



4

Providing a High Quality Student Experience

Providing an environment that enables world-class learning is a driving principle of UCD's strategy. Learning underpins the entire university experience, from the academic elements through to the social, support and sports aspects that come with university life. By providing the best experiences at each of these levels, our students will become highly competent individuals, well-placed to excel in their chosen careers and in their lives, both in Ireland and further afield. Such individuals will help to drive the Irish economy, now and in the future.

At UCD the student experience is influenced by the nature and the quality of the buildings, the availability and accessibility of student facilities that are used day in day out, and the extra-curricular activities that allow students to succeed, both academically and socially. Our network of support services has evolved considerably to meet the needs of all our students, whether they are looking for adult education, accommodation, financial assistance or access to education that would not otherwise have been available to them.



Facility Development: Capital Projects

Student Services

- Library
 - Computing Services
 - Careers and Employment
 - Access
 - Adult Education
 - Financial Assistance for Students
 - Student Support, Chaplaincy and Student Advisers
-

Student Life

- Sport
- Music
- Student Societies

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL PROJECTS

A modern infrastructure is vital if we are to cater for the requirements of a growing and increasingly sophisticated student population. UCD's strategy has always been to create an infrastructure that meets the demands of students and staff alike. This includes upgrading existing buildings, integrating energy efficient systems and constructing new buildings.

PROJECTS COMPLETED AND CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

• *Health Sciences*

The relocation of Medicine and other off-campus activities to Belfield has long been part of the UCD Development Plan. Health Science Phase 1 (8,000m²) commenced construction in May 2003, with a budget of €35m. Nursing and Midwifery relocated to the new facility during Christmas 2004, and Diagnostic Imaging and Physiotherapy during 2005.

Health Sciences Phase 2 (8,000m²) commenced late 2004. The remainder of the medical activities in Earlsfort Terrace will transfer to Belfield by late 2006. The budget for this phase is €41m. Completion of Phase 2 will provide a new tailor made facility for Health Sciences, offering a greatly enhanced learning environment with improved research capabilities. Its design incorporates many state-of-the-art energy efficiency measures.



• *Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB)*

Construction of the new Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) building (2,400m²) commenced in May 2004 and will be occupied in September 2005. Cutting edge laboratory facilities are provided in a purpose-designed centre for research excellence, which includes the provision of NMR and Mass Spectroscopy technologies. The strategic use of natural light and building layout provide a bright and open atmosphere for university researchers. The total Budget was €10m.



New Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) building on the Belfield Campus

• *The Catherine McAuley Centre*

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern T.D., opened the new Catherine McAuley Centre at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in late 2004. The €8 million Centre is part of a major initiative to provide a modern teaching environment for our undergraduate medical, nursing and healthcare students and postgraduates. In addition, clinical research facilities will provide health professionals with the necessary skills for a modern Irish health service that rivals the best in Europe.

In October 2005, UCD opened the Genome Resource Unit (GRU) – a unit of the Catherine McAuley Centre.

Sports Pavilion



• **Sports Pavilion**

The new Pavilion provides changing facilities and support to a variety of sporting activities. The single storey, attractive wood-clad building, incorporates ice baths, changing rooms and dedicated physiotherapy rooms. The 350m² building was built in 2004 at a cost of €1.65m.

• **NovaUCD**

The construction of a new 3-storey building, incorporating the refurbishment of original courtyard buildings, completed Phase 1 of NovaUCD, in 2003. It provides office space and meeting and seminar rooms which support the innovation and technology transfer activities of campus-based companies. Further development in Phase 2 focused on the complete renovation and refurbishment of the original period Merville House to provide additional office and seminar facilities. The subsequent completion of Phase 3 in early 2005 produced a selection of small bio-incubator units to support small-scale laboratory research. The overall budget expended to date is approximately €12m.

• **Clinton Institute**

The phased physical development of the Clinton Institute at the Belfield campus incorporates the refurbishment of the former UIC building, due for completion in September 2005. The subsequent development at Belfield House will provide administration accommodation to support the Institute and will be complete in late 2006. The overall budget provided by the Higher Education Authority is €3.4m.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

UCD's on-campus accommodation is highly sought after. Currently there are 2,200 residential places,

with 114 new places added in 2004 and a further 468 places due in September 2006. To help enrich the university experience, new accommodation is of a high standard, with access to computing and social facilities, including wireless access to the Internet.

The creation of another student village near the Sports Centre is under consideration as part of the current review of the Campus Development Plan.

• **Proby House Residences, Blackrock**

Construction of Proby House Residences was completed in late 2004, and now offers an additional 114 student accommodation places on the Blackrock campus. The apartment-style residences typically consist of six en-suite bedrooms with shared kitchen and reception facilities. This project also incorporated the complete refurbishment of Ligouri House, which will now be used for staff accommodation. The total budget was €14.1m.

• **Glenomena Residence Phase 3**

Construction of the third phase of Glenomena Residence, costing €12.9m, commenced during the summer of 2005 and is due for completion by late summer 2006. The additional two blocks will provide accommodation for a further 168 students.

Early phases of Glenomena Residence



• **Roebuck Residence Phase 1**

Construction of Phase 1 of Roebuck Residence also commenced during the summer of 2005 and is due for completion by August 2006. The project consists of 50 apartments with six beds in each. They will accommodate a mix of postgraduate and undergraduate students. The total development budget for Phase 1 is €23.5m.



The Campus Development Plan promotes a sustainable and living campus

OTHER SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVES

• **Campus Development Plan**

The Campus Development Plan, first prepared by A & D Wejchert in the 1960s, proposes the strategic layout for the physical resources of the university. The plan, which is updated every 5-8 years, outlines the university’s strategy for teaching, research, sporting and residential facilities. Murray O’Laoire Architects were engaged to carry out the recent update of the Campus Development Plan in response to the proposed construction programme for the Belfield campus.

The UCD Campus Development Plan (2005) pursues a number of objectives that magnify and enhance the profile of the campus, make it more accessible and ensure a secure environment for all. At the same time, the university wants to encourage a dynamic 24/7 culture and, to this end, will continue to embrace and engage with the wider community.

In the development of a sustainable, healthy and living campus, the provision of facilities, be they commercial, educational or cultural, in locations that invite use by the outside communities, is a key objective. The Gateway Project is central to the achievement of this objective. Year-round patronage of facilities, by both the academic and outside communities will emphasise the facilities’ economic benefit to the student body and academic community. In doing so, the culture of increased public engagement is seeded.

The future development of the UCD campus must be informed by sustainability objectives. “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”— Gro Harlem Buntland, 1987 Director General of WHO.

As land is an irreplaceable commodity, future unplanned use of land will ultimately compromise the university’s ability to provide an holistic campus where all the university’s activities can co-exist without compromise. Therefore, any further land use for buildings must be evaluated against the redevelopment of existing building stock, where under-utilisation of existing site capacity exists.



High quality student accommodation

Sustainable development options include the development of existing buildings, enhancing their performance and capacity, and possibly changing their use.

• **UCD Energy Unit**

The UCD Energy Unit was established in January 2004. As a dedicated team within the Buildings and Services Department its objective is to enhance energy efficiency, reduce overall energy costs and improve unit cost estimates, while promoting an environmentally friendly policy. The Energy Unit is also responsible for the

Computer generated image of the new UCD Research Centre

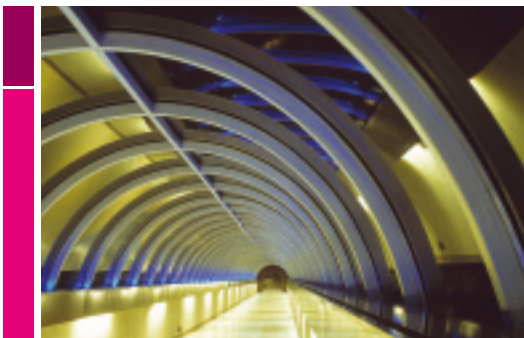


management of UCD's lead role in a new Third Level Colleges Energy Bureau (e³ Bureau).

The implementation of a pilot energy efficiency programme, which includes seven campus buildings, is on target to achieve a 10% plus reduction in primary energy consumption over a three-year period. In time this programme will be expanded to include all university buildings.

As one of the highest users of electricity on the Belfield campus, successful implementation of energy efficiency measures in the Engineering Building has produced considerable savings – recording a reduction of 17% in annual electricity consumption. Successful implementation in this building can be attributed to technical innovation and element refurbishment, but most significantly the active participation of building users in energy efficient initiatives.

Bridge linking the Newman and Tierney Buildings



• Campus Illumination Project

The development of a 24/7 campus culture is just one of many initiatives designed to attract students, staff and visitors to the UCD campus village. The Illumination Project has raised the profile of university buildings and encourages 24/7 campus activity. Detailed design and consideration ensured that this is an example of a project where increased energy loads are offset by an appropriate investment in energy efficiency initiatives elsewhere.

PROJECTS AT DESIGN OR CONCEPT STAGE

• UCD Research Centre

Enhancement of research status has been identified by the university as a priority objective for the foreseeable future. To that end a single identifiable centre is needed, which can establish its own corporate research image both internally and externally. Construction of a 600m² extension to the Tierney Building is due to commence in February 2006, with an expected occupation by Christmas 2006. By supporting the research community both within and without UCD, it will also present a high profile corporate interface to potential national, international and industry research partners. The establishment of this Centre will singularly manifest the commitment of UCD to its research mission.

• Gateway

An ambitious project is underway which will transform UCD's interface with its neighbouring community. This development will include cultural, commercial infrastructure and student-service components.

• Richview Newstead

The refurbishment of space in the former Philips factory has provided classroom facilities to support the additional requirements associated with UCD *Horizons*. In addition to this, plans to relocate activities such as Civil Engineering from Earlsfort Terrace to the Belfield Campus, through the development of laboratory, office and further teaching accommodation is well advanced.

• NIBRT

As part of the winning consortium appointed by the IDA to provide a National Institute for Bioprocessing, Research and Training (NIBRT), UCD will provide a site adjacent to Fosters Avenue. It is envisaged that this Institute will foster a strong relationship between UCD, other third level institutions, government and the local and international biopharma industry. In connection with the NovaUCD campus company support operation, NIBRT will form a part of what will, over time, be developed into the Belfield Innovation Park.

• Crèche

Due to increasing demands from students and staff, the current crèche is insufficient for UCD's needs. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform has approved a €1 million grant to build a second crèche for up to 70 children. This should be completed by summer 2007.

LIBRARY

Student Services

The overarching strategy of the UCD Library is to develop its services to advance UCD's status as a leading research-intensive university, and to provide the resources that deliver a high-quality student experience. To achieve this the Library will increase both print and online collections substantially, and augment information resources in new and innovative ways. Library services will also be integrated into UCD's evolving eLearning environment.

PROGRESS TO DATE

For the 2004 and 2005 summer examinations, an out-of-hours reading room was opened in the Library Building, remaining open all night. As a result UCD Library plans to extend its opening times to 96.5 hours a week – the longest opening hours of any Irish university.

In the past two years, information provision for researchers has been improved dramatically: the sciences have gained 3,000 online serials and databases (bringing UCD Library's online holdings to world-class standards), and the humanities' collection has added 400,000 online items.

The computer network infrastructure has been completely upgraded to provide wireless connectivity and 3,000 network connection points. An automated admissions system using student and staff ID cards has also been introduced.

Web services and facilities have been integrated within the university portal, UCD Connect, to provide a single sign-on facility to all online resources.

The new library website offers subject portals, which guide users directly to the services and resources they need for their study or research (e.g. databases,

e-journals, relevant web resources and subject guides). Virtual tours of the libraries also facilitate library usage.

Academic staff and postgraduate degree students can now visit – and borrow from – most other university libraries in Ireland and the UK.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Future objectives include:

- Refurbishment of the library buildings will continue with state-of-the-art study and research facilities, including a landmark research library designed specifically for researchers
- An e-repository for university research output will be developed
- An upgrade of the library's computer management system will enhance functionality and ensure the continuing compliance with evolving bibliographic standards.

Of particular significance is the development of the Irish Virtual Research Library project, a research programme of the Humanities Institute of Ireland. This five year project will establish a substantial body of digitised content, from four physically separate university repositories, to create an intuitive, researcher-oriented web interface.



COMPUTING SERVICES Student Services

UCD Computing Services has a clear IT strategy and five year plan (2003-2008), which sets out the following key objectives:

- Develop the virtual campus with anytime/anywhere access to information and services, and provide a single portal for web access to services
- Implement dedicated Research IT services to meet the requirements of UCD's research community
- Provide a best-in-class eLearning and technology environment for students and staff
- Implement a high performance and resilient infrastructure to support the research, teaching and management objectives of the university
- Provide efficient management and information access through web-based deployment of administrative services.



In 2005, UCD was the first Irish university to introduce a dedicated IT service for research users, based on a detailed assessment of the research community's requirements.

The renewed IT network infrastructure included the re-cabling of older buildings and the complete refurbishment of the Library.

eLearning has reached all students with 1,300 courses now on the Blackboard system. The doubling of users in the period demonstrates the high level of adoption and integration into the teaching environment.

The UCD Connect portal was fully deployed to all staff and students during the period 2003-2005. By providing universal access to all major IT services, UCD students and staff can avail of email, calendar, file access, library journal access, eLearning, registration, news and targeted information through a single web portal.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Computing Services provides IT facilities and applications for 25,000 users (22,000 students, 3,000 staff). There are 22,000 active access points on campus, an increase of 50% in two years. This figure meets the requirement of the five year plan, calling for one network point per student user. It was achieved one year ahead of schedule and within budget. Two hundred and fifty wireless base-stations have also been created.

Other important indicators of progress:

	2003	2005
Number of eLearning users	7,000	15,000 (x 2 increase)
Per student storage capacity	50MB	178MB (x 3 increase)
1st year student induction training	800	3,700 (x 4 increase)
Weekly central helpdesk hours	40	50 (25% increase)

Service availability levels, a measure of reliability, reached the target of 99.5% in 2004/05.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Future objectives include:

- Support UCD *Horizons* modularisation through expansion of online services and the widening of access to services
- Expand research IT services, providing hosting, storage and applications targeted to the specific needs of this user community
- Build a fully mobile and technology-enabled environment for students and staff – incorporating laptop programmes, wireless campus and distributed support service
- Enhance the management and distribution of information through web-based applications for reporting and content management.



CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT

Student Services

UCD wants 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. To that end, the Careers and Appointments Office provides a range of services to inform and guide students looking for assistance, including a careers reference library.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Graduates continue to perform well in the job market, both in Ireland and abroad. The seeking employment rate of primary degree graduates remains low, at 2.2% (2003) and 2.7% (2004). The numbers undertaking postgraduate study and training rose to 45.1% (2003) and 47.9% (2004), matching the numbers going directly into employment.

Students continue to be attracted to the October UCD Careers Fair, which focuses on Irish employers, while international employers are also encouraged to visit UCD for recruitment purposes.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Members of the Careers and Appointments Office staff will continue the development of graduate careers literature and other co-operative ventures undertaken by the Association of Graduate Careers Services in Ireland (AGCSI), and the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services in Britain and Ireland.

The office will also continue to explore the most effective ways to help students pursue their preferred careers, through personal contact, the careers libraries, the website, www.gradireland.com, and the careers directory, Gradireland.



Students attending UCD Careers Fair, held annually in October



UCD recognises that not all members of our society have had the same opportunity to benefit from higher education. The Office of the Director of Access is committed to widening participation in education and creating an equal opportunities learning environment, in line with national policy. The office comprises Disability Support Service, Mature Student Adviser and New ERA.

PROGRESS TO DATE

• *Disability Support Service (DSS)*

The DSS has grown significantly in the past two years, offering a wide range of benefits and supports to students with a disability. These include Assistive Technology, Library Services (materials in alternate formats), a Teaching and Learning Support Service and an Adult Learners with a Disability project. A total of 350 students were registered with DSS in 2004/05, 340 in 2003/04 and 275 in 2002/03.

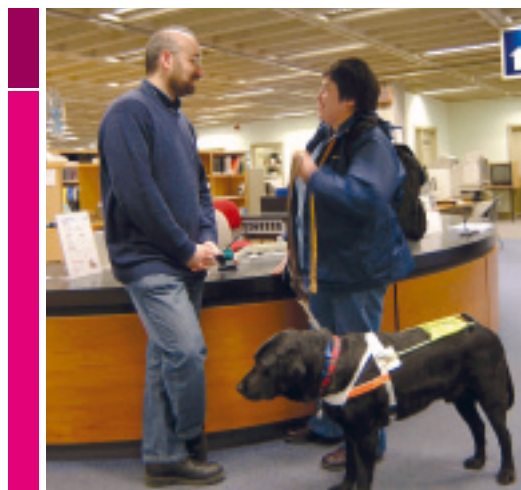
Students with Specific Learning Disability (e.g. dyslexia) account for the largest number of students and the DSS has developed an extensive service that includes diagnostic screening, learning strategies and Assistive Technology, as well as training for academic staff.

• *Mature Student Adviser*

UCD created the post of Mature Student Adviser in summer 2004, to build a post-entry advice and support service, specifically geared towards the needs of adult learners in UCD. This well-used service provides a dedicated orientation programme, academic workshops, one-on-one advisory sessions and an advocacy role for mature learners. Over 800 students used the service in 2004/05.

• *New ERA*

UCD New ERA promotes and supports the participation of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds in higher education. The programme works in partnership with schools and communities in disadvantaged areas, offering guidance and pre-entry activities, Higher Education Access Routes and post-entry supports. The numbers participating have grown sharply in recent years, rising from 93 in September 2003 to 113 in 2004. Fifty nine graduates were conferred with degrees in 2005 – 75% of whom achieved First or Second Class honours.



Over the past two years the Outreach Programme to primary schools has been extended, and a fully residential pre-entry Orientation Programme has been developed for incoming first year students.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The Office of the Director of Access (ODA) is focused on enhancing UCD's reputation in widening participation and social inclusion. Key areas for future strategic development include:

- Targeted recruitment of under-represented groups to higher education
- Promoting inclusive teaching, learning and assessment as core principles of university curricula
- Creation of a research fund within the ODA to encourage and facilitate research activity in the fields of equality, access to higher education, student support and social inclusion.

By 2008 a target of 20% of Irish intake from non-traditional backgrounds should be achieved.

UCD's access audit of its buildings will benchmark the accessibility of the university for all users. The audit examines the building, staff attitudes and training, and printed and personal information services. A report will be produced to identify barriers to access, recommend costed solutions and act as a guide for future practice.

ADULT EDUCATION

Student Services



Advancing adult education is the cornerstone of UCD's commitment to Lifelong Learning. The UCD Adult Education Centre provides access for all adult learners through a wide range of part-time study opportunities, promoting a student-centred and inclusive approach to learning.

Dedicated and committed tutors are recruited both for their subject expertise and their experience in working with adult learners.

The continuing professional development of tutors, course co-ordinators and other UCD academic staff is enabled through ongoing training and workshops.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Adult student enrolments have increased significantly, with courses attracting over 3,000 students annually. Programmes range from interest courses to National University of Ireland Certificate and Diploma awards, with the latter accounting for approximately half of all student enrolments.

The Centre co-ordinates a number of Access courses (formerly known as *Return to Learning*) for adults who wish to access higher education. Students who successfully complete the *Access to Arts and Human Sciences*, *Access to Science and Engineering*, and *Access to Commerce* courses are subsequently eligible to apply for a place on degree programmes.

The Centre also offers courses at outreach centres, and has established a network of partnerships across the private, public, community and voluntary sectors.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

A key objective is to develop a research culture to further inform the Centre's practice. The Centre aims to continue its development and provision of innovative learning opportunities to ensure that adult learners are fully integrated into university life.



Three members of the same family – Theresa Barry, her son Roger, and daughter-in-law, Nina – are currently studying at UCD, thanks to the Access courses. Theresa is a second year Social Science student, Roger is a first year Bachelor of Commerce student, and Nina – whose Access to Science and Engineering course was interrupted by the birth of Kevin – will return to complete her Access studies in 2005.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS Student Services

University life can present difficulties for some students in financial, psychological, cultural or physical terms. UCD places great importance on helping students to meet and overcome these difficulties by providing timely and relevant support services. A key part of this is the provision of financial support, which ensures that the potential for students to withdraw from university life for financial reasons is minimised.

PROGRESS TO DATE

UCD operates three schemes to assist students in need:

1. The Student Welfare Fund assists students encountering unexpected financial difficulty
2. The Student Assistance Scheme (SAS) provides financial support to disadvantaged students, enabling them to benefit fully from their third-level studies
3. A Childcare Subsidy scheme.

All three schemes depend largely on monies from the National Development Plan, supported by the European Social Fund. Student fines and donations are also important sources of funding. UCD has been finding it difficult to respond to all cases of need, as the money made available through the National Development Plan fell substantially during this two-year period, while the number of qualifying cases rose.

Student numbers availing of these schemes:

	2003/04	2004/05
Student Assistance Scheme	159	207
Student Welfare Fund	195	223
Childcare Subsidies	21	21

In order to simplify the administrative procedures, a new umbrella committee – the Student Welfare and Assistance Committee (SWAC) – was established in 2004. This committee operates the Student Welfare Fund, the Student Assistance Scheme and the Childcare Subsidies.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

In conjunction with the Development Office, plans to attract additional funds for student financial aid are being developed.



STUDENT SUPPORT, CHAPLAINCY AND STUDENT ADVISERS

Student Services

Providing a strong and easily accessible student support framework is essential to help students achieve their goals. UCD is committed to providing this framework through extensive formal support services and specific programme-based support teams. The objective is to deliver student support that is quantitatively and qualitatively the best in the Irish university sector, and comparable to best international practice.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The student support framework was restructured in 2002 with the introduction of Faculty and Departmental student advisers and chaplains who were assigned to specific groups of students. These advisers and chaplains mentor and advise students on a whole range of educational and personal issues, as well as stimulating various initiatives.

• UCD Volunteers Overseas

UCD Volunteers Overseas was founded in 2003, when students first volunteered to work in India, renovating a community centre and working in an orphanage. Trips in 2004 and 2005 followed with the students building two schools.



A second project was undertaken in Haiti In July 2005, with volunteers renovating a Kaipo (poorhouse) and digging ditches and planting grass to stem the dangers of flooding in the area.

Two very successful sponsored walks were undertaken by UCD students to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, in June 2004 and June 2005, to raise money for Father Peter McVerry's hostel for the homeless in Dublin.



Some members of the UCD Student Advisers' Team

• Other Initiatives

In 2004 and 2005, chaplains and student advisers helped the Student Committee to organise the UCD Arts Fashion Show, which took place in the Point Depot. This is the largest fashion show in Europe and raised over €110,000 for AWARE (2004) and the Red Cross Asian Tsunami Appeal (2005).

Chaplains have facilitated student exchanges with Slovakia and Germany, and a UCD group also attended the World Youth Day in Cologne.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

UCD is committed to supporting further volunteering and fundraising initiatives both in Dublin and overseas; possible projects in South America are being explored.

In 2004, the book *Colour on a Grey Canvas*, a photo-experiential account of the 2004 Delhi trip, was published as part of the UCD 150 celebrations. The book was written by the students and funds raised went towards further UCD Volunteers Overseas projects.

Students from UCDVO in front of the school they built in the slums outside Delhi, July 2005



Darragh Gaffney was one of the 2005 winners of the President's Awards for Outstanding Achievements in Student Activities. A fourth year Chemistry student, Darragh made major contributions to volunteer work in UCD. He has been actively involved in the organisation of Science Day, which has raised significant amounts of money for Crumlin Children's Hospital. He is also a leading member of UCD Volunteers Overseas.

Sport plays a vital role in student development and fulfilment at UCD, and it also offers an opportunity for alumni to maintain their connection with the university. Our overall strategy is to advance UCD's reputation of hosting the best sports facilities in the country.

This will be achieved through a number of specific and ambitious programmes, covering:

- Delivery of new state-of-the-art sports facilities, including a swimming pool
- Development and delivery of UCD Institute of Sport and Health (ISH)
- Expansion of UCD Sport High Performance Centre
- Development and delivery of new Sport Education Programmes
- Development of the Sport Zone to create a concentration of sports facilities on the Belfield campus.

Stephen Lucey of UCD in action against Kilkenny in the Walsh Cup, March 2004

PROGRESS TO DATE

The number of students engaging in sport at UCD has grown continually during the period 2003-2005. The work of the individual Sports Development officers is reflected in the 8,000 individuals who participate in sport, particularly in GAA, Rugby and Soccer. The number of individual UCD Sports clubs reached 58, with a notable increase in 'adventure' sports.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Recent developments include:

- GAA pitches now have full floodlighting
- Six new synthetic five-a-side pitches (fully enclosed) and a full pitch size training area have been provided
- The National Hockey Stadium has a new 'generation' surface; the stand has been refurbished to include new seating
- The five new synthetic Tennis Courts are floodlit and fully enclosed
- A new High Performance Centre for the Elite Athlete programme has been developed in the Sports Centre
- Four large state-of-the-art dressing rooms costing €1.6 million have been located at the UCD Bowl.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The strategy for further development in sport focuses on continuing the development of sports facilities around the Sports Centre, and developing the ISH as a vibrant partner to the Health Sciences complex.

Progressing the agenda for sport along academic as well as activity lines is central to the challenge for UCD Sport.

Preliminary plans have been drawn up for a new building to include a swimming pool as part of the ISH, while plans are at an advanced stage to relocate UCD Soccer to the Belfield Bowl.

With its excellent new infrastructure, UCD Sport will be able to welcome visitors such as Special Olympics and a wide range of national and international sport audiences, including those requiring 'holding camps' for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

2003/04: Hurling

The Hurling Club caused a shock in the prestigious Walsh Cup by beating Kilkenny, the 2003 All Ireland Champions, in the final. This was the club's first Walsh Cup and the first time a non-county side won the title.

2004/05: Equestrian

The Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year Award was presented to UCD Equestrian Club member Gerald Bloomer. Gerald won gold in the dressage and silver in show jumping at the Student Rider National Cup. He represented UCD and Ireland at the World University Equestrian Championships where he won individual gold and team gold in the dressage event.



Gerald Bloomer being presented with the Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year Award from Mrs Joanna O'Neill, mother of Dr Tony O'Neill, former Director of Sport in UCD



MUSIC

Student Life



UCD Choral Scholars who received two awards at the Annual Sligo International Choral Festival in 2003

UCD offers students a wide range of musical opportunities, whether they are studying music or pursuing other programmes. Different levels of ability and different musical interests are catered for, and the number of students not studying music but participating in UCD music ensembles continues to rise steadily.

UCD is committed to developing existing musical groups and to encouraging more students and staff to become involved.

PROGRESS TO DATE

There are five key musical groups: the Choral Scholars, the Sinfonia, the College Choir, Baroque Orchestra and the Chamber Choir.

In 2003, UCD Choral Scholars, led by Desmond Earley, won two competitions at the 16th Annual Sligo International Choral Festival. In 2004, the Scholars premiered Michael McGlynn's *Road of Passage*, in celebration of UCD's 150th anniversary. In April 2005, they gave a unique performance of *Messiah* by G.F. Handel.

In February 2004, the Sinfonia accompanied the UCD College Choir and Choral Scholars in Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. The orchestra made its off-campus debut at the National Concert Hall in Dublin in February 2005.

During the last two years the UCD Chamber Choir and the UCD Baroque Orchestra have focused on works by Johann Sebastian Bach. In February 2004, they played the *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*. A memorable performance of Bach's monumental *Mass in B minor* was presented as part of the UCD 150 celebrations in December 2004.

Since 2004, the UCD College Choir has been conducted by John White, whose energy inspired an impressive performance of Antonín Dvorák's *Mass in D*, in February 2005.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The different musical ensembles will be linked more closely to the new UCD School of Music, which will provide courses for credit as part of the new UCD *Horizons* initiative. This will allow students to gain credit and further their musical expertise by taking modules in Music.



UCD Choral Scholars performing at the UCD 150 reception for retired staff

The possibility of establishing a student Swing Band is under consideration, further adding to the variety of musical performance that will take place on campus.

STUDENT SOCIETIES

Student Life

UCD has 100 student societies and the numbers participating have risen, with cumulative enrolled members of 35,000. The largest societies in the university have in excess of 4,000 members. The number and quality of events has also risen significantly with more high-profile and high-capacity events taking place on campus.

UCD students Helen Mohan and Shona Mooney working in Haruma Hospital, Tanzania with Medical Students Overseas Relief

The UCD Strategic Plan underlines the importance of societies in the development of quality-driven extra-curricular and co-curricular educational, cultural and social activities for students. Societies offer significant opportunities for personal development, particularly with regard to life skills such as people management, organisation and time management.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The position of University Societies Officer was made permanent in 2004, in the interests of ensuring continuity in the ongoing development of society activity.

UCD Freshers' Week serves to showcase the many facets of societies and society activity, and is the largest student event in Ireland. Over 40,000 people visited the Freshers' marquee and participated in the week-long series of events.

Training for student society auditors and committee members continues to expand, as the university aims to provide student leaders with the life skills they need to best serve the society members.

Student societies played an important role in the 150th anniversary celebrations, with a week's events celebrating the rich tradition of society life and its contribution to the fabric of the university.

Student societies offer excellent opportunities for students to meet and hear figures of international importance and popular culture. Recent guests included Nobel Laureates Seamus Heaney and FW de Klerk, actors Sir Roger Moore and Mickey Rooney, and sports stars Gary Lineker and Sir Alex Ferguson. Public figures included An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, Lord Archer and Rev. Jesse Jackson.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The university intends to move towards implementation of an accreditation system for extra-curricular activity. Such a move will both underline the significant contribution made by student societies to UCD and Ireland, and will also reward students for their development of skills in a wide variety of fields.

UCD Freshers' Week



MEDICAL STUDENTS OVERSEAS RELIEF

In the period 2004/05, 25 UCD students travelled to Malawi, Kenya, Peru, Uganda, Zambia, Guyana, Haiti, and Mexico. Before travelling, the students raised over €33,000, allowing each student to donate €1,250 to his or her host hospital; the money was used to buy medical supplies, equipment and other necessities for the hospitals in which they worked. Conditions were often shocking, with two or three patients to a bed, poor sanitation and a lack of drugs, but all students learned a huge amount and contributed enormously to their host hospitals. In 2003/04, 19 students travelled having raised €32,000.

STUDENT SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

UCD won the title of 'National Student Society of the Year' in 2004 (the L&H) and 2005 (UCD Dramsoc), underlining the excellence of the societies and society activity in UCD.

In January 2004, the university's L&H Society won the rights to host the World Universities Debating Championships in UCD, in December 2005/January 2006. This prestigious annual event is the largest non-sporting student event in the world.

UCD Dramsoc also completed another notable achievement by performing at the Edinburgh Festival for the first time in August 2005. Their show *This Lime Tree Bower* (written by UCD graduate Conor McPherson) won significant praise.

