International Artificial Intelligence Award

ChangingWorlds, a NovaUCD spin-out company has received a *Deployed Application Award* from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). The award, which recognises successful practical and commercial applications of Artificial Intelligence technologies in industry, was presented at the nineteenth annual AAAI conference which took place in July 2007. Professor Barry Smyth from the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, one of the founders of ChangingWorlds, presented the winning paper titled *Enabling Intelligent Content Discovery on the Mobile Internet*. The paper describes how the ClixSmart portal personalisation technology developed by ChangingWorlds has been deployed by leading mobile operators worldwide to deliver portal usability benefits leading to increased portal usage and revenue growth.

## Fourth Level

The UCD Strategic Plan clearly sets the objective of the university becoming a national and European leader in graduate education. This is key to the further development of UCD as a research intensive university, to the vibrancy of its academic community and to the success of Ireland as a knowledge society.

*Students promoting the inaugural Graduate Student Opportunities Day in O'Reilly Hall in February 2007*

UCD has the greatest number of graduate students of any university in Ireland. At 5,907 this represents 26% of the total UCD student population. The numbers of graduate research students in UCD increased significantly to a total of 1,908 in 2006/07. Overall, UCD has 22% of all the graduate research students in higher education institutions in Ireland.

### Progress to date

Following the initial establishment of the five UCD Graduate Schools in 2005/06, led by Professor Michael Ryan, Dean of Doctoral Studies and Postdoctoral Training, this year saw the establishment of new governance structures for graduate education in UCD. This involved the establishment and approval of terms of reference for the University Graduate Programmes Board (UGPB) with oversight of all graduate programmes in UCD and for the five UCD Graduate School Boards. In most Graduate Schools, a sub-board for graduate taught programmes was also established.

The UCD structured PhD was introduced and put in place for all PhD students entering UCD in September 2006. Implementation of the structured PhD involved both research and modules in research methodology and transferable skills. In addition, all taught graduate programmes were modularised.

Significantly, 100 new four year funded Ad Astra Research Scholars posts were established and a pilot of a new scheme to develop research and professional development plans with each scholar was also introduced.

A range of initiatives were taken to attract graduate students to the university:

- The Graduate Studies website was upgraded and new branded material was produced;
- A pilot online applications process for a range of graduate programmes began and received very positive feedback from applicants;



- An inaugural welcome event for incoming graduate research students was held in October 2006;
- The inaugural UCD Graduate Opportunities Day was held on February 21st, 2007. This was attended by over 1,100 potential new graduate students including existing undergraduates from other universities and potential mature students already in employment.

Potential linkages of UCD's graduate programmes with partner universities through *Universitas 21* are being examined.

### Future objectives

In 2007 the Research and Professional Development Plan (RPDP) will be rolled out to all incoming PhD students and regulations for all other research degrees will be developed and co-ordinated. The RPDP is a set of tools to aid in the preparation and progress of research and professional skills. It is an integral part of the structured PhD programme and is specifically designed to help in the planning, monitoring and completion of PhD studies.

There will also be a co-ordination of all graduate taught programmes with the wide selection of modules now available.

It is also intended to increase the UCD graduate student population from 26% to 40% and to develop collaborative graduate programmes with other universities in Ireland and abroad.

## UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research

The strategic objectives of the UCD Conway Institute are to:

- Establish a world class centre of excellence in the biomedical sciences at UCD within 10 years with success being measured by internationally accepted research outcomes;
- Support the development of novel technologies and their application to translational research to better understand the molecular pathogenesis of disease in areas such as diabetes, neuroscience and infection, inflammation and repair;
- Offer leadership in interdisciplinary biomedical research by providing the environment that supports new scientific areas such as systems biology through the successful integration of sciences traditionally considered outside conventional biological disciplines such as mathematics, computer science, physics and economics with those already within the Institute;
- Achieve innovation through co-operation and partnership at local, national and international level with academic, healthcare and commercial partners.

There will be a continued increase in PhD numbers to meet the government target to double the number of PhDs by 2013.

The UCD Conway Institute currently has 135 Conway investigators. Together with their associated teams of approximately 320 graduate students and 150 postdoctoral fellows, they comprise an active research community of some 600 people. The Institute's Director is Professor Janet Allen.

### Progress to date

UCD Conway Institute made successful bids for funding under the PRTLI, Cycle 4 to develop national graduate enhancement programmes in two areas: (Bio)pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences (BPS) and Biomedical Sciences Network (BMSN).

A total of €19.8 million in peer reviewed grant income was awarded to Conway investigators during the year in review. Twenty invention disclosures, four patent applications and two licensing agreements were lodged by Conway investigators. In addition, up to August 2007, 53 PhD and five Master's thesis submissions were made by graduate students affiliated to Conway investigators. There were a total of 228 peer-reviewed publications by Conway investigators during the period.

Complementing existing research programmes in both the Conway and CSCB (Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology), the new (Bio)pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences programme builds on the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and



Science teachers  
Laura Barry, Seosamh  
Ó Braonáin and Aoife  
McCarthy with their  
model of DNA made  
at the SFI Secondary  
Teachers Assistant  
Researchers (STARS)  
programme held in the  
UCD Conway Institute

Training (NIBRT) initiative. Together, these landmark initiatives will concentrate on providing trained researchers for Ireland's emerging biopharmaceutical industry (e.g. Wyeth, Amgen). There will be a particular focus on the production of biological therapeutics — molecules produced by cells that can be used to treat common human diseases such as arthritis, kidney disease and inflammatory bowel disease.

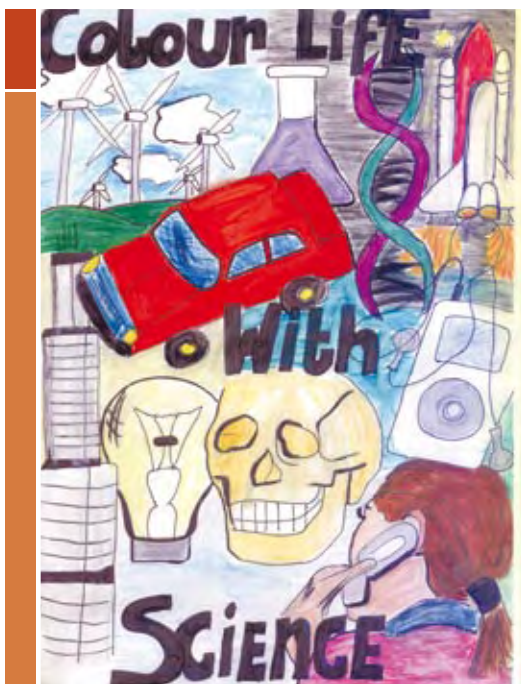
The Biomedical Sciences Network will facilitate national consolidation and co-ordination of research and training activities in the biomedical sciences. It is hoped this network will be instrumental in delivering a coherent information portal and nationally accessible platform for molecular/translational medicine and biomedical sciences. An important feature is the development of tailored research training opportunities for clinicians to foster clinician-scientists.

Professor Mike Scott established the first transgenic laboratory in UCD. Located in the Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) facility of UCD Conway Institute Biotechnical Services, this laboratory became operational in August 2007.



## Notable achievements

Colour Life with Science by Isabel Kelly, Teresian School, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, which won the secondary school category of the Conway Institute AccesScience '07 poster competition



Several key members of staff were recruited including Dr Ollie Blacque (primary cilia), Professor Suzi Jarvis (atomic force microscopy), Professor Helen Roche (metabolomics in human nutrition) and Professor Michael Keane (appointed Professor of Medicine and Therapeutics). Dr Giuliano Elia was appointed Director of the mass spectrometry facility.

Developed at the UCD Conway Institute, Biontrack, which delivers software solutions to support protein researchers in industry and academia, was the runner-up in the 11th NovaUCD Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP) held in November 2006.

Under UCD's new structured PhD programme, the Institute developed and delivered accredited modules to 207 graduate students. These include *Introduction to Core Research Skills*, *Advanced*

*Research Skills for Biological Scientists*, *Introduction to 'Omic' and Advanced Imaging Technologies*, *Communications for Research Scientists*, *Neuroimmunology* and *Immunology*.

A new PhD in Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine was developed by Professor Denis Shields during the period. It aims to give students a strong interdisciplinary training, with both numerate and biological research experience.

The 2006/07 *Science4Schools* outreach programme brought the wonders of science and scientific research to 3,000 primary and secondary school pupils and their teachers nationally. Events included *ScienceWorks*, primary school workshops, a transition year work experience programme and *AccesScience Junior*, which teamed up with the new UCD Ambassador Programme to give guided campus tours to pupils prior to the event.

*AccesScience '07* celebrated the 10th anniversary of the inaugural Merville Lay seminars and some past winners were invited back to join in the celebrations. Doctoral student Elaine McSherry took first prize for her presentation *The Missing Links?: How Breast Cancer Spreads*.

### Future objectives

UCD Conway Institute will create a rich interdisciplinary environment to foster excellence in biomedical research by forging links within the biological sciences to the UCD teaching hospitals, to chemistry through the CSCB, with emerging academic disciplines relevant to systems biology such as applied mathematics, computer science and engineering (CASL) and with economics through the UCD Geary Institute.

### Research paper success

The publication with the highest impact factor during the reporting period was from a research team led by Professor Denis Shields [Edwards RJ, Moran N, Devocelle M, Kiernan A, Meade G, Signac W, Foy M, Park SDE, Dunne E, Kenny D and Shields DC. *Bioinformatic discovery of novel bioactive peptides*, *Nature Chemical Biology* 2007; 3:108-112]. The paper outlines how the team examined whether rational bioinformatic design of oligopeptides specifically targeted to potentially signalling-rich juxtamembrane regions could identify modulators of human platelet function. They found that systematic screens of this nature are highly efficient tools for discovering short signalling motifs in molecular signalling pathways.

## Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB)

The Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) is a collaboration in the chemical sciences between UCD, TCD and the RCSI. With 48 principal investigators and their teams, the CSCB comprises over 200 researchers. The UCD researchers (33 principal investigators) are from the UCD Schools of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, Physics and Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

The mission of the CSCB, under its Director, Professor Pat Guiry, is to promote knowledge, health and economic advancement through excellence in the chemical sciences of synthesis and chemical biology, to enrich the nation's research and educational resource base and to facilitate the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland. The CSCB has the following strategic objectives:

- Advancing knowledge in the chemical sciences of synthesis and chemical biology, as part of a collaborative biomedical research effort;
- Reacting to changes in and requirements of the Irish pharmaceutical and emerging biopharmaceutical industry;
- Raising the research profile of Ireland through international collaboration and increased high impact publications;
- Fostering entrepreneurship, supporting technology transfer and developing strong partnerships with industry;
- Providing new high quality research and teaching programmes for Irish students at third and fourth level;
- Developing a significant outreach programme to enhance the public understanding of chemical sciences.

### Progress to date

In 2006/07, CSCB researchers published over 130 articles in peer-reviewed journals, gave over 160 invited lectures and poster presentations and were awarded over €4 million in external funding.

Professor Stefan Oscarson was appointed as Ireland's first Professor of Chemical Biology in the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in February 2007. Professor Oscarson's main research interest is the synthesis of biologically active natural products, in particular oligosaccharides and glycoconjugates, for use in biological and medicinal experiments and applications. Professor Oscarson was the recipient of a SFI Professor Recruitment award of €760,000 in February 2007.

CSCB researchers played a key role in the (Bio)pharmaceuticals and Pharmacological Sciences National Graduate Enhancement programme which was funded by PRTL, Cycle 4. This involves collaboration with colleagues in TCD, DCU, UCC and the RCSI.



*Participants in the 15th European Symposium on Organic Chemistry which was held in UCD in July 2007*

The *Science@CSCB* outreach programme reached over 1,500 students through a series of half-day workshops, a transition year work experience week, demonstration lectures and school visits. The outreach team were awarded an RDS Science Live demonstration lecture bursary which enabled them to bring UCD research to secondary school pupils from over 20 schools with an interactive presentation.

### Notable achievements

The fifth annual CSCB symposium, *Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology V*, was held in the RCSI in December 2006. 200 delegates heard plenary lectures from six distinguished speakers, describing current research at the interface between chemistry and biology. The speakers were Professors Erick Carreira (ETH), Barbara Imperiali (MIT), Peter Sadler (University of Edinburgh), Tom Simpson (University of Bristol), Anna Maria Papini (University of Florence), and Gerard Canters (Leiden University).

CSCB researchers also hosted a three-day workshop on *Modern Carbohydrate and Glycoconjugate Chemistry* where young European and US researchers presented their research work and initiated collaborations with their peers.

A COST Action D40 workshop, *Innovative Catalysis: New Processes and Selectivities* was held at the CSCB. The primary objective of the Action is the discovery of new, highly innovative, pre-competitive research that lays the foundation for providing new industrial products and processes with significant competitive advantages over the current state of the art.

The 15th European Symposium on Organic Chemistry (ESOC) took place in UCD in July 2007 and was the largest organic chemistry event ever held in Ireland with over 600 national and international attendees.

### Future objectives

The CSCB will continue to strive towards the strategic, research, teaching and learning objectives as outlined at its inception by aiming to:

- Strengthen the links between UCD, TCD and the RCSI by encouraging collaborative research between researchers at these institutions;
- Increase the number of PhD students and further enhance the research effort through the hiring of more postdoctoral fellows and visits of internationally recognised scientists to the CSCB;
- Actively source funds to support the research effort;
- Increase the quality and quantity of peer-reviewed publications and the number of invited lectures given by CSCB researchers;
- Update existing modules and devise new modules for both undergraduate and graduate training;
- Complete the design of the new BSc degree in Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology which began with its first entry of students in September 2007;
- Expand the *Science@CSCB* outreach programme to include more visits from students and teachers.

James Claffey,  
Clara Pampillón, Dr  
Katja Strohfeldt, Dr  
Matthias Tacke and  
Nigel Sweeney

### Tumour research

CSCB Principal Investigator Dr Matthias Tacke, and his research team at the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, have recently published highly significant preclinical results on the anti-tumour activity of Titanocene Y on human breast tumours and in a mouse model. In the mouse model, a decrease not only in tumour growth but also a reduction in tumour volume to around one-third was observed for the first time. Dr Tacke's group has been working on anti-cancer drugs belonging to the titanocene family for five years.





## Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre

The Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (DMMC) exemplifies UCD's commitment to collaborative partnerships in the biomedical sciences. This joint venture between UCD, TCD and RCSI is helping to position Dublin as a centre of excellence in molecular medicine research and education. Dr Ruth Barrington was appointed as Chief Executive in May 2007.

The DMMC has helped align the activities of Dublin's biomedical research institutions and six affiliated teaching hospitals under a common framework designed to facilitate cross-institutional collaboration and enhance translational research capability.

Key outputs are:

- The creation of an internationally recognised community in molecular medicine;
- Novel research programmes and enabling technologies resulting in increased international impact by the participant academic institutions;
- New diagnostics, therapeutics and more effective intervention strategies;
- The generation of valuable biological collections with high context information for individual investigators;
- Building a multi-disciplinary education curriculum that is informed by the biopharmaceutical industry and which enables career long learning.

### Progress to date

The official opening of the UCD St Vincent's Genome Research Unit (GRU) took place in April 2007. This investment by UCD in partnership with St Vincent's University Hospital, the DMMC and the HEA delivers an integrated clinical network which enables UCD to play a leadership role through the auspices of the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network. The facility will maximise the synergy between clinical and bench-based scientists.

The development of a city-wide infrastructure for translational and clinical research is progressing well after a DMMC co-ordinated bid secured Wellcome Trust and HRB funding to create the Dublin Centre for Clinical Research (DCCR). The development of essential cross-institutional



*Pictured at the opening of the UCD St Vincent's Genome Research Unit were (l to r): Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President, Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Education and Science, Dr Seamas Donnelly, Director, UCD St Vincent's Genome Resource Unit, Prof Noel Whelan, Chair, St Vincent's Board, Dr Risteard O'Laoidhe, Chair, St Vincent's Medical Board*

infrastructure involves a major research nurse training programme and the establishment of an integrated informatics infrastructure. For the latter, a pilot phase is ongoing with the construction of a Biobank Information Management System for the DMMC Prostate Cancer Research Consortium.

The joint HRB and DMMC workshop *Clinical Research Training in Ireland*, held in September 2006, was attended by leaders from university medical schools, hospital and university research institutes, funding agencies and government. The workshop considered how best to train clinician scientists in Ireland. These workshops are important in defining existing deficits in personnel and resources and formulating the best way forward; in this case helping to lay the foundations for the Biomedical Science Network application for PRTL funding to support clinician scientist training.

In October 2006, Scientific Advisory Committee members convened around the DMMC Science Day, which took place in the TCD Institute of Molecular Medicine, St James's Hospital. Over 100 scientists attended which provided an opportunity for graduate and postdoctoral investigators to present their research in the areas of cancer, neuropsychiatric disease, cardiovascular disease, and infection, inflammation and immunity.



### Notable achievements

Eight DMMC courses and workshops took place between September 2006 and August 2007. These are short taught courses in the biosciences with a major emphasis on translational research, used by graduate students to supplement research degrees and by postdoctoral workers and staff as career long training across disciplines and institutions.

The DMMC international workshop *Epigenetics: From Mechanisms to Medicines* took place in UCD in June 2007. The international workshops are a new strand of the DMMC education and training programme, which benefit from a combination of local and international expertise and attendance.

By summer 2007, the number of individuals attending one or more DMMC courses since their inception in December 2003 had risen to 1,228 with many repeat attendees. The total includes 551 from UCD and affiliated hospitals. The teaching expertise is also cross-institutional; 161 individual members of staff based in DMMC parent institutions and other universities and hospitals in Ireland and overseas have been instructors on DMMC Courses. Many have taught on several courses, and the total includes 53 from UCD.

### Future objectives

The Dublin Centre for Clinical Research presents a unique opportunity to develop a new clinical research infrastructure. It will connect with the existing GRUs at Beaumont Hospital, St Vincent's University Hospital and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital to establish a city-wide network that ensures a greater number of patients can benefit from clinical research in the most cost effective manner.

In the coming year, the DMMC education and training programme will continue to develop and will include collaborative courses with the biopharmaceutical industry. Longer term, cross-institutional education will be delivered with more courses and a move into e-learning.

The formation of the Irish Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ICRIN) is a prelude to a large and ambitious project to create an all-Ireland

proposal to establish Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI), with UCC and NUIG joining the current DMMC partners. MMI will use the DMMC model and existing infrastructure to align activities of five of Ireland's premier biomedical research institutions and affiliated teaching hospitals. It will create a critical mass and centre of excellence in molecular medicine research and education.



The Irish Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ICRIN) was officially launched in January 2007.

ICRIN was created under a Memorandum of Understanding between UCD, TCD, RCSI, UCC, NUIG and the DMMC. This agreement links together five medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals to create a network capable of conducting nationwide clinical studies in all disease areas. It is funded by the Health Research Board and the Health Services Executive.

An ICRIN co-ordinator, Ms Margaret Cooney, was recently appointed within the DMMC Directorate and will progress the development of a national infrastructure that facilitates cutting edge clinical research in a safe and regulated environment. ICRIN's main objectives are to:

- Ensure that education and training programmes are put in place for clinical research staff;
- Allow Irish academic and non-academic clinical investigators to participate in multi-centred clinical studies;
- Drive a standardised approach to biobanking at all sites;
- Assist harmonisation of procedures in Ireland with respect to informed consent, ethical review, data monitoring, adverse event reporting, etc., in line with ongoing work in Europe.

ICRIN is Ireland's representative within the European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN).

## UCD Geary Institute

The UCD Geary Institute conducts leading edge research on life course issues and the way public policy affects areas such as early childhood outcomes, youth inequalities, retirement behaviour and educational choices. The hallmarks of the Institute are its cross-disciplinary perspective on a research agenda that examines effective solutions to economic, political, epidemiological and social questions.

The Institute vision is to:

- Support frontier methods of investigation, leading to the very best in research publication;
- Enhance the international profile and ranking of its researchers;
- Play a central role in the training of the next generation of researchers by maximising opportunities for graduate students to work alongside senior researchers on live projects;
- Provide objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing policy makers.

### Progress to date

The Institute continues to focus on major publications in peer reviewed outlets and 2006/07 was a very successful year for Geary researchers with publications in the *Journal of Human Resources*, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *Economic Inquiry* and many others.

A vibrant year of seminars included launching the weekly interdisciplinary behavioural seminar, funded by the Geary Centre for Behaviour and Health, and a qualitative methods laboratory.

There was continued close engagement with research groups in international partnerships which include RAND Corporation, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.

Graduate student involvement in research clusters has deepened. Graduate students at Geary participate in a number of reading groups, seminars, workshops and technical programming. In 2006/07 the Institute was host to three graduate students from its Harvard partnership.

A major redesign of the website illustrates more directly the activity at Geary and the policy implications of its work. UCD Geary has continued to have a strong media presence including interviews in Irish, UK and US print and broadcast media on research. In this year outputs widened to include a policy briefings series, and use of web based innovations such as podcasting to distribute audio and video content from major lectures.

### Notable achievements

The Institute had significant success in major national research competition. In the HEA funded PRTL, Cycle 4 it secured major investment in the Irish Social Sciences Data Archive. Under the government's Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) programme the Institute received funding for its work on evaluating university access programmes and the development of a longitudinal study of the university student and postdoctoral population, and the Irish Aid programme, led by Professor Paul Walsh.

Contracts signed in 2006/07 exceeded €3 million and the Institute has grant applications to national and international funding competitions valued in excess of €7 million.

Major research projects were launched during the year. Work on the evaluation of the first experimental social policy programme in Ireland, led by Dr Orla Doyle, *Preparing for Life* in Dublin's Darndale area will take a cohort of children from



Professor James Heckman (UCD Professor of Science and Society and Nobel Laureate in Economics), visiting a class in Bawnogue Community School, Clondalkin, Dublin. The image titled Investing in Children was taken by Professor Colm Harmon, Director of the UCD Geary Institute

the womb to early schooling with a carefully designed, rigorously evaluated intervention. The Institute Director, Professor Colm Harmon and Dr Vincent Hogan are leading the econometric evaluation of the *Building Schools for the Future* (BSF) capital investment programme in England, which aims to ensure that all secondary schools in the country have 21st century facilities within 10-15 years. Former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair called BSF the “greatest school renewal programme in British history reversing a generation of under-investment in our schools”.

### Future objectives

UCD Geary Institute will build on its key appointments and funding successes with a number of specific targets:

- The pursuit of new funding opportunities including the Basic Frontiers Programme of SFI, the European Research Council and other Framework opportunities;
- Deepening research interests in behaviour and health. In particular, a major target for 2007/08 includes securing resources for a major programme of research on health measurement issues aligned to delivery of a better understanding of the sources of health disparities in the population. The Institute will also build capacity for major research initiatives in the area of social policy interventions, including statistical methodologies;
- Structuring research programmes as self sustaining research centres such as the Behaviour and Health centre. Targets for 2007/08 include consolidation of work on public opinion and political behaviour and micro analysis of public policy;
- Using the alliance with the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago will provide additional expertise to the programme, and plans are developing for the establishment of programmes aimed at policy professionals.

*Dr Dorren McMahon  
(centre) with colleagues  
Jason McKay, and  
Dr Karen Robson*

### Educational inequality project

Dr Dorren McMahon is the recipient of a Marie Curie Excellence Grant worth €1.3 million, which is funding a four year inter-disciplinary project on cross-national educational inequalities among young people in Europe. Excellence Grants are intensively competitive and rare in the social sciences. The award has allowed for the development of a trans-national project team to concentrate on the different discipline perspectives contributing to educational inequality. As the project unfolds the enormous potential for knowledge transfer in the best practices of European and indeed trans-global research is becoming evident.

While a considerable amount of comparative research has already been carried out on national differences in average levels of educational attainment, the focus of this project is on variation around the average in a cross-national European context. The project has a series of outputs culminating in a major monograph, a series of online working papers, a website, development of an information portal on educational inequality, seminars, conferences and peer-reviewed publications. The programme has also been host to graduate students from the Geary partnership with the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality at Harvard.



## UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland

UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) is a dynamic contributor to UCD's strategic mission to become a leading international research-intensive university.

The HII's strategic objectives aim is to support innovation and excellence in arts and humanities research, while concurrently providing a platform for high quality doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. The Institute is directed by Dr Marc Caball. Its current research programme is funded through the HEA's PRTLII, Cycle 3 and is entitled *Identity, Memory and Meaning in the 21st Century*.

### Progress to date

During the period of this report, 34 doctoral students, four postdoctoral fellows and four project researchers were attached to UCD HII. In addition to the Institute Director and Institute Manager, there are six principal researchers from the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies leading research strands within the HII's current programme. The Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA) team consists of a project manager and six digitisers who are digitising a substantial amount of humanities content from UCD's archival holdings.

The HII is committed to enhancing critical mass in the humanities at national level through links with other institutions, including its PRTLII funded research links with St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and through links with the National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies at IT Tallaght. In the area of international networking in the humanities, the HII is an active member of the Consortium for Research Institutes in the Humanities.

Among the innovative inter-disciplinary topics investigated by HII doctoral students in this period were: memorials and monuments to the Irish famine; mesolithic identities and landscape in the Irish midlands; the concept of genealogy in post-1945 German literature; the paranormal in Ireland, Britain and France in the nineteenth century; and civil wars and memories in post-1989 European cinema.

The HII inter-disciplinary seminar series developed further as a national focal point for academic and intellectual discussion among humanities and human science researchers at UCD and beyond.

Professor Alain Peyraube (CNRS Paris), the world-renowned scholar of east Asian linguistics and member of the European Research Council, delivered a HII Distinguished Guest Lecture in October 2006; Professor Philip Esler, theologian



*Pictured at the Institute's Communities of Knowledge conference were (l to r): Clara Cullen, UCD Doctoral Scholar, Dr Marc Caball, Director, UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland, Professor Mary Daly, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies and Dr Michael Ryan, Chester Beatty Library*

and biblical scholar, and the current chief executive of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council delivered a HII Distinguished Guest Lecture on the humanities and knowledge transfer in November 2006; Professor Steven Uran, an expert on modern French history (CNRS Paris) and Professor Sneja Gunew (University of British Columbia), a leading international scholar of multiculturalism, were HII Distinguished Lecturers in March and May of 2007.

As part of UCD's broader commitment to promoting scholarship of international quality, UCD Press, which is affiliated to the HII, continues to develop as a market leading publisher in research relating to historic and contemporary Ireland. During the academic year 2006/07, HII hosted UCD's Centre for Canadian Studies on an interim basis and managed its programme of activities.

### Future objectives

The HII's strategic research agenda will centre on Ireland in a comparative global context. It is intended that such a programme will leverage UCD's extensive strengths in Irish and European Studies across the disciplines and will exploit the HII's access to research networks in Ireland and internationally.



## UCD Urban Institute Ireland

UCD Urban Institute Ireland (UII) is a centre for the development of new technologies, policies and ideas designed to improve the quality of the working and living environment. Professor Eugene O'Brien was Director of the Institute during the reporting period.

The main UII research clusters and their key objectives are:

- **Energy and Indoor Environment:** to pursue an integrated understanding of building energy and indoor environmental performance through academic and applied research and collaboration with governmental and industrial partners;
- **Transport and Transport Infrastructure:** to develop new and better methods of facilitating the effective transportation of people and goods;
- **Urban Environment:** to advance knowledge and understanding of issues in the urban environment encompassing quality of life and health, ecology and biodiversity, land use and its implications, flooding and flood risk mitigation, urban services including water and waste disposal;
- **Environmental and Rural Policy:** to develop a leading international research centre in rural and environmental policy analysis, underpinned by a multi-disciplinary ethos that will provide a platform for an integrated and coordinated approach to key issues.

*Conor Lenihan TD,  
Minister of State with  
Institute Director,  
Professor Eugene  
O'Brien at the launch  
of the Developing  
World Research Group  
brochure*



### Progress to date

A number of multidisciplinary groupings and international consortia were convened and a large number of proposals submitted to national and European funding sources. The proposals submitted addressed topics as diverse as climate change, energy efficient building regulations, the future of road freight in Europe, digital libraries and urban modelling.

High profile seminars and conferences were hosted at UII under the umbrella of the existing clusters and new emerging areas. A seminar on land taxation was attended by an audience of 100 business leaders, local authority planners, developers, policymakers and property industry representatives. A conference on bridge and transport research in Ireland jointly organised by

TCD and UCD attracted an international audience. In December 2006, Minister of State Conor Lenihan TD visited the Institute to launch the Developing World Research Group brochure.

The number of research students continues to increase. There are currently nine postdoctoral researchers and 127 PhD and research Masters students. In 2006/07, UII associate members and students authored more than 100 publications.

### Future objectives

The Urban Institute has been successful in achieving a prestigious IRCHSS/IRCSET Graduate Research Education Programme (GREP) to establish a PhD programme in Sustainable Development. This award is the first of its kind in Ireland and is currently pending final approval from the Research Council's Executive Committee.

The fourth level programme in Sustainable Development will produce graduates who are trained to apply technical and policy tools from different disciplines to complex problems for which there is no known solution. The programme is aimed at prospective graduate researchers, from a range of disciplines, wishing to pursue interdisciplinary research related to the challenges of Sustainable Development. This should include graduates from disciplinary backgrounds in Human and Social Sciences, Engineering and Life Sciences.

## UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute

The mission of the Institute is to continue the tradition of learning in Irish history and civilisation established by the Irish Franciscans in the 17th century; to conserve the legacy of manuscripts and books entrusted to UCD by the Irish Franciscans; to make the collection available as a research tool for scholars of Irish studies; to act as an educational resource for scholars in Ireland and abroad; and to encourage an appreciation of the country's rich inheritance from the past in modern Ireland. The Institute's Director is Dr John McCafferty.

### Progress to date

During 2006/07 the Institute significantly expanded its conservation programme and holdings in medieval and early modern manuscripts as part of the transfer agreements with the Irish Franciscans. Manuscript A4, *Acallam na Senórach*, is one of the largest literary texts surviving from early Ireland and survives here in a 16th century copy. Conservation of this manuscript is one of the most intricate and time-consuming works carried out on a vellum manuscript in UCD to date. The 'D' manuscripts, often known as the Wadding papers, are now, with assistance from the Heritage Council, undergoing conservation. Work on the first volume, carried out by Ms Susan Corr, has yielded spectacular results and will pave the way for renewed scholarly exploitation of this rich archive.

2007 marks the 350th anniversary of the death of Luke Wadding and the 400th anniversary of the foundation of St Anthony's Irish College in Louvain (modern Leuven in Belgium). The national co-ordinator for the official government commemoration of these anniversaries organised under the aegis of the Department of the Taoiseach is Dr Edel Bhreatnach of the Institute. The full programme of events spanning most of the third level and cultural institutions within the state can be viewed at [www.louvain400.eu](http://www.louvain400.eu). Significant highlights included the inauguration of the calendar in December 2006 and the first performance of a specially commissioned *St Francis Cantata* by Michael McGlynn on 1 March 2007. A series of linked conferences and seminars in UCD and elsewhere, launched in Belgium by President McAleese and in Ireland by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, centred on a summer school organised by the Institute in Leuven in May.

Work on the IRCHSS sponsored project for cataloguing the pre-1829 material heritage of mendicant orders in Ireland has continued. A database of hundreds of newly recorded objects is now being tested and a series of publications, including a major monograph, are on target for the project end date of 31 January 2008.

### Future objectives



Logo of the Louvain 400 commemorations

The Louvain 400 commemorations will run through the winter of 2007, featuring loans and expertise from the Institute for exhibitions in the National Museum, National Library, Waterford Museum, the Hunt Museum and a special collaborative exhibition organised by UCD, the RIA and TCD.

Arising from the relocation of over 1,500 early printed books to UCD, a collaborative project between the Institute, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the University of Münster will be initiated in spring 2008 with a view to reconstructing the library holdings of the 17th century Franciscan colleges in Louvain and Rome.



Franciscan chalice

## UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies

The UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies has been established at UCD with the support of the Irish government in recognition of the crucial contributions by President William Jefferson Clinton to the Irish peace process. The Institute, directed by Professor Liam Kennedy, is devoted to advancing academic research and public discussion about the United States in Ireland and beyond. It advances UCD's strategic mission to internationalise research programmes and to foster interdisciplinary research and teaching programmes.

### Progress to date

In the period 2006/07 the Institute ran research seminars, public lectures, symposia and international conferences. These included conferences on *The United States and Iraq: Reflections and Projections* (November 2006) and *Terrorism and the City* (January 2007), both events widely covered by television and print media. Visiting speakers during the year included: Mike Davis (University of California, Irvine), Professor Marilyn Young (New York University), Professor Werner Sollors (Harvard University), Professor Donald Pease (Dartmouth College), and Professor John Carlos Rowe (University of Southern California).

The Institute continued to support dedicated, collaborative projects to spearhead its research culture. During 2006/07 it seed-funded projects on the US and Northern Ireland, 1968-2000; War and American Identity; and The American-Irish — all projects involving Irish and international scholars and professionals.

The graduate programmes (MA and PhD in American Studies) expanded to include many new modules shared with allied units in the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies which has enhanced their multidisciplinary mix.

In July 2007 the Institute ran its inaugural summer school, a week-long series of workshops and lectures that brought together 60 scholars and doctoral students from the US and Europe. The summer school played an important role in developing the international status of the Institute as a leading centre for American Studies and forum for global debates on the study of American history, culture and foreign policy.

In January 2007 the Institute moved to dedicated offices in the renovated Belfield House.



### Future objectives

The Clinton Institute will continue to build its graduate and research programmes. This will involve:

- Launching a new MA programme in 2008/09 in Media and International Conflict which will link to research projects supported by the Institute and will draw on cross-institutional research and teaching in this area;
- Pursuing national and European funding opportunities to support research projects, and the nurturing of new funding partnerships with public and private sectors to support cultural and outreach programmes;
- Developing partnerships with media and cultural organisations in Ireland to support Institute projects. In 2007/08 this will include collaborating with Temple Bar Cultural Trust to source funding for and organise a conference/festival devoted to Irish-US musical relations;
- Furthering international collaboration with centres of excellence in American Studies, through collaborative research projects, the Institute's summer school and graduate student exchanges.

*Pictured at the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies summer school were (back row, l to r): Prof Donald Pease (Dartmouth College), Dr Hamilton Carroll (University of Leeds) and Prof Liam Kennedy (UCD); (front row, l to r): Prof Janet Davis (University of Texas), Prof John Carlos Rowe (University of Southern California) and Prof Donatella Izzo (University of Naples, 'L'Orientale')*

## UCD Institute for Sport and Health

The UCD Institute for Sport and Health (ISH) has just completed its inaugural year under the direction of Professor Colin Boreham. The ISH has been established as part of a wider vision for the advancement of sport and health on the UCD campus and for the Irish nation. The ISH exists to optimise sporting performance and health within Ireland through the execution, application and dissemination of science. It offers an interdisciplinary range of services for a diverse spectrum of needs. These range from public health and wellbeing to sporting excellence, acknowledging the critical role of sports and physical activity in enhancing human function and performance.

In carrying out its teaching, research and service functions, the ISH is governed by the following principles to:

- Provide teaching and outreach services of the highest standard;
- Strive to be at the forefront of international sports science research.

### Progress to date

In addition to Professor Boreham, Professor Giuseppe De Vito and Dr Brian Caulfield have joined ISH and Professor Greg Whyte has been appointed Visiting Professor.

Other associate and full-time staff are planned, including a joint appointment of a sports psychologist with the IRFU/ Irish Sports Council. Staff have published over 40 peer reviewed scientific articles in the past year, including several in high-impact journals. A number of research projects are ongoing and a recent Health Research Board contract has been awarded to investigate the effects of exercise on back pain, led by Dr Deirdre Hurley-Osing.

A new BSc in Health and Performance Science has been developed with its first cohort taking up places in 2007. Facility developments include the refurbishment of a human performance laboratory in the former Philips building, and the first delivery of equipment.

All staff have been involved in a wide range of academic and scholarly activities including conference organisation and keynote delivery, contribution to external committees and organisations and national policy formation.

### Future Objectives

As a small country, Ireland's future sporting success cannot be based on competition and natural selection, but on the channeling of scientific resources and superior training. Similarly, it is now apparent that virtually all of the major chronic diseases and conditions affecting public health may be prevented or ameliorated by



*UCD medical student, Joanne Cuddihy who benefits from the expertise and support of the UCD Institute for Sport and Health. She broke the Irish 400 metre record at the World Athletics Championships in Japan in August 2007 and will represent Ireland at the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008*

appropriate exercise. The ISH will marshal and coordinate the efforts of its own scientists and practitioners with the considerable expertise and institutional momentum of UCD to create an unprecedented centre of excellence in Ireland.

Specific objectives involve the further recruitment of high level academic and support staff, the continuing forging of links with National Governing Bodies of Sport in relation to sports science service provision, the development of a world class laboratory facility at the ISH, and the securing of further funding to support research activities. Finally, continued expansion of the new BSc and further integration of teaching, research and service provision with partners both within UCD and outside will remain a top priority.



## UCD Global Irish Institute

The UCD Strategic Plan identifies the establishment of the Global Irish Institute as a statement of the university's wider interest in the global Irish community and a key element in its wider research strategy of:

- Identifying areas of strength for prioritisation;
- Fostering appropriate interdisciplinarity and collaboration;
- Internationalising research programmes.

The study of Ireland has been identified as a priority research theme for the university. It is the mission of the Institute to deliver research programmes around this theme which utilise the unique archival holdings and support the range of talent and expertise within UCD. The Director of the Institute is Dr Brian Jackson.

### Progress to date

The Institute secured funding of €2.6 million under the PRTL, Cycle 4 for the Global Ireland research programme as part of a wider collaborative research consortium, the *Humanities Serving Irish Society* project, a strategic alignment of Irish humanities research projects from DCU, NCAD, NUIG, NUI Maynooth (NUIM), TCD and UCC, under the umbrella of the RIA.

The Global Ireland programme aims to:

- Transform the study of Ireland;
- Re-imagine the idea of a university;
- Provide a nexus for scholarship, policy and active civic engagement.

The research programme seeks to venture beyond the traditional parameters of 'Irish Studies' programmes and look at Ireland in a comparative international context using methodological approaches from a range of disciplines across the humanities and social sciences.

Four priority themes have been identified within the programme:

- Footprints of Ireland: heritage and landscape;
- Irish identities: cultural and linguistic expression;
- State and society: historical development and contemporary challenges;
- The Irish experience: ethno-national conflict resolution, political integration and economic development in a British-Irish, European and global context.

The first round of recruitment for postdoctoral and doctoral research positions under this programme will begin in 2008.

Before this, the Institute is producing a volume of short essays to clarify the mission of the Global Ireland programme, to establish a clear UCD Global Ireland brand within the 'Irish Studies' cultural landscape and to re-iterate the role of the university in creating a forum for the interaction of scholarship, policy and active civic engagement.

The Institute hosted the 59th UCD International Summer School in July 2007. The programme focused on Irish foreign policy between 1919 and 2006 and looked at the development of Ireland through the prism of its foreign policy and international relations. The programme was curated by Professor Michael Kennedy, executive editor of the RIA *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy* series and the course was delivered by a distinguished panel of experts from UCD, other Irish and British universities and the Irish Defence Forces.

### Future objectives

The format for the school will serve as a template for future summer schools. It is intended that the theme of the summer school 2008 will be plantation and migration.

The Institute has also secured a significant commitment to fund a series of public lectures and symposia on the theme of knowledge and the citizen.

## UCD Centre for Chinese Studies / UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland

The UCD Centre for Chinese Studies (established in January 2006), was launched by Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan on 26th September 2006.

The Centre contributes to UCD's strategic objectives by promoting its international profile in the areas of student recruitment and research. It also co-ordinates and develops a range of courses and degree programmes designed to offer a better knowledge and understanding of China. Under its Director, Dr Liming Wang, the Institute aims to work with government, business and academia in Ireland and China to create stronger educational, cultural and commercial links between the two countries.

The primary objectives of the Centre are to:

- Increase recruitment of Chinese students through partnership programmes;
- Offer degree pathways in Chinese Studies to home students;
- Develop an international research profile in Chinese Studies;
- Facilitate development of economic and cultural links between Ireland and China;
- Provide government and business with professional consultancy services.

### Progress to date

The major milestone of this year saw the launch of UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland by the Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan on 26th September 2006. The Institute is dedicated to the promotion and development of Chinese language, culture, studies and business. It is a joint venture between the Office of Chinese language Council International, Renmin University of China and UCD.

A BComm (Chinese Studies) with a total of 12 modules has been successfully delivered by the Institute for the first time in Ireland. Over 159 applicants were received for the programme in 2006 and 14 places were awarded. There was an increase of 40% in 2007 with 223 applicants and 19 awarded places.

A total of five outreach programmes also began and are open to UCD students and the wider community. Programmes include Chinese language, martial arts and calligraphy.

An international conference, attended by over 130 delegates from 13 countries, marked the first and largest gathering ever in Ireland, to examine the latest economic, cultural, social and political developments in China.

A number of cultural events, including the Beijing Opera, were held to promote cultural awareness of Chinese diversity, history and traditions.

A survey on the interest of secondary schools to introduce Chinese as a foreign language was conducted. Positive feedback has resulted in a number of secondary schools taking up Chinese lessons and cultural activities for students and teachers alike. All teachers are affiliated with the Centre.

### Future objectives

- Two new graduate programmes will be launched, comprising of an MSc in Chinese Business Studies in 2008 and an MA in Contemporary China Studies in 2009;
- The existing model of BComm with Chinese Studies will be expanded to other subject areas;
- Promoting further international collaboration and an even greater awareness of the Chinese language and culture in Ireland;
- Development and promotion of teaching and research in the area of Chinese Studies within UCD and Ireland;
- Provision of services to the public and private sectors that will facilitate improved relations and a deepening of economic links between Ireland and China;
- Pursuit of new funding opportunities;
- Greater engagement with policy makers, providing first hand research evidence to inform and lead policy questions and influence policy decisions.



Members of China's Beijing Opera Company who performed at UCD in March 2007

## NovaUCD – The Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre

A major strategic objective for UCD is to contribute to the social, economic and cultural objectives of a knowledge society. In this regard, key actions identified in UCD's Strategic Plan for NovaUCD, the university's Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre, include:

- Initiation of a knowledge management programme;
- Identification and protection of UCD's intellectual property;
- Commercialisation of UCD's intellectual property through licensing and spin-off companies;
- Training of UCD staff in knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship through integration of NITM (National Institute of Technology Management) and NovaUCD;
- Developing corporate partnerships with business and industry to support and enhance research activities.

The activities of NovaUCD are overseen by a Board chaired by Paul McCambridge, Vice-President and Managing Director of Xilinx and includes senior representatives of UCD, industry, NovaUCD sponsors and research funding agencies. The Director of NovaUCD is Dr Pat Frain.

### Progress to date

NovaUCD is responsible for the implementation of the UCD intellectual property policy and supporting the development of a strong intellectual property pipeline. All 2006/07 targets for identification, protection and commercialisation of UCD intellectual property, mainly through licensing to new and established companies, were achieved.

During the year UCD's enhanced intellectual property policy *University College Dublin, Intellectual Property Policy and Procedures*, which had been approved by the UCD Governing Authority, was launched. The policy is intended to actively support the commercialisation of university intellectual property in a manner which ensures maximum benefit to society and the Irish economy, while providing a significant increase in the financial incentives and recognition for the creator of the intellectual property.

The growing level of R&D expenditure in UCD is fuelling the generation of increasing numbers of invention disclosures and other commercial opportunities. In the last year the number of UCD invention disclosures reported to NovaUCD increased to 44 from 29 in the previous year. This is indicative of a considerable increase in the level of potential intellectual property being generated across the university from its research programmes. UCD also filed seven priority patent applications last year across all areas of life sciences, engineering and information and communication technology. In addition seven PCT (Patent Co-operation Treaty) patent

applications and four national/regional patent applications were filed. During 2006/07, six license agreements were signed with a range of indigenous and international companies.

At year end, 23 knowledge-intensive companies, occupying over 85% of the available incubation space are located in NovaUCD. In keeping with NovaUCD's strategy of continuously refreshing its community of entrepreneurs, six client companies 'graduated' from NovaUCD during the year to make way for new ventures.

### Notable achievements

NovaUCD's technology transfer team is being significantly expanded following the announcement that Enterprise Ireland is to invest nearly €3 million over five years to strengthen UCD's technology transfer office. The investment is enabling NovaUCD to employ three additional experienced technology transfer professionals as well as a contracts manager and administrative support.

A number of NovaUCD based companies were successful in raising finance during the year. BiancaMed a health technology spin-out from the UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering secured €2.5 million from DFJ ePlanet Ventures and existing corporate investor ResMed. Visor, the internet-based accounting solutions company completed a €1 million equity investment round from Enterprise Ireland and private investors.

NovaUCD's Aonta Technologies was the joint winner of the Dublin Regional Finals of InterTradelreland's 2006 All-Island Seedcorn Competition. Aonta is using technological advances to create innovative rich media conferencing solutions for the global enterprise and service provider market place.

The €30 million AIB Seed Capital Fund is located at NovaUCD and is being jointly funded by AIB and Enterprise Ireland. This is the first fund to be established under Enterprise Ireland's €175 million Seed and Venture Capital Scheme 2007-2012.

Now in its 12th year, NovaUCD's Campus Company Development Programme is providing support for the promoters of 11 high-tech knowledge-intensive start-ups which are taking innovative ideas from proof-of-concept to fully developed, commercially sound enterprises.

The NovaUCD 2006 Campus Company Development Award was presented to Fitfone. Fitfone, founded by Dr Conor O'Brien has designed, developed and patented platform technology which when embedded into a mobile phone facilitates remote health and fitness assessment to assist in increasing an individual's life expectancy.



*Dr Conor O'Brien,  
Campus Company  
Development Award  
winner*



*NovaUCD is located in  
a magnificent mid-18th  
century house on the  
university campus.  
The building is bright, airy  
and open with high-quality  
shared and circulation  
spaces that encourage  
the formal and informal  
interactions necessary  
for the development  
of a community of  
entrepreneurs*



A range of initiatives to increase commercial awareness across the campus including the development of PhD modules on commercialisation of research outputs and other training programmes were developed and delivered by NovaUCD.

Dr Pat Frain, Director of NovaUCD was elected Chair of the Council of AURIL (Association of University Research and Industry Links). AURIL is the professional association representing Knowledge Transfer practitioners in the UK and Ireland.

### Future objectives

NovaUCD's vision is to become an international leader in the commercialisation of research and other knowledge-intensive activity for the benefit of the economy and society. Building on prior

successes in technology transfer and campus company development, NovaUCD has developed an ambitious five year plan the main objectives of which include:

- Increasing the early identification, capture, protection and commercialisation of intellectual property;
- Promoting entrepreneurship and assisting in the development of campus companies with particular emphasis on UCD spin-out companies;
- Developing collaborative arrangements and partnerships with industry;
- Increasing the awareness and knowledge of commercialisation and creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Professor Ciaran Regan



### NovaUCD 2007 Innovation Award

Professor Ciaran Regan was presented with the NovaUCD 2007 Innovation Award in recognition of his successes in the establishment of key strategic and collaborative links with industry and in the commercialisation of neuroscience research.

His achievements to date include securing €10 million in funding from Wyeth Discovery and Science Foundation Ireland to establish the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group at UCD which aims to identify novel neurotherapeutic targets. This link was of critical importance in Wyeth's later decision to establish a €13 million bio-therapeutic drug discovery research facility at UCD.

His research is focused on understanding mechanisms of brain plasticity and in exploiting these mechanisms as novel drug targets. He is a named inventor on six UCD patents and also co-founded a UCD spin-out company Berand Neuropharmacology in 2004 which is developing novel therapeutics for the treatment of autism and obesity.

# 5

## Providing a High Quality Student Experience

UCD endeavours to provide the opportunities for all students to develop the knowledge, competencies and values that will enable them to contribute in a positive way as they move through life. Alongside academic excellence, there is a focus on providing students with opportunities to understand the importance of internationalisation, diversity, community engagement and active citizenship.

UCD has excellent student facilities where over 50 sports clubs and more than 110 societies provide opportunities for students to build friendships, develop interests and skills and become active members of the UCD community.

When a student joins UCD they embark on a journey of discovery that is designed to be challenging and rewarding. That journey is backed up by a very professional and caring student support infrastructure. UCD provides comprehensive and co-ordinated resources to ensure that every student is supported by the highest calibre of individuals, networks and facilities.



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[Student Societies and Activities](#)

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## Facility Development

The ideal university experience supports student living and learning on campus. Recognising the importance of building a community, the university has established a vision of a campus which provides an enriching and stimulating collegiate environment for students, staff and visitors.

### UCD Gateway Project

Integral to UCD's strategy is the establishment of a vibrant campus precinct, thriving on and supported by both the academic and cultural activity of the university, strongly integrated with its neighbours and the business community.

The UCD Gateway project will launch a new era in the life of the Belfield campus through the introduction of cultural and social amenities, a UCD Welcome Centre and exhibition hall, cinema, restaurants and retail outlets, student residential accommodation and commercial, hotel and conference facilities.

The Gateway will enrich the overall student experience, provide extensive facilities for staff and generate a framework by which UCD can

engage more proactively with the local community and contribute to the social, economic and environmental development of the city of Dublin and county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

The firm of Ingenhoven Architects, based in Dusseldorf, Germany, won the international architectural competition for the Gateway project. Ingenhoven Architects are widely known for their innovative high-tech approach to sustainable building design. They have provided UCD with a universally accepted and widely acclaimed masterplan for the Gateway precinct. The dramatic and inspiring Gateway buildings will complement and underpin the university's vision for the future.



*Architectural representation of UCD Gateway development*



## Projects completed and currently in progress

### UCD Science Centre

The first phase of the redevelopment of the UCD Science Centre has begun with Science Centre South to provide high quality infrastructure for synthetic chemistry and related activity. Installation of the new façade and laboratory fit-out will begin in January 2008 and is scheduled for completion in September 2008.

The new UCD Science Centre is intended to be a transformational resource for Irish science providing facilities which will attract and generate the best level students, graduates and staff in the fields of science and engineering.

Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), Cycle 4 funding for UCD Science will support the completion of the remaining elements of Science Centre South. The redevelopment will include provision for funded programmes in nanoscience, biopharmaceutical sciences and food and health.

It is expected that redevelopment of the overall Science Centre South Building will be complete by early 2010.

### UCD Health Sciences

The completed UCD Health Sciences Centre provides world-class facilities for the disciplines of medicine, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and diagnostic imaging. The amalgamation of these disciplines into one location marks the substantial completion of UCD's objective to consolidate and reinforce the teaching and research agendas. The jewel in the crown of the complex is the Health Sciences Library.

The design of the building takes into account the environmental aims to reduce the requirements for mechanical ventilation, to maximise natural ventilation, daylight and the energy performance of the building for various times of the year.

### UCD School of Business

The conversion of the former chapel on the Blackrock campus, built in 1894, was completed in January 2007. It has provided the UCD School of Business with a state-of-the-art learning environment appropriate to its position as a leading business education institution. This new facility will play a pivotal role in elevating the research agenda of the UCD College of Business and Law and the university as a whole.

*UCD Science Centre with colour coding representing the potential phasing of the buildings development*





### UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering

UCD acquired the former Philips complex at Newstead in 2002. A large portion of the buildings on the site have been adapted for academic use by the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering.

This Phase 1 development enables Richview to be the primary academic home of the three disciplines within the School. The proximity of the former Philips complex to the School at Richview allows these two locations to amalgamate into a single complex. Its key position between the main campus and Richview, has allowed for the opening up of this sector of the campus.

The refurbishment works began in May 2006 and were completed in July 2007.

### UCD Research Building

The completed two storey UCD Research Building is an extension to the original Tierney Building built in the early 1970s. The new building offers office, exhibition, project and meeting room facilities designed to support the research community. Construction of the new building began in early 2006 and was completed in January 2007.

The new building, at the heart of the campus, symbolises UCD's commitment to building a world-class research environment and the growing importance of research as part of the university's strategic mission.

The building's striking colour is achieved through the use of patinated copper cladding, while the building form and lines have been designed to complement the original Tierney Building.

### Newman and Humanities Regeneration Project

The Newman Building is the largest academic building on the Belfield campus and supports the largest student and staff population. First occupied in the 1970s the building is relatively unchanged from the day it opened. The implementation of modularised degree programmes and collaborative approaches to research have emphasised the need to improve and regenerate the building in support of new academic imperatives.

This project was established to improve the experience of the building for staff, students and public alike, while supporting the academic plans of the Schools and Colleges.

The new entrance deck at the Newman Building will connect the various pedestrian zones in the area including the James Joyce Garden and the existing stepped entrance to the Newman Building.

A series of other minor projects also began in the Building in mid 2007. Briefing documents to guide the overall Newman and Humanities Regeneration Project are in preparation.

### Belfield House

In 1934, Belfield House and grounds were purchased by UCD to provide a sports centre and playing fields, heralding the birth of the Belfield campus. The university subsequently expanded the campus portfolio to include adjoining properties.

Originally built in 1801, the protected building today stands pristine, its lime render restored after extensive roof, façade and internal renovations.



Architect's impression  
of the new Thornfield  
crèche



Its fine reception rooms have been returned to their original purpose in a sensitive restoration project.

The development of Belfield House to provide administration and reception accommodation to support the William Jefferson Clinton Institute of American Studies was completed in early 2007.

### Student Centre Precinct

The development of the Student Centre Precinct will provide further access to a wide range of additional cultural and leisure pursuits.

The Precinct will see an expansion of the original UCD Student Centre opened in 2000. Included in the new development will be a dance studio, drama theatre, debating chamber, music recital space, multi-media centre, gym and swimming pool. The development will also include a multi-storey car park and associated infrastructure. It is envisaged that the building will be opened by December 2009.

The UCD Pool is intended to be a training venue with a spectator capacity for about 300 people. The 50 metre pool will also provide a leisure/recreational facility for students and the general public and will be used by a number of UCD sporting clubs, including canoeing, rowing, sub-aqua, swimming and water polo. This facility will also provide the infrastructure to develop swimming as a sport in UCD with the objective of achieving elite status.

### Thornfield Crèche

The existing university crèche at Rosemount is at peak capacity. This has been acknowledged in the form of a grant from the Department of Equality, Justice and Law Reform towards the costs of building a second crèche on the Belfield campus.

### UCD Bowl

The UCD Bowl is being developed to provide a high-quality outdoor sports arena for soccer and rugby. The facility will serve both codes and comply with UEFA and IRB standards with regard to playing surface quality and spectator comfort and safety. Lighting will be installed to accommodate evening events.

Phase I of this project was completed in September 2007. An allocation of €1.25 million was made to UCD in 2006 as part of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism annual sports capital grant scheme.

This work will complement the recent development of the Sports Pavilion which provides state-of-the-art dressing rooms. This facility has been strategically provided to serve the changing and recovery needs of athletes playing at the Hockey Stadium and the UCD Bowl.

The provision of additional synthetic pitch facilities began in June 2007 and is due for completion in late 2007. This will include a rugby pitch designed to full IRB standards and the first GAA approved synthetic Gaelic games surface at Belfield.

### Health Science Phase 3 — Medical Bureau of Road Safety

Construction started on phase 3 of the Health Sciences Complex in August 2006 and occupation will take place in late 2007.

This phase of the Health Sciences Complex will accommodate the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS). The relocation of the MBRS to the Belfield campus ensures the continuation of the long standing partnership since 1971 between the Bureau and the university to provide a national service in forensic medicine, road traffic medicine, and road safety.

This phase generates 2,200m<sup>2</sup> of dedicated laboratory and support accommodation and will enable direct access to the Health Sciences Library, the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science and other university facilities.

### Artwork

The university has recently added artwork by Edward Delaney to its diverse collection. *Celtic Twilight* is a six metre high steel rod and tubular stainless steel sculpture created by the renowned Irish artist in 1974. Donated by developer David Arnold in memory of his father, the artwork will be on permanent display in the courtyard of the UCD Conway Institute providing a dramatic new focus for those who enjoy its open space.

The university has commissioned Norman Teeling to produce a series of paintings of the Gateway precinct prior to the project development. In addition, as part of the preservation of the period houses on campus, the university has sourced appropriate artwork for the houses and relocated the magnificent *Hibernia and Cloncurry* sculpture by the great John Hogan to Belfield House. Jason Ellis has been commissioned to create a major sculpture to be located adjacent to Roebuck Hall.

## Projects at design or concept stage

### Future Residence Project

With the completion of the 288 bed residence at Roebuck Hall Phase 1 in 2006, UCD's objective of providing 5,000 accommodation places for students and staff within five years is advancing. It is proposed that the development of Roebuck Hall Residence Phase 2 by 2010 should be coupled with the provision of additional associated

community facilities. The campus itself will benefit from greater animation with an increase in resident numbers.

This will be complemented by the expansion of the Merville shop which is due for completion in late 2007.

### UCD Agriculture and Food Science Centre – Biosystems Engineering

The university is currently finalising plans to relocate Biosystems Engineering from Earlsfort Terrace. Significant refurbishment works will be completed by early 2008 within the UCD Agriculture and Food Science Centre to enable the collocation of School activities at the Belfield campus.

### UCD Sutherland School of Law

In 2007 Peter Sutherland SC made a major leadership gift of €4 million towards the development of a new UCD School of Law on the Belfield campus. The gift will be a significant factor in raising additional funds from Government and other sources for the €20 million development.

Currently at the brief development stage, it is expected that the completion of the building in 2010 will offer 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of state-of-the-art facilities to support the UCD School of Law.



*Pictured at the unveiling of Edward Delaney's Celtic Twilight sculpture are (l to r): Eamonn Ceannt, UCD Vice-President for Capital and Commercial Development, David Arnold, developer and Edward Delaney's son, Eamonn Delaney*



## Widening Participation

UCD aims to be a socially inclusive university where students from diverse backgrounds participate fully and equally in all facets of university life. The university targets under-represented groups in higher education including students with a disability, mature learners and students from lower socio-economic groups.

Dedicated teams in the Office of the Director of Access and UCD Adult Education Centre work to realise this goal in co-operation with colleagues across the university. In addition to its role in widening participation, the UCD Adult Education Centre facilitates lifelong learning by offering a myriad of academic learning opportunities to all adults. Over 1,000 students registered for courses for credit, while an additional 3,000 students have taken courses for interest with the UCD Adult Education Centre. For many students this has been their first experience of higher education. These adult education classes reflect the university's commitment to lifelong learning and engagement with the wider community.

Successful access course students at their awards ceremony



### Progress to date

UCD supports its widening participation agenda through a number of initiatives:

- Links with schools, community groups and voluntary organisations, providing information and advice on higher education options, taster activities, summer schools and education opportunities in outreach centres;
- Delivery of access courses in Arts and Human Science, Science and Engineering, and Commerce for adults who aim to progress to higher education;
- Flexible entry pathways to study at UCD, including special entry routes on the grounds of mature years, disability, socio-economic groupings and FETAC qualification;
- Provision of appropriate supports so all students can participate fully in university life. These include orientation programmes, academic skills workshops, academic writing academy, needs-based accommodation for students with a disability, accessible materials and technologies, mentoring, advice, guidance and financial bursaries.

### Notable achievements

The Disability Support Service (DSS) has evolved over the past number of years to reflect the growing demand from people with a disability for equal access and participation in higher education. Operating from an inclusive social model of disability, UCD supports students with visual, hearing, physical/mobility disabilities, Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD), mental health difficulties, chronic illness and long-term medical conditions. Support programmes for all students are individualised and based upon a detailed assessment process. A total of 72 students registered with DSS graduated from UCD in the 2006/07 academic year.

The New ERA Programme, in conjunction with the Trinity Access Programme and the Visiting Teachers for Travellers Services designed and delivered a series of workshops for Traveller students and their parents.

UCD New ERA partnered with the Science Programme Office and the Mature Student Advisers Office to pilot a peer mentoring programme for incoming first year students. Ten New ERA students were trained and acted as mentors during the year.

There were 80 New ERA graduates from all programmes for the academic year 2006/07.

New ERA was delighted to receive scholarship funding from a number of donors, both public and private, without whose generous support New ERA could not deliver on its equality of access objective.

Fifty seven mature students who completed the Access to Arts and Human Sciences course were offered a degree place in Arts in UCD. A further four were accepted for the Social Science degree. Other mature access students are taking other programmes both in UCD and elsewhere.

Eight students from the Access to Science and Engineering Course progressed to a Science Degree. Other mature access students were offered places in Physiotherapy, Theoretical Physics, Computer Science and Health and Safety.

Over half the students registered on the Commerce Access course progressed to the BComm degree.

The Mature Student Advisers Office piloted a pre-enrolment Critical Writing Academy (CWA) for entering first year mature students in 2006. Ninety eight mature students signed up for the three day Academy. In addition 160 mature students attended the Mature Student Orientation Day

The Mature Student Advisers Office in conjunction with the New ERA Programme and the Science Programme Office piloted a peer mentoring programme for entering first year mature students. Five mature students were trained and acted as mentors for 35 entering mature students.

Thirty three mature students have been funded for up to three years through a generous donation from the Kathleen Rooney Miller Scholarship. This private scholarship targeting mature students was made available through the Ireland Funds and was disbursed from 2004 through to the present.

Fifteen highly motivated students from very diverse backgrounds were awarded the UCD 150 Scholarships in 2006. These were targeted at students who had overcome significant barriers, such as social/educational disadvantage, financial hardship, disability or adverse life circumstances to enable them fulfil their third level ambitions.

2006 saw the launch of a new integrated website for the Office of the Director of Access Unit. [www.ucd.ie/access](http://www.ucd.ie/access) incorporates the three access services into one website

Students from under-represented groups made up over 14% of incoming undergraduate entrants in 2006/07.

### Overview of undergraduate students by programme

2006/07	New Entrants	Total
DSS	126	410
New ERA	121	386
Mature	332	931 (Full time) +606 (Part time)
Access Course	149	

### Future objectives

UCD will further its widening participation agenda by:

- Evaluating the impact of existing and new widening participation initiatives through a SIF funded collaborative research project with the UCD Geary Institute;
- Evaluating the impact of mature student access courses on participation and progression rates to higher education through a doctoral study on mature students on part-time access courses;
- Addressing the higher education access, equity and support needs of emergent communities in Ireland, including members of the travelling community.



*Pictured at an information meeting for prospective mature students are Ronan Murphy and Una Hegarty of UCD's Mature Student Support Service*

## Financial Assistance for Students

Monetary problems can arise for students as a result of difficulties due to ongoing low income, childcare costs or financial worries that may result from unforeseen events such as bereavement, accident or illness.

The university operates three schemes for students who find themselves in need of financial assistance. The schemes are funded largely by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the National Development Plan (NDP) 2006-2013. Additional funding comes from donations and student fines.

The **Student Welfare Fund** is a discretionary fund which offers support to students who encounter unexpected difficulties during their time of study in UCD. The scope of the fund also encompasses those students who for various reasons cannot avail of normal channels of assistance. Applications can be made at any time during the academic year and are considered by the Student Welfare Fund Committee which meets regularly.

The **Student Assistance Fund** is designed to help disadvantaged students in most need and is administered by UCD's Student Welfare

and Assistance Committee. It is funded by the Department of Education and Science with assistance from the ESF through the NDP.

The **Childcare Subsidy Scheme** assists student parents most in need of financial assistance and offers a contribution towards childcare costs. These can be for children in the UCD crèche or in off-campus childcare. All subsidies granted by UCD are based on individual need and assessed by the Childcare Subsidy Committee.

UCD Student Centre





## UCD Crèche

There has been a crèche on the UCD campus for approximately 30 years. The crèche has grown from an initial 40 place facility into a nursery that now has provision for over 60 children. The current purpose-built centre was fully refurbished in 2006 and is situated near the Clonskeagh entrance. Located beside a woodland area, the one storey building has two large gardens where the children can play in safety.

Oakmount Crèche Ltd runs the crèche as a not for profit company with a board of directors and a committee comprising both staff and student parent representatives.

All staff are qualified childcare professionals and are supported with further education and training.

It is university policy for the crèche to give the children of students first priority for enrolment. Extra-curricular activities offered to families include:

- *Stretch and Grow* classes for 2-5 year olds;
- *Gymboree* for the younger children (1-2 year olds);
- *The French Experience* – French classes for 2-5 year olds.

### Future objectives

Planning permission was received in July 2007 for a second crèche — Thornfield — to be built on campus at the top of Greenfield Park. It will have space for up to 65 children and is due to open before the end of 2009.

UCD Oakmount crèche





## UCD Library

The UCD Library supports UCD's status as a leading research-intensive university by providing services and facilities that enhance the learning, research, and teaching activities of students and staff. To achieve this, the Library will increase both print and on-line collections substantially, will enhance the physical learning environment, will provide an extended portfolio of virtual library services on a 24/7 basis, and will integrate library services with e-learning developments in the university.



### Progress to date

The second phase of the IReL (Irish Electronic e-Library) initiative brought major improvements to the online information resources in the humanities, social sciences, and law, with approximately 10,000 additional journals and databases being made available.

Information literacy skills programmes were developed and delivered at induction, learning, and research support levels. The establishment of the structured PhD programme provided the opportunity to embed library and information skills into the transferable skills element of the programme. Traditional information skills training was extended beyond discovery and access to include evaluation, storage, re-use of information, and sessions on topics such as citation styles, plagiarism, and bibliographic reference handling. These were availed of by researchers and academic staff.

Several online social networking facilities have been adapted for library purposes in order to improve outreach to users. Blogs have been developed for reader services, researchers, science users, health science users, virtual study aids and open access publishing.

A branch library presence has been established in the virtual world of Second Life. UCD Library is the first Irish library to present its services in this way, and Second Life users can access web-based resources, blogs, presentations and some e-books.

Access to the Library's own holdings was improved with the implementation of a direct link between citations found in databases and the full-text of the source articles (findit@ucd), and a complementary facility which enables searching across clusters of databases (crosssearch@ucd).

Opening hours of the James Joyce Library throughout the summer months were extended.

Two new branch libraries were opened in the UCD Health Sciences Centre and the Blackrock Campus. The Library is reshaping spaces in dynamic and innovative ways and there are facilities for learning in different ways. Information skills rooms enable Library staff to train users in the best ways of identifying and assessing information.

The Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA), a PRTL funded project of the Humanities Institute of Ireland, in which the Library plays a leading role, was launched during the year. This provides access for researchers to digitised material (including print, manuscript, graphic and audio) from several repositories.

### Future objectives and plans

An online repository to provide access to the publications and theses of UCD researchers will be established as part of a SIF funded national initiative to create repositories at all seven Irish universities. In a related development, UCD Library, working with a consortium of top European economics libraries, will participate in a €2 million bid to create a high-profile economics research portal to showcase the publications of UCD's economics researchers.

A podcast audio tour of the James Joyce Library will be released for downloading to an mp3 player from the website, enabling a user to take an individual tour at their own time and pace.

An express lending service, piloted during 2006/07, will be fully implemented, and special initiatives are planned to increase the availability and use of e-books.

## UCD IT Services

UCD IT Services aims to make IT an integral part of the teaching, learning and research environment of the university by developing services to implement a 24/7 digital campus for staff and students.

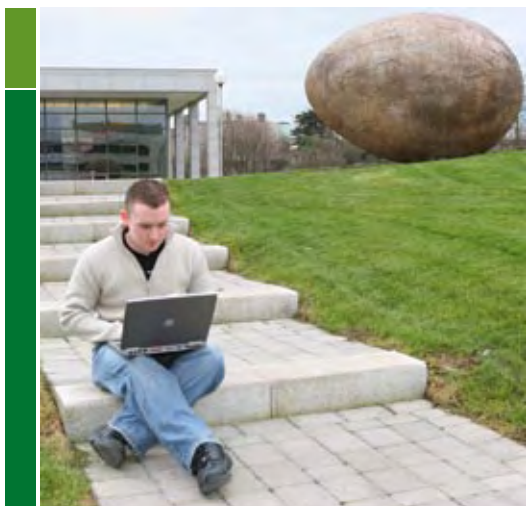
### Progress to date

In 2007 the use of IT Services reached a new high of 25,000 users per week. This expansion was driven by widespread use of the wireless network — typically 10,000 users per week — and the growth of laptop ownership which now exceeds 50% in the student population. The portal service UCD Connect expanded to include research, teaching and learning, library and full administrative services for users and is now the primary access point for IT on and off campus.

In 2007 a laptop programme was introduced for all students supported by Intel and Microsoft. The *Learn/Chill/Play* package was delivered through PC suppliers and supported with a bank loan option from AIB.

The support service was extended with a new IT Centre in Newstead and the SUAS (Stand up and Surf) internet areas in the Science Centre. These very popular, flexible access areas integrate technology into the open spaces in buildings, allowing easy access to the UCD Connect portal, email, messaging and Skype phone calls.

UCD IT Services ran five days of IT induction courses for all incoming first years during Orientation Week with over 3,900 students attending. The course provides major benefits for students and staff by preparing students in advance for the technology they will encounter in their coursework.



The Research IT service has greatly expanded the offering for research groups and now provides dedicated hosting facilities and flexible enterprise storage capacity. This IT team works with institutes and research users to implement technology for large scale projects. Some examples from 2007 include:

- The Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive Repository (IVRLA), a national project which supports leading edge research by enabling access to digitised content;
- UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, currently piloting the new 'Meteorite' High Performance Compute cluster for the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics. This cluster will become part of a central community cluster;
- Working closely with Conway IT and Bioinformatics personnel and external software and hardware suppliers on the new Proteomics pipeline. The IT equipment for this project is hosted in the UCD Daedalus Data Centre and the data from the mass spectrometer will reside on the new UCD IT Services enterprise data storage solution.

### Future objectives

Key developments will include:

- Expansion of infrastructure and data centres;
- New services to support e-content development and the expanded use of technology in the classroom;
- Development of strategic data storage and archive capacity;
- Implementation of web technologies to support and enhance UCD's web presence;
- Continued implementation of student-centred IT services;
- Development of management information services to support UCD staff and decision making.

## UCD Student Medical and Counselling Services

The mission statement of the UCD Student Health Service is to provide an excellent standard of primary medical, psychological and psychiatric care to registered students of UCD, supplementary to their own general practitioner and other health care services.

Services are concentrated on term time and times of most demand. There is a staff of 17 in the Service with a ratio of 1 doctor:8,000 students and 1 nurse:8,000 students.

The appointment in February 2007 of a Director of Student Counselling, Marie Murray, provided the context for the separation of Student Health into two services, UCD Student Medical Service and UCD Student Counselling Service, while maintaining their important multidisciplinary connection and perspective.

The Student Counselling Service began the development of a separate strategic plan while nonetheless sharing some goals, physical premises and administrative services with the Student Medical Service in the Student Health Centre on the Belfield campus.

### Progress to date

#### Medical Service

- The Service was successful in extending opening hours during term time. The administrative and medical team have been very flexible in making changes to their working schedule to accommodate increased opening hours.
- Dr Joe Conway has recently been appointed and is a key member of the team, particularly due to his skills in sports medicine;
- The Service retained an alcohol counsellor, Donal Kiernan and increased the profile of this service;
- A changeover to the GP dynamic computer software package was achieved;



### Please Talk campaign

UCD student adviser Fr Tony Coote was travelling home after a particularly difficult funeral service in Derry. The deceased was a science student who had taken her own life. He turned to his two colleagues and said, "If only we could have said to her 'please talk to somebody'". It was the death of this young woman that prompted Fr Coote and others to develop a new campaign called *Please Talk*. The campaign was launched by Cork hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín. Pictured at the launch are (l to r): Dr Martin Butler, UCD Vice-President for Students, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín, Fr Tony Coote and Barry Colfer, Student Welfare Officer, UCD Students Union.

- An information campaign was conducted within the Service on contraception and sexually transmitted infections targeting all students. This was done by creating and distributing information packs to students attending the Service for any reason;
- A credit card size student leaflet was designed, with important phone numbers, help lines and web sites. The aim was to give students access to information about sources of help. It also contained information about safe drinking;
- Team members participated in Men's Health Week;
- The Service made regular contributions to the Vice-President for Students email to students and highlighting topical subjects on the front page of its website;
- Members of staff visited Sheffield University in the UK with a view to planning for the new Student Health and Counselling Centre.

#### **Counselling Service**

- Leaflets on exam stress were produced for students and electronic material is being designed;
- Extended data collection has been instituted to meet clinical and research objectives;
- Media activities were undertaken to inform public perspectives on student counselling;
- Extended consultation and visits to other university counselling services, professional bodies and mental health agencies took place;
- A seminar series for academic staff on assisting students in distress was conducted.



## **Future Objectives and Plans**

#### **Medical Service**

- To work with all stakeholders to ensure that the Student Health and Counselling Centre meets the needs of students;
- As a pilot scheme in 2007/08, Dr Joe Conway will conduct special sports injury clinics;
- Further development of nurse-led contraceptive services;
- Develop appropriate health promotion initiatives especially web based;
- Conduct training sessions for relevant staff on student mental health issues;
- A *Books on Prescription* initiative will be launched in January 2008. This is a scheme whereby students will be prescribed or advised to read particular books that are considered helpful for their particular problems. The library will stock the books and manage loans. Wyeth donated €3,000 to fund the purchase of the books.

#### **Counselling Service**

- To become embedded in university life in a proactive way that might pre-empt some of the difficulties with which students attend for counselling and which will support the normal developmental tasks of student life;
- To continue and expand core counselling activities and targeted support material;
- Develop a student counselling website as a source of information;
- Extend the peer mentoring programme into additional UCD Schools;
- Develop a *Bibliotherapy* programme as an adjunct to the *Books on Prescription* programme;
- Increase participation in the university's educational, social, mental health and well-being mission.



## UCD Student Advisers and Chaplaincy

The student advisers, in line with the recommendations of the President's Taskforce on Student Support Services, continued in 2006/07 to work as an integral part of each Programme Office as well as being assigned to particular groups of students, such as international, New ERA and mature students. The student advisers group increased to ten in 2006 which indicates that they are recognised within UCD as being a central part of the new university structures and an essential ingredient for improving the student experience in the university.

While the main brief of the student advisers is to be available to students on a one to one basis, they also continued in 2006/07 with active involvement in a range committees and initiatives, such as the Student Welfare Fund, the Health Promotions Committee, Staff-Student Committees, the *Please Talk* campaign (launched in February 2007) and the Bereavement Support Group.

### Progress to date

- A pilot project on peer mentoring was launched in September 2006 for science, New ERA and mature students which proved very successful;
- The Health Promotions Committee launched a Healthy Eating Competition, spearheaded by one of the student advisers, which took place in April 2007. Cooks Academy cookery school cooked from recipes submitted by students and the competition was judged by *Irish Times* food critic, Tom Doorley;
- Student Advisers were part of a UCD Volunteers Overseas group who went for the first time in July 2007 to Nicaragua;
- Student Advisers were active in increasing the number of orientation guides and the number of events held for new students in September 2006.

### Future objectives

- The addition of two new student advisers in 2007/08, one to cover the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and UCD School of Law and the other to cover the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics;
- An extension in 2007/08 of the peer mentoring project to include all of science, New ERA and agricultural science students;
- A UCD community musical show is planned for February 2008 with a student adviser acting as producer;
- The continuation of student adviser participation in the *Please Talk* campaign, the Health Promotion Committee, the Crèche Committee, Residences Committee and others;
- The promotion of the student adviser service with a leaflet to be circulated to over 5,000 new students in student packs and to staff.

UCD Student Advisers  
from left: Carl Lusby,  
Ronan Murphy, Colleen  
Blaney, Ros McFeely,  
Jennifer Murphy,  
Jacqueline Levine, Kieran  
Moloney, Aoife FitzGerald,  
Anna Farrell and  
Aisling O'Grady



## UCD Sport

UCD Sport aspires to deliver a quality health and life wellness experience for all of the nearly 23,000 students registered at the university. With 59 clubs affiliated to the UCD Athletic Union Council and a combined membership of over 8,500 students, new and additional programmes are rolling out to attract more of our students to include sport, recreation and exercise in their weekly schedule and general lifestyle.

Ninety eight of the 330 acres of the Belfield campus are dedicated to sport, and with additional new facilities near completion, students can continue to have ease of access to excellent sports and recreation facilities. The Sport Zone at Belfield, surrounding the Sports Centre, continues to evolve as essential infrastructural facilities are developed and progressed. The most exciting of these, the expansion to the Student Centre Precinct, which incorporates the new swimming pool project, is now at an advanced stage of design.

### Progress to date

UCD Sport is continuing its programme of development and facility improvement. In 2007 the next phases of synthetic playing pitch have been completed with the provision of a new state-of-the-art GAA pitch at Devlin Park, and an IRB approved full size rugby pitch at Newstead. The UCD Bowl has also been upgraded to comply with UEFA licensing, with 1,500 seats and new floodlighting. The Bowl will host both UCD AFC and UCD RFC home games as a shared venue. UCD competes at the top level nationally in both codes. Facilities have been provided for the Institute for Sport and Health at the Newstead site. The Institute's programme of research work in raising participation and promoting sport and physical activity has been initiated, in association with the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science.

Medical student Joanne Cuddihy set a new Irish 400m record of 50.73 secs at the World Athletics Championships in Osaka, Japan in August 2007 and continues her preparations for the Beijing Olympics.

The Men's Gaelic Football team won the Dublin Senior Football Championship in 2006 and were eventually narrowly defeated by Rhode in the Leinster club semi-final.

Cyclist Louise Moriarty broke the Irish 3,000 metre track record and finished in eighth place in the Tour de Bretagne.

Hammer thrower Padraig White finished second in the National Senior Athletics Championships.

The Men's Soccer team made the semi-final of the League Cup. The club also made a clean sweep of all third level competitions, including the inaugural Universities and Colleges League, Collingwood Cup, Harding Cup and the Dr Tony O' Neill Under



*Rena Buckley of the UCD Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie teams was named the Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year at a ceremony in May 2007*



*UCD players and management celebrate after the team won the Dublin Senior Gaelic Football Championship (@Sportsfile)*

21 Cup. Darren Forsyth and James O'Sullivan were selected for the Eircom League Under 18 and 19 teams respectively.

UCD Rugby retained their AIB League Division 1 status. Rugby players Ian Keatley, Conor McInerney, Sean O'Brien, Paul Donohoe and Kevin Sheehan were on the Ireland Under 20 grand slam team. Fergus McFadden and Robert Kearney were also capped for the Ireland A team in 2007.

UCD cyclist Louise Moriarty



Four UCD alumni were selected in the Ireland squad for the 2007 Rugby World Cup: Brian O'Driscoll, Denis Hickie, Brian Carney and Paddy Wallace. A fifth player, Gordon D'Arcy, enrolled for an Arts degree programme starting in September 2007.

UCD Men's Hockey team were promoted to Division 1, and compete now at the same top provincial level as UCD Women's Hockey.

### Future objectives

The plans to position Sport and Health as a core activity at UCD continue to evolve for students and staff as well as the wider community. Significant

resources are committed to enhance the effort to provide a best practice university experience at UCD with landmark additional sports infrastructure as evidenced by the new leisure and recreation aspects of the Student Centre Precinct. UCD Sport intends to deliver a Regional Centre of Excellence as part of the Government's national sports strategy. We continue to promote our *Get in Gear* programme for inactive students and the orientation programme for incoming first year students includes a significant sport and recreation contribution as part of the experience.

UCD rugby player Fergus McFadden going over for a try





## Music

UCD maintains a wide range of performing ensembles, offering students a chance to get in touch with music of different ages and styles. The choirs and orchestras are open to anyone who has an interest in music and wants to commit some time to this passion.

The UCD Symphony Orchestra, the UCD Choral Scholars, the UCD Philharmonic Choir and UCD Baroque Orchestra all act as UCD's cultural ambassadors on and off campus, providing evidence that its students not only have good academic credentials but are skilled practitioners too.

### Progress to date

In 2006/07, the UCD Symphony Orchestra presented two successful concerts, the first on campus in Astra Hall and — reaching out to the wider community — the second in the National Concert Hall. Among the pieces presented were two heavyweights of the symphonic repertoire: Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* and Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*. There were also acclaimed performances of Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (*Songs of a Wayfarer*; Norah King, soprano) and Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1* with soloist Cora Venus Lunny. In 2007/08, the Orchestra plans to continue its partnership with Redmond O'Toole (Brahms guitar) who will perform Villa-Lobos's *Guitar Concerto* while Mary McCague will be the soloist in Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G*. Another highlight will be Dvorák's *New World Symphony*.

The UCD Choral Scholars also had a busy year. Their opening concert of the year in Donnybrook Church saw the Scholars in collaboration with the Earley Music Ensemble presenting a selection of Christmas favourites. The choir blended very well with the first-class soloists (many of them Scholars themselves) and the instruments. The Scholars also performed at students events around the campus, at services for the UCD community throughout the academic year and at prestigious events like the UCD Foundation Day Dinner. Plans are under way to establish an alumni network and

thus creating a new basis for keeping in touch with former members.

The former UCD College Choir has restructured itself as the UCD Philharmonic Choir. Under the new leadership of Thomas Kehoe, it intends to be inclusive of staff and students alike, performing a diverse range of choral music from all genres. The Choir seeks to achieve the highest standards of choral technique and ensemble in an intensive and enjoyable environment. It will perform its first concert in November 2007. The programme is entitled *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and will include music by Bach, Duruflé, Walton, Whitacre and Fauré's *Requiem*.

### Future objectives

In 2007/08, the involvement of the performing ensembles with the *UCD Horizons* programme will be deepened. Students can sing or play in the UCD Choral Scholars, the UCD Symphony Orchestra, the UCD Philharmonic Choir and the UCD Baroque Orchestra for credit, subject to audition. They are being offered as elective modules to students of all programmes and subjects. Grades will be awarded based on the quality of the student's contribution and attendance record. It is hoped that this new opportunity will act as an additional incentive to join UCD's performing ensembles as they link cultural life on campus to the wider community.



UCD Choral Scholars performing at the end of semester reception in December 2006



## Student Societies and Activities

The UCD Strategic Plan underlines the importance of societies and society activity in the development and sustainment of plentiful and quality driven extra-curricular educational, cultural and social activities for students. On the provision side of this equation, societies offer significant opportunity for personal development, particularly with regard to life skills such as people management, organisation and time management.

Models from the Arts Fashion Show pictured at the pre-show photoshoot to promote the event



UCD Society of the Year 2007, while the Newman Society and Classical Society shared the title of *Small Society of the Year*.

Training for society officers was expanded this year, to include modules on trouble shooting and conflict resolution.

Student societies continue to offer a unique opportunity for students of the university to meet and hear major figures of international importance, as well as many figures of popular culture.

Guests to societies in the last 12 months included US Justice Antonin Scalia, sports figures Brian O'Driscoll and George Hook; comic writers Graham Linehan and Bill Bryson; actor Erik Per Sullivan; and comedian Ardal O'Hanlon.

### Progress to date

All areas of existing society activity expand annually, with over 100 registered student societies now in existence. In addition, student societies play an increasingly important role in other activities of the university, with societies contributing to the Student Ambassador programme, the Student Centre project team, as well as playing a significant role in the *Farewell to the Terrace* events. Societies also continue to take the lead in interaction with new students and the Penang Students Society and the International Students Society playing an important part in this area. The UCD Outreach Society, which offers tuition in disadvantaged areas, was re-established this year, while the C&E Superbowl Night was promoted solely to campus residents and American students.

The numbers participating in societies overall have risen, with a cumulative 35,000 students enrolled as members of societies. The largest societies in UCD now have in excess of 4,000 members. The number and quality of events continues to rise, with more events, and in particular more high profile and high capacity events, taking place on campus. This year saw the establishment of several new societies, including the Student Legal Service, which allows students get non-directive legal information free of charge. The Campus Television Network underwent a significant reorganisation, which now allows for extensive capital investment in this area. The Medical Society took the title of

US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (centre) accepting a certificate to mark his appointment as Vice-President of the UCD Law Society from Sean Tracey, Treasurer of the Society (left) and Richard Mulrooney, Auditor of the Society (right)



The Literary and Historical (L&H) Society continued to enjoy national success, with one team in the final of The Irish Times debating competition and another winning the Irish Mace. Former L&H Auditor and World Championships convenor Ciaran Lawlor was named as Deputy Chief Adjudicator for the World Debating Championships 2008 in Thailand. UCD Dramsoc once again topped the awards at the Irish Student Drama Festival, receiving the most nominations and the most awards, and taking the best overall production award for the third year in a row.

## Community Engagement

The UCD Quinn School Centre for Service Learning and Community Engagement has been in existence since June 2005.

The mission of the Centre is to:

- Encourage UCD Quinn School students to perceive community engagement as an integral part of their third level education and of their future work and personal lives;
- Forge links with UCD Quinn School's community environment in win-win partnerships;
- Encourage staff motivation for community involvement and its promotion in the academic curriculum.

### Progress to date

A new service learning module, the first of its kind in Ireland, was introduced for 30 UCD Quinn School students which combined community projects with academic learning objectives.

The Centre expanded its community partner base to nine organisations: Angel's Quest Aware, Blackrock Hospice, Catherine McAuley Centre, Cheshire Ireland, Debra Ireland, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Our Lady's Grove, Roslyn Park College, and the Gúna Nua Theatre Company.

A lecture series presenting social entrepreneurs was inaugurated with a talk by Mel Young, Director of the Homeless World Cup, in February 2007.

A comprehensive survey of the community partner base was undertaken to involve them in the future direction of the Centre.

Relationships were forged with NUI Galway, Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and Dublin City University (DCU) to form an umbrella group of higher

education community engagement centres in Ireland (modelled on the US Campus Compact Program).

The Engage Awards were introduced for first year UCD Quinn Students, sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

### Future objectives

To build on the achievements so far, a number of additional measures are planned to:

- Introduce community placements which are embedded and closely linked academically to existing business modules such as marketing and accounting;
- Continue service learning as a stand-alone module for the entire UCD level 2/3 student constituency;
- Increase the number of partner organisations to the Centre;
- Achieve wider promotion of the Centre's objectives among staff at UCD.



### Community projects

"Our programme was with Debra Ireland's *Happy Faces Day* event where the public could go into participating photography studios around the country and have a professional portrait taken for €20. All the proceeds went to the charity. We were involved in organising, publicising and co-ordinating the entire event.

As UCD Quinn School students, we already knew about logistics, giving us an insight into what to expect when trying to organise a large event. We also understood that there were targets to be met and how best to achieve them.

I would recommend doing the Service Learning initiative. You might have a few doubts about what you could bring to the project but you'd be surprised at what you can contribute." David Rainey, BComm student.

*Pictured above are David Rainey (left) with team members Lorna Purcell, Annette Larkin and Richard Tunney*

## Careers and Employment

UCD educates, encourages and assists its students to find a future that enables them to contribute most effectively to the social, cultural and economic life of Ireland and the wider global community.

### Progress to date

Our graduates continue to fare well in 2006 with 51% in further study or training, 42% in employment, 6% not available for employment and 1% seeking employment. The percentage of primary degree graduates seeking employment continued to be low with substantial numbers gaining employment or undertaking graduate study and training. In a changing job market students were encouraged to make well prepared and targeted approaches earlier in the academic year when much recruitment activity occurs. There is strong competition for top graduate positions at home and abroad.

In order to assist students in these earlier approaches, the UCD Careers Fair was held in October in O'Reilly Hall focusing on Irish employers. It also served to alert students to the earlier recruitment activity in final year. This fair has been augmented by a Teaching Fair held in autumn and a Science, Engineering and IT fair in spring. Further fairs, organised by the Association of Graduate Careers Services in Ireland (AGCSI), are now available in autumn along with a Graduate Studies fair in spring. Major international organisations have also been attracted to visit the College for recruitment purposes.

In recent times there has been an increase in the number of primary degree graduates undertaking graduate study and training, now surpassing the numbers going directly into employment. This has been encouraged by the wide range of attractive graduate coursework available within the university. The quality of jobs secured by higher degree graduates was noticeably stronger than that of primary degree holders, as might be expected. Those undertaking graduate diploma courses also performed very well in the job market. There is therefore a real choice facing graduating students, whether to enter employment directly or pursue further studies.

The work of the UCD Careers and Appointments Office with students includes personal counselling and a 'duty system' which enables students to be seen without appointment on a daily basis. Advisory meetings, group work, careers education

programmes, careers talks and seminars are also organised and well attended. The Careers Service is located in purpose-built careers libraries and offices in the Library Building at Belfield and at the UCD Smurfit School in Blackrock.

Careers and Appointments Office staff are involved in the development of graduate careers literature and other cooperative ventures undertaken by AGCSI and the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) in Britain and Ireland. A website, *gradireland* ([www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)), which is updated daily and contains graduate vacancies notified to careers services in Ireland, and a careers directory *Gradireland*, have been developed co-operatively through AGCSI with publishers GTI and are available to students and graduates.



### Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

In 2007, Eibhlin Leahy from Oranmore, Co Galway became the first Diploma in Veterinary Nursing graduate to be accepted for registration as a veterinary nurse with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in the UK. The diploma equips graduates with the skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver excellent nursing support. The RCVS is considered by many to set the benchmark for veterinary nursing standards worldwide.

# 6

## Shaping Agendas

UCD plays and will continue to play a central role in Ireland's advancement. Its excellence in teaching, learning and research ensure that UCD graduates enjoy outstanding prospects. Its research achievements and discoveries advance the frontiers of human knowledge at both local and global level.

The effort to realise UCD's vision is supported by the internal and external communications work of UCD University Relations and the fundraising and alumni relations work of UCD Development and Alumni Relations.

The university attaches the highest importance to ensuring that its continued progress across a range of fronts is communicated to all its audiences. The role of UCD University Relations is to use a wide variety of communications channels to build strong relationships and understanding with the university's diverse array of stakeholders both internal and external.

UCD Development and Alumni Relations broadens and deepens the relationship between the university and its global alumni base. A two-way relationship building programme encourages private funding to the university to further enhance its facilities and programmes. It also ensures that alumni are well informed about UCD, building a spirit of loyalty, involvement and lifelong commitment to the university.



*Reminiscing at the Living  
History exhibition which  
was part of The Farewell  
to the Terrace programme  
of events*



University Relations

Development and Alumni Relations

Special Recognition

## University Relations

The primary objective of UCD University Relations is to communicate key defining messages from UCD in Ireland and internationally through all media by means of a range of high quality activities and practice.

Specifically, University Relations manages central strategic marketing, media relations, public relations and event management activity. It also supports a wide range of internal communications activity. The objective is to provide a platform to promote UCD's achievements in teaching and learning, research and other areas.

### Progress to date

During the year a number of evaluation assessments were undertaken to analyse the effectiveness of major communication projects, designed to support the strategic objectives.

A review of the in-house magazine *UCD Today* led to some revision of the content and design. Market research confirmed the value of the magazine, which is published five times per year and has a circulation of 5,000, as a channel to showcase UCD's research outputs, the achievements of UCD staff as well as publicising many of the events held on campus.

A review of staff recruitment advertising led to a reinforcement of the advertising policy and practice in this area.

As well as proactive media relations and marketing, UCD University Relations provides a reactive information service to the media, aiming to provide timely and accurate responses to university-related issues of interest to the general public and key stakeholder groups.

The ongoing marketing of *UCD Horizons* concentrated on promoting the omnibus degree programmes and improving the quality and quantity of communications with prospective students.

The development of an online events calendar on the UCD website provides access to lectures, guest speakers, seminars and social events on campus.

The online news service continues to promote work of interest to internal and external audiences. Hits on this area of the web witnessed steady growth over the year.

*UCD Connections* is the university's flagship annual publication to alumni and has a circulation of 120,000. The magazine represents the high end of quality publications from UCD.



UCD affinity card launch

### Notable achievements

In 2006 the university was named as the Sunday Times University of the Year. The selection was largely based on the level of innovation and strategic change witnessed by the newspaper and commentators.

To commemorate the departure of UCD from Earlsfort Terrace after 124 years, a *Farewell to the Terrace* programme of events was organised. This programme covered four days and included a sell-out literary concert in the National Concert Hall at which Maeve Binchy was presented with the 2006 Foundation Day Medal. UCD graduate, pianist John O'Connor was joined by a host of UCD writers who performed passages from other famous UCD writers including Kate O'Brien, James Joyce and Flann O'Brien. The programme also included a celebration for retired staff of the Terrace and an L&H challenge debate between the current students and former members of the society on the motion *That youth is wasted on the young*.

Almost 3,000 alumni attended the Terrace garden party, the exhibition on the history of UCD from 1880 to 1970 and the lecture and tours series. A performance of Mozart's *Coronation Mass* drew many graduates back to University Church on St Stephen's Green. To accompany the programme

of events, a commemorative book, *Farewell to the Terrace*, and an *Irish Times* supplement were published. In total over 5,000 alumni attended the events.

Other major communications initiatives involved supporting the Gateway architectural competition and developing the communications and media relations strategy for the launch of Dublin Academic Health Care, a partnership between UCD, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St Vincent's University Hospital.

A new affinity credit card arrangement was negotiated with AIB whereby the bank donates €25 per new account opened and contributes a percentage of every transaction to the university's development fund.

**Future objectives**

A comprehensive communications programme will concentrate on attracting top students to UCD and will explain the academic, along with the holistic, benefits of the *UCD Horizons* curriculum. Close work with the Student Recruitment Office will deliver strong and convincing messages to prospective students. Web based communication is a clear priority for the coming year. This will be realised through online and other marketing activities driving prospective students, parents and career guidance counsellors to a dedicated, customisable micro website, *MyUCD*.

The emphasis on promoting research outputs to non-academic audiences remains a key objective for the future. The University Relations Office is planning an expert guide to make access to academic experts easier for the media.





## Development and Alumni Relations

The appointment of Aíne Gibbons as Vice-President for Development signalled a new direction for Development and Alumni Relations activities. She will oversee the expansion of the UCD Foundation in preparation for the launch of a major fundraising initiative in 2009.



*Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President, Professor Imelda Maher, Sutherland Chair in European Law and Peter Sutherland SC. Mr Sutherland made a leadership gift of €4 million to UCD for the development of the new UCD School of Law*

The results of the graduate survey to assess the support of alumni for the university's plans yielded an overwhelmingly positive response, with some 89% indicating confidence in UCD and acknowledging the value of their UCD degree to their career success. This gave the UCD Foundation the imprimatur to approve the new fundraising strategy, the key elements of which are to:

- Establish the culture of giving to UCD;
- Build the UCD alumni networks;
- Implement new fundraising programmes;
- Prepare for a major campaign.

In Ireland, as in other countries, the last decade has seen fundamental changes in a number of aspects of higher education. The move towards mass higher education and the accompanying rise in student numbers, coupled with the demands made by society for more highly-educated citizens have made it necessary for universities to broaden their funding base and obtain philanthropically-generated income. The goal of UCD Development and Alumni Relations, therefore, is to grow income and support for UCD in such a way that the donor feels good about the contribution and the university clearly benefits. The redevelopment of the campus and the quality of the UCD experience for students will be ever more dependent on the success of the university's fundraising strategies.

### Progress to date

The Newman Fellowship Programme provides research opportunities at postdoctoral level and has, since its inception in 1989, consistently attracted high calibre researchers who have been generously sponsored by business and industry. Two new and important partnerships, with Baxter Healthcare and Safefood, will help to ensure the programme's continued success.

The Newman Fellowships are a vital element of UCD's research strategy. The programme continues to enable the university to expand the boundaries of existing knowledge and to benefit the Irish and global economy. The extensive publications of UCD's Newman Fellows contribute greatly to the research output of the university.

Contact with alumni was enhanced through a dynamic programme of reunions for the classes of 1956, 1966 and 1981. In addition, the alumni magazine *UCD Connections* and electronic newsletter *eConnections* help maintain vital links and continue to facilitate and broaden communications with alumni around the world. The creation of UCD's online community allowed graduates even greater opportunities to interact. Virtual graduates' associations take time to build but already the benefits can be measured by the discussion boards and social networking as well as the improvement in data quality for the alumni database.



### Notable achievements

Peter Sutherland SC, Chairman of BP and of Goldman Sachs International, made the lead gift of €4 million towards the development of the new €20 million UCD School of Law which will enable building plans to commence on schedule. Peter Sutherland is one of the School's most distinguished alumni and has been a committed benefactor for many years.

UCD bade farewell to Earlsfort Terrace with a series of celebratory events and what was possibly the biggest reunion in the history of the university.

The Terrace Graduates' Fund Appeal was launched to ensure the legacy of the Terrace would be preserved for future generations of students. The purpose of the appeal was to fund the restoration of the famous and much loved Kevin Barry Memorial Window and to establish hospitality facilities for Terrace graduates as part of the new Gateway Project. It was the most successful mass marketing appeal of its kind and is indicative of the loyalty and support of the Terrace Graduates.

The UCD Boat Club named a boat *The Graduate* in honour and appreciation of the graduates who donated to the UCD Boat Club Graduate Fund. The Boat Club, founded in 1917 and located in Islandbridge, is one of the oldest clubs in the university.

Earlsfort Terrace in an earlier era



### Future objectives

To increase and diversify its private income generating capability the UCD Foundation will undertake the first telephone fundraising campaign in the autumn of 2007. A team of approximately forty students will be recruited and trained as callers and two six-week campaigns are planned so that approximately 10,000 graduates can be contacted each year.

The purpose of the campaign is to:

- Enhance the relationship between the university and alumni;
- Encourage interest in forthcoming reunions and major events;
- Establish the Alumni Fund to support and enhance the quality of the academic, cultural, social and sporting experience for students;

Mass fundraising will be the cornerstone of the new fundraising strategy as the numbers of graduates who are donors to the university will be an important negotiating tool when persuading major benefactors to support key priorities.

Groundwork is underway to prepare the university for the Campaign for UCD, the first major multi-project fundraising effort. A number of potentially world-class projects will be chosen for the campaign, based on interdisciplinary research, innovation, the conservation of heritage and an investment in the students and academic staff that make up the university. The campaign goal is firmly rooted in a past that is punctuated by great acts of generosity towards UCD and confidence in the future. The UCD Foundation will create an international board to support the campaign drive and co ordinate fundraising on behalf of UCD.

The Alumni Relations programme of reunion events - silver, ruby and golden jubilees - will continue and new events will be added to the calendar in an effort to build meaningful relationships with ever increasing numbers of graduates.

## Special Recognition

### November 2006



#### Denis O'Brien

Denis O'Brien was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws in recognition of his exceptional achievements as one of Ireland's leading businessmen and entrepreneurs. A UCD graduate in Politics, History and Logic in 1977, he has founded and operates broadcasting and telecoms companies with interests in Ireland and over 30 countries overseas. He was Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Special Olympics 2003 in Ireland and led fundraising of €73 million for the event. He is a director of Concern worldwide, and chairman and co-founder of Frontline, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

### December 2006



#### Ronnie Delany

Ronnie Delany was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws in recognition of his lifetime achievements which inspired the Irish people. He won the gold medal in the 1,500 metres at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia in 1956 and is one of Ireland's greatest ever sportsmen and ambassadors. An economics graduate of Villanova University in the USA, he competed with distinction all over the world and won Ireland's first gold medal at the World University Games in 1961. He worked for many years in Dublin as Assistant Chief Executive of B&I Line before setting up his own successful marketing and sports consultancy business.

### June 2007

#### Milo O'Shea

Milo O'Shea was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Literature in recognition of his life's work on the stage and screen as one of Ireland's most successful actors. Born and raised in Dublin, his stage career has continued over seven decades. He performed with the Abbey Players, in the BBC sitcom *Me Mammy* and dozens of stage productions, television programmes and films, including the role of Leopold Bloom in Joseph Strick's 1967 film of Joyce's novel *Ulysses*.



*Pictured at the conferring of honorary degrees were (l to r): Milo O'Shea, Alfred Brendel and Professor Amartya Sen*

#### Alfred Brendel

Alfred Brendel was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Music in recognition of his outstanding contribution to musical performance. One of the greatest musicians of all time, he has performed as a soloist, in chamber music, in concerts with the world's great orchestras and conductors. In a career spanning more than 50 years he is especially renowned for his interpretation of the Austro-German repertoire.

#### Amartya Sen

Professor Amartya Sen was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws in recognition of his work on famine, human development theory, welfare economics, the underlying mechanisms of poverty and political liberalism. Born in India, his major contribution to late 20th century development economics has been the concept of 'capability'. He has won the Nobel Prize for Economics and his books have been translated into more than 30 languages.



*On the occasion of the 2006 Ryder Cup competition in Ireland, the captains of the teams from Europe and the United States, Iam Woosnam (left) and Tom Lehman, along with four other global figures in golf administration, were conferred with Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees in September 2006*

## Foundation Day Medal

### Maeve Binchy

One of UCD's most famous and most beloved graduates, Dr Maeve Binchy, was awarded the Foundation Day Medal in May 2007. The medal was presented in recognition of her enormous skill and success in continuing the great Irish tradition of storytelling.

Born in Dublin, she began her career as a teacher after graduation from UCD. She became a journalist with the *Irish Times* and her first novel, *Light a Penny Candle*, was published in 1982 and since then she has written more than a dozen novels and short story collections, each of them bestsellers. Several have been adapted for cinema and television.

She is an immensely popular author of international standing. Writing this year about her time as a student in Earlsfort Terrace she said: "There can't have been laughter every single day. But that's how I remember it."

Professor Robert Grubbs

His work has had a major impact on synthetic chemistry and has enormous potential applications in medicine and the polymer industry.

The Ulysses Medal was presented to Professor Grubbs at the 15th European Symposium on Organic Chemistry (ESOC) which took place in UCD in July 2007. It was the largest organic chemistry event ever to be held in Ireland, and drew over 600 national and international scientists to UCD.



## Ulysses Medal

### Hilary Putnam

Professor Hilary Putnam received the Ulysses Medal in recognition of his outstanding lifetime contributions to the world of philosophy. He has been one of the most influential and prolific American philosophers of the past 50 years. Among his original contributions to philosophy, he was the first to attempt to model the mind on a computer. He also developed "quantum logic", a comprehensive theory of meaning for natural languages, and arguments for and against various kinds of realism. He is an honorary visiting professor in the UCD School of Philosophy.

## Foundation Day Awards

Two young graduates received Foundation Day Awards in November 2006.

Ciara O'Brien was honoured for her outstanding achievements in sport. She has won 103 caps for Ireland in senior hockey and has also played a pivotal role in the development of UCD Ladies Hockey Club.

Ciaran Lawlor was honoured for his work in promoting debating. He was the driving force behind UCD's successful bid to host the World Universities Debating Championships in 2005 — the largest student event in the world outside sport.



Ciara O'Brien and Ciaran Lawlor with their outstanding achievement awards presented at the 2006 UCD Foundation Day dinner

### Robert Grubbs

Professor Robert Grubbs received the Ulysses Medal in recognition of his ground-breaking work in organic chemistry. He was awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of a synthetic method known as metathesis - the swapping of atoms between molecules to create new substances. The process has become one of the most important reactions in organic chemistry. Current applications of his catalysts include the replacement of petroleum based chemicals with those from renewable resources including seed oil and the use of his methodology in medicine.

# 7

## Staff Developments

The university's staff members are central to the realisation of the UCD's Strategic Plan. Through leveraging the skills and development of those currently working at UCD, along with the strategic recruitment of new staff, UCD will offer its entire community an exceptional environment for teaching, learning, research and personal development.

By supporting the university's staff in every way, UCD will become a place where the individual is valued and nurtured, where performance is assessed in an appropriate and structured manner, and where all staff can access suitable opportunities for personal and professional development.





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## Staff Developments

The UCD Strategic Plan 2005-2008 is underpinned by a number of key people related themes:

- Leadership and people development;
- Administrative and HR process excellence;
- Employee engagement and diversity;
- Resourcing the future;
- Strategy and HR excellence.

### Progress to date

The university places a high level of emphasis on the people agenda and in the year 2006/07 a number of important programmes have been initiated to deliver on the key themes from the Strategic Plan.

The development of a leadership programme, funded under the HEA's Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), has begun for senior staff within the university. Cranfield University is working in collaboration with UCD HR to deliver on this important programme. The aims of the programme are to:

- Ensure that academic and management leaders have access to "best practice" leadership development;
- Further enhance leadership skills and the quality of decision making;
- Put in place strategic succession planning.

The implementation of the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) has also commenced and the benefits of this programme will enable all staff to identify in a coherent way, their future training and development requirements.

Our annual promotional rounds for academic and administrative staff have been carried out and the

national agreement setting out a framework for technical staff is now in place.

A number of important strategic recruitment initiatives took place in 2006/07 including SFI Stokes Chair and Lectureship Programme submission, designed to further build our capacity in specific areas.

In order to help continue deliver on these ambitious programmes, a review of the HR function is also underway the aim of which will be to:

- Re-align HR structures, staffing and processes with university priorities and structures;
- Develop a revised HR operating model, HR reporting relationships and set out service standards to be provided both centrally and locally;
- Review major HR processes and metrics.

The consistent aim of the people programmes undertaken over the past year is to build and sustain capability within the university at all levels and this will enable UCD to deliver on its strategic priorities.

### Appointments and Promotions

The appointments listed in the following tables are those made in the period from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007.



*Attendees at a family breakfast in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in November 2006 to mark the recent baby boom among the School's staff*

### Appointments to Professor

The table below sets out the 21 academic appointments made in the period to positions of Professor and includes both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Professor Petra Ahrweiler	National Institute of Technology Management
Professor James Bergin	UCD School of Economics
Professor Pieter Brama	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Pádraig Cunningham	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Professor Giuseppe De Vito	UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science
Professor Tony Fahey	UCD School of Applied Social Science
Professor Ann Fogarty	UCD School of English and Drama
Professor Brian Fynes	UCD School of Business
Professor Michael Gibney	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty	UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy
Professor Suzanne Jarvis	UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research
Professor Alun Jones	UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy
Professor Brendan Loftus	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Professor Liam Mac Mathúna	UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics
Professor Frank McGuinness	UCD School of English and Drama
Professor Christoph Muller	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Professor Brian Nolan	UCD School of Applied Social Science
Professor Stefan Oscarson	Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology
Professor Michael Turner	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Professor Patrick Paul Walsh	UCD School of Politics and International Relations
Professor Karl Whelan	UCD School of Economics

### Appointments to Associate Professor

The table below sets out the three academic appointments made in the period to positions of Associate Professor and includes both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Professor Gerard Fealy	UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems
Professor Gary McGuire	UCD School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Daniel Thomas	UCD School of Politics and International Relations

### Appointments to Senior Lecturer

The table below sets out the 13 academic appointments made in the period to positions of Senior Lecturer and includes both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Dr Arthur Cater	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Dr James Christie	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Mr Patrick Connolly	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Mr Damian Dalton	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Ms Cliona De Bhaldrathie-Marsh	UCD School of Languages, Literatures and Film
Dr Franz Geiselbrechtinger	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Dr Patrick Grace	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Dr Máirtín Mac Siúrtáin	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Dr Grainne McCarthy	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Mr Henry McLoughlin	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Dr Desmond Morgan	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Mr Jeremiah O'Dwyer	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Mr John Sheehan	UCD School of Economics

### Senior Management Appointments

The table below sets out the senior management appointments made in the period which include new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Dr Martin Butler	Vice-President for Students
Mr Eamonn Ceannt	Vice-President for Capital and Commercial Development
Ms Cliona de Bhaldrathie-Marsh	Project Director, Newman and Humanities Refurbishment
Mr Roy Ferguson	Director of Quality
Ms Aine Gibbons	Vice-President for Development
Professor Mark Keane	Vice-President for Innovation
Dr Erik Lithander	Director of International Strategy and Operations
Professor Imelda Maher	Project Director, UCD Sutherland School of Law
Professor Michael Monaghan	Project Director, UCD Science District Development



## UCD Carnival Day

A record number of UCD staff, with their families and friends, attended this year's Carnival Day, held in the UCD Sports Centre and surrounds on 30 June. Children were treated to a range of fun attractions and activities on the day which was superbly organised by the 2007 Carnival Day committee.

