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## 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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## 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.

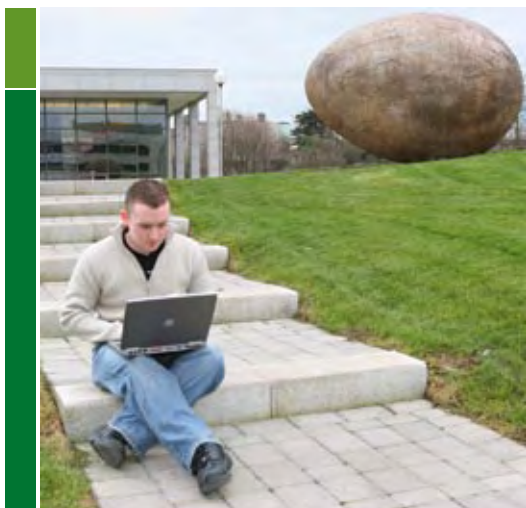
### Progress to date

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.