



A Snapshot of UCD in the 1950s

Recently we asked you to paint a picture of UCD in your time. And you did. Through the memories that you and thousands of your peers have shared with us, you have made it possible for us to understand what UCD means to you and to capture a snapshot of UCD in the 1950s.

Some of you told us about your favourite lecturer or society or the issues of the day that inspired you to take to the streets in protest. Others told us about late nights spent studying and falling in love on campus.

We thank you for sharing each and every one of your precious memories with us.

So now it's time to take a look at your masterpiece, your UCD....

Engaging in a heated debate, cramming for exams and falling in love with your fellow students were all high on the agenda in the 1950s.

39% of you attended a L&H debate, 21% of you stayed up all night to cram for an exam and a romantic 14% of you fell in love with a fellow student!

You Participated!

When it came to the best society there was a clear winner. The L&H society was deemed the best society by an impressive 42% of you.

You Protested!

You also told us about your activism and the causes that took you beyond UCD and onto the streets of the capital to make your voices heard. 19% of you took part in protests, marches and demonstrations during your time in UCD.

You learned from the best!

When we asked you about your favourite professor or lecturer there was one name that just kept coming up. Former Taoiseach Dr Garret FitzGerald (RIP) won the hearts and minds of so many of you during your time in UCD.

“Garrett FitzGerald brought commerce students in small groups for coffee and cream buns in the DBC on Saturday mornings” Graduate, 1958

You got together then...

It wasn't all work and no play though.

We asked you to tell us about the best Gig, Ball or Ents event you went to in UCD. The Olympic Ballroom was a highlight of college life for you and many UCD students in the 1950s. Whether it was the Ag Dance on a Wednesday or the Yerrawaddies Saturday night hop, the Olympic was a regular hotspot.



The unofficial RAG Parade



Dancing in Earlsfort Terrace in the 1950s

You're still getting together now...

With such amazing memories of the people and events who shaped your time in UCD, it came as little surprise that 78% of you have attended a college reunion of some sort. After taking this lovely trip down memory lane, no doubt you are already planning your next.



Images from the Diamond Jubilee 2013

You made memories and friendships which have lasted a lifetime...

Your fondest memories were many and varied, recalling great sporting moments and historic events but your most treasured memories involved the lifelong friendships that you made and the people that changed your life in UCD.

"With a few friends, I marched in support of the Hungarian Revolution....A letter arrived from my mother down the country a week later...A civil servant on her lunch break saw me marching in O'Connell St, wrote home to her mother who told another mother, who told another mother who told my mother, 'Margaret, please be careful'"

Graduate, 1959

"It didn't happen in UCD at all but in Melbourne, at the Olympics. On that November morning, we all got up at 5.00 a.m. to listen to Ronnie Delany's 1,500 metres victory - and talked about it all day" **Thomas Seaver, Graduate, 1957**

"Meeting my husband & making lifelong friends" **Mary Bolger, Graduate, 1959**

"Gosh... so many. Basically the lasting friendships I made. I am now in my 80th year and my college friends are still my closest friends. I am in a group of 7 of us that see each other every week - male and female. We have kept up all these years."

Catherine Kahn-Carl, Graduate, 1952



Ronnie Delaney wins gold in 1956 Olympics



Felicity Hannon, Rory O'Dowd and Anne Donnelly

To find out more about events and communications organised by the UCD Alumni Relations Department go to

www.ucd.ie/alumni