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### A Dynamic Academic Structure

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The restructuring of UCD into five Colleges and 35 Schools over the past four years has created a dynamic, modern university, and represents a solid foundation for the achievement of UCD's future objectives.

Maintaining pace in a fast-changing world means UCD's Colleges and Schools are constantly seizing fresh opportunities, adapting to new circumstances and demonstrating distinction in all their academic endeavours.

## UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies

The UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies consists of eight Schools:

- UCD School of Archaeology;
- UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy;
- UCD School of Classics;
- UCD School of English, Drama and Film;
- UCD School of History and Archives;
- UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics;
- UCD School of Languages and Literatures;
- UCD School of Music.

The primary focus of the College is to:

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

### Programme developments

The past year has consolidated many of the new teaching and learning programmes introduced under *UCD Horizons*. This process has been much assisted by the appointment of Dr Joe Brady as Dean of the Arts Programme.

As Schools have become more familiar with the technicalities of the modular degree, the College's Teaching and Learning Committee has begun to devote more attention to students' learning experiences and new methods of teaching and assessment. Teaching fellows – Maria-Rosario Hernandez and Feargal Murphy – funded under the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) are to the fore in this mission; another team led by Professor Danielle Clarke has piloted Enquiry-based Learning. The Graduate School has developed a suite of transferable-skills modules for research students; the most popular of the current offerings is a workshop on academic publishing.

Professor Gerardine Meaney, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, was the successful lead scholar on the only Graduate Research Enhancement Programme in Humanities awarded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). This structured

PhD programme in Gender, Culture and History brings together scholars and research students from UCD's Schools of History and Archives, and Art History and Cultural Policy, as well as scholars from University of Limerick. It offers a model for future thematic doctoral programmes.

An increasing number of students are opting to take Irish-language modules as electives under *UCD Horizons*. In the past year, the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics has introduced language modules catering for everybody, from beginners to those with an advanced knowledge. A new MA, *Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge* (piloted in 2006/07), provides fourth-level students with the necessary skills to work in Irish-language media, and has proved extremely popular. In the summer of 2008, the School was successful in a competition to secure a multimillion-euro grant from the Department of Rural, Community and Gaeltacht Affairs to roll out targeted master's programmes in translation, interpreting and other Irish-language skills needed to meet the requirements of the Official Languages Act. The five-year programme will commence in 2008/09.

Once again, the academics in the College organised a rich array of seminars, conferences and visiting speakers. A seminar series on Comparative Literature – the prelude to new master’s and doctoral programmes jointly organised by Professors Anne Fuchs and Declan Kiberd – closed with a visit by the distinguished scholar George Steiner. In April, an international colloquium convened by the UCD James Joyce Research Centre attracted senior scholars and fourth-level students from four continents. Many of these returned to attend the James Joyce Summer School. But pride of place in the 2007/08 conference season must go to the World Archaeological Congress in July 2008, which brought over 1,700 visitors to the campus from all parts of the world: a triumph for the UCD School of Archaeology.

### Research and awards

UCD’s Global Ireland bid – a joint proposal with the UCD College of Human Sciences – was successful in securing funding under the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions Cycle 4 (PRTL 4). The project, part of the Humanities Serving Irish Society (HSIS) consortium which includes most Irish universities and the Royal Irish Academy, forms part of the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies. In December 2007, the UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, formally opened research spaces for 50 PhDs and post-docs in the Newman Building. This will be the initial home for the Global Ireland researchers – pending the construction of a permanent home in the UCD Gateway complex.

The scholarly standing of the College’s academic staff was recognised again this year by the election to the Royal Irish Academy of James McGuire (History and Archives) and Professor Carmel McCarthy (Languages and Literatures) and through international recognition from Spain, Italy and France for the academic contributions of Dr Declan Downey and Professors Deirdre O’Grady, Mary Gallagher and Vera Regan.

UCD’s School of Archaeology and Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute were awarded over 40% of the €1 million funding granted under the new Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research Programme.

### Academic appointments

The College has been fortunate to appoint a number of distinguished scholars to Chairs during 2007/08. Professor Diane Negra joins UCD from the University of East Anglia to become UCD’s first Professor of Film Studies. UCD graduate Dr Máire Ní Annracháin from NUI Maynooth has been appointed to the Chair of Modern Irish. Another UCD graduate, Dr Diarmaid Ferriter, will take up the Professorship of Modern Irish History on completion of his term as visiting Burns Professor at Boston College. Three current members of the College complete the senior appointments: Dr Patricia Kelly as Professor of Early Irish; Professor Gabriel Cooney as Professor of Celtic Archaeology and Dr Ríonach Uí Ógáin as Director of the National Folklore Collection.



President Mary McAleese opening the World Archaeological Congress in O'Reilly Hall in July 2008

## UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies

Positions held on 1 September 2007



**College Principal**  
Professor Mary Daly



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



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



**UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Liam Mac Mathúna



**UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty



**UCD School of Languages and Literatures**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Jean-Michel Picard



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



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



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

## UCD College of Business and Law

The UCD College of Business and Law consists of two Schools:

- UCD School of Business;
- UCD School of Law.

The College has set out a major objective to increasingly move into fourth-level activities and achieve a substantial increase in research output through supporting individual research and developing new, well-funded research centres.

### Programme developments

Undergraduate numbers at the College were maintained, without compromise to the quality of the student intake. Both the Law and Quinn Schools fared well in CAO applications, broadly maintaining their points levels while improving their competitive positions. A decision has been taken to increase the Law degree to a four-year programme, with effect from 2009/10 enrolments, which is expected to be attractive to prospective students.

The number of doctoral students is at an all-time high and graduate student enrolments continued to increase, with new programmes at both Schools making a positive contribution; intake at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School grew by 12.5%. Greatly increased interest in graduate programmes indicates further strong growth in student numbers for 2008/09.

Executive education provision at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School continues to grow rapidly, particularly for open-enrolment programmes, with over 300 participants in the past 18 months. Its customised programmes are catering for organisations such as Allianz and Google.



The UCD School of Law has relaunched its Commercial Law Centre to meet the demand for continuous professional education amongst lawyers and the wider business community.

### Research and awards

The UCD School of Business refocused its research strategy, clustering on existing research strengths – Financial Services; Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology Management; and Employment and Organisations – which fit well with its teaching activities, have funding potential and can contribute significantly to Ireland's cultural and economic development.

Dr Gavin Barrett of the UCD School of Law used his President's Teaching Award to research European Constitutional Law, which informed public debate on the Lisbon Treaty and led to a book on the role of national parliaments in the EU.

### Other developments

The College continued to grow its international participation, with a majority of international students on the full-time MBA programme for the first time.

Approval has been received from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) for the funding of a new building for the UCD School of Law, which will incorporate the country's first clinical legal education facility. With private funding in place, most notably from our lead donor Peter Sutherland SC, the way is now clear for construction to proceed.

Consideration continued on the issue of the optimum location for the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in the context of a much-needed increase in physical capacity. Private funding is needed for this increase, together with

*Dean Tom Begley, UCD School of Business, with Geri McBride, who received a prize as the top student in the MBS in Management Information Systems class of 2007*

*Professor Damien McLoughlin with Caroline Kinsella of the UCD Business School and Mario Rosenstock of Today FM at the inaugural alumni ball*

an expansion of intellectual expertise, and forms part of the university's capital campaign. An international expert group, chaired by Sir George Bain, is advising on the future direction of the Business School, including the issue of location.

The UCD School of Law and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School's Asian distance-learning programmes were both subject to successful quality audits this year. There was a significant increase in alumni activity at the UCD Business Schools, including an inaugural alumni ball. Development of a bi-annual thought-leadership lecture series under the title *Growing Ireland* continued and *Work Matters*, the 26th International Labour Process Conference, took place at the UCD Quinn School of Business – the conference's first time in Ireland.



*Professor Joe McMahon, interim Dean, UCD School of Law with Professor Zhu, Vice-President of the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing*

UCD Quinn School Director Dr Aileen Pierce has been elected President-Elect of the European Accounting Association. When she assumes the presidency next year she will be both the first Irish and first female President of the Association.

At the UCD School of Law, the John M. Kelly memorial lecture was revived. Notable visitors included the Chief Justice of Ireland and the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales.



**Academic appointments**

The College continued to strengthen its academic capacity with a number of new professors taking up positions at the Business Schools and a number of internal promotions. Other appointments were made at lecturer/senior lecturer levels. The Global Finance Academy project was advanced with the appointment of an executive director and an acting academic director.

*At UCD Smurfit annual dinner, (from left), Brian Goggin, CEO, Bank of Ireland; Paul Quinn, Chairman, North American Advisory Board; Gina Quin, CEO, Dublin Chamber of Commerce and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School alumnus of the year; Paul Haran, Principal, UCD College of Business and Law; and Professor Frank Roche, Director, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School*

The UCD School of Law appointed a new Dean, Professor John Jackson, who will take over from interim Dean, Professor Joe McMahon, in October 2008.

The UCD School of Business has also made a new appointment of an international director. It continues to strengthen links with China in terms of recruitment and faculty exchanges as well as with universities there, providing placements for the BComm (Business/Chinese Studies) programme.



## UCD College of Business and Law

Positions held on 1 September 2007



**College Principal**  
Mr Paul Haran



**UCD School of Law**  
*Head of School (interim)*  
Professor Joe McMahon



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

## UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

The UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences consists of seven Schools:

- UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering;
- UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering;
- UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics;
- UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering;
- UCD School of Geological Sciences;
- UCD School of Mathematical Sciences;
- UCD School of Physics.

The key strategic goals of the College are to:

- Ensure excellence in teaching and learning driven by excellence in research and scholarship;
- Recruit the best students and maximise their potential;
- Continue to develop new bachelor's and master's programmes to increase the choices and opportunities for students. In particular, the development of its Bologna programmes is central to offering students one of the widest ranges of educational choice available in Europe;
- Support and develop the core School research programmes;
- Establish College-wide themes that enhance and extend the School programmes.

The College has drawn from the School research plans and focused on three core areas:

- Graduate programme development and establishment of key thematic graduate programmes;
- Planning and development of space and infrastructure (including significant HEA refurbishment proposal);
- Structured development of capacity, specifically including the development of a College Office and support capability and targeting of Stokes and other programmes to enhance named areas.

### Programme development

The Graduate School established the Graduate Taught Programmes Board during the 2007/08 academic year, chaired by Dr Kevin Hutchinson from the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences. This board has oversight of the bulk of the taught programmes within the College; the remainder are administered by undergraduate programme boards, in cases where this is more appropriate.

Through networking with a UK-based company, Epigeum, the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics has, in collaboration with the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, developed a web-based module in research skills for graduate students. It is intended to broaden the enrolment to this module across the entire College during the coming year.

The College ran an inclusive process with all Schools including away-days, College-wide presentations and working groups. From this process three multi-disciplinary College-wide themes have been established with a number of emerging themes identified. Each theme has a designated champion, clearly identified aims and multiple School engagements. These are:

- Energy Research (Champion: Professor Don MacElroy);
- Computational Modelling (Champion: Dr Scott Rickard);
- Nanobioscience (Champion: Professor Suzi Jarvis).

Additionally, the following areas have been identified as emerging themes which will be developed over the next 12 months:

- Personalised medicine;



- Sustainable infrastructures;
- Sensing and sensor systems.

### Research and awards

As part of the College's strategy to encourage and reward innovation in teaching and learning, a College-based award scheme was established, with particular emphasis on recognising achievements in teaching and learning that have contributed to improving quality and efficiency in the College's teaching programmes.

This year, the first recipients of the awards were: Dr Amanda Gibney, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering, for her significant contribution to curriculum and programme development; Dr Donal Finn, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, for his contribution to encouraging better student engagement in a technical module; and Dr Dominic Zerulla, UCD School of Physics, for his contribution to encouraging student engagement and participation in Physics education over a range of levels.

The list of achievements for 2007/08 represents a more than doubling of the research activity in the College over the past few years. Some specific examples of this success are:

- Three SFI Stokes Professors, three SFI Stokes Lecturers and three SFI Engineering Lecturer awards;
- One SFI Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) awarded and involvement in a second awaiting approval;
- Two SFI Cluster awards proceeding to site visit.

Professor Julie Berndsen and Dr Tony Veale from the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics are involved in the new SFI-funded CSET 'Next Generation Localisation'. The CSET is led by DCU in collaboration with UCD, University of Limerick and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). UCD will be involved in developing speech technologies for speech-to-speech translation in a hands-busy, eyes-busy scenario, and semantic model generation for management of digital content.

The Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine PhD programme received a €3.19 million award from the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET). It is managed by a committee comprising Professor Denis Shields (grant PI), Professor Des Higgins

(UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science), Professor Pádraig Cunningham (UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics), Dr Ted Cox (UCD School of Mathematical Sciences) and Dr Emer Cunningham (Graduate Studies), as well as a large number of co-investigators at UCD, RCSI and TCD. Running from October 2007 to September 2012, the programme has taken on the first two tranches of students.

The College plan for 2008–2010 continues the main programme of subject-specific development within Schools and College thematic development. A key foundation of the next stage is the development of appropriate infrastructure to sustain the burgeoning research activities across the Schools in the College. Specifically, the plan aims to focus on:

- Critical infrastructure and space for research activities;
- Development of research capacity in a small number of areas aligned with the College themes.

The primary focus during the next 12 months is the provision of appropriate and high-quality facilities through the redevelopment of the Science Centre, in particular the provision of on-campus facilities for major initiatives including the CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies, Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) and the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL).



Professor Sir Brian Hoskins (on right) at the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Distinguished Speaker Seminar with Professor Don McElroy, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering

## UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Positions held on 1 September 2007



**College Principal**  
Professor Nick Quirke



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



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



**UCD School of Geological  
Sciences**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Frank McDermott



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



**UCD School of Mathematical  
Sciences**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Seán Dineen



**UCD School of Computer Science  
and Informatics**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Joe Carthy



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

## UCD College of Human Sciences

The UCD College of Human Sciences consists of 10 Schools:

- UCD School of Applied Social Science;
- UCD School of Economics;
- UCD School of Education and Lifelong Learning;
- UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy;
- UCD School of Information and Library Studies;
- UCD School of Philosophy;
- UCD School of Politics and International Relations;
- UCD School of Psychology;
- UCD School of Social Justice;
- UCD School of Sociology.



*Playwright and author Peter Sheridan speaking at the Alcohol and Drug Use in Young People conference in May 2008, hosted by the UCD School of Psychology*

The College aims are to:

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

### Programme developments

2007/08 was an important year in the evolution of the UCD College of Human Sciences (CHS). UCD is the first Irish university to achieve fully modular and semesterised structures that are compliant with the requirements of the Bologna Process, using the European Credit Transfer System. This facilitated a major redesign of the curriculum of one of the College's flagship degrees, the Bachelor of Social Science. The degree is now characterised by a series of tailored study pathways from undergraduate to graduate level. The new curriculum proved very popular with students, as evidenced by a 100% increase in CAO first preferences.

The HEA SIF-funded fellowships in academic development greatly enhanced the College's understanding of the major dynamics relating to teaching and learning. As well as developing individual teaching projects at undergraduate level in their own Schools, the three CHS fellows also carried out important institutional research into

the engagement of first-year students and into the impact of the modularised curriculum on the learning patterns of over 2,000 undergraduate students. Within an 18-month period the fellows have presented nine peer-reviewed conference papers on their group and individual work and a number of journal articles have been accepted for publication. UCD's success in attracting SIF 2 funding will allow for the further development of the Fellowship Scheme.

During 2007/08, the CHS strengthened its Graduate School. Uniquely in UCD, Human Sciences requires all graduate research students to undertake a minimum of 30 taught credits and, in partnership with the UCD College of Business and Law, offers a 40-credit programme of more than eight dedicated PhD modules in advanced research methods. This was supplemented by a programme of transferable-skills development. New thematic programmes and Ad Astra Scholarships have been developed and launched in Public Policy and Quantitative Social Science, the latter through

a competitive Graduate Research Education Programme (GREP)/IRCHSS programme award. A new PhD in Educational Psychology was approved by the College and it has also launched thematic programmes in Global Irish Studies and the History of the Book with the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies. The 2007/08 Graduate Symposium was addressed by David Begg, Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and Mary Doyle, Department of the Taoiseach. The UCD School of Applied Social Science signed an agreement creating a major partnership with the Probation Services to provide a part-time option for the training of social workers in the Probation Services.

The College hosted a number of prestigious lectures by internationally distinguished scholars. In July 2008, Professor Martha Fineman, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory Law School, gave a lecture on *Vulnerability and Equality* to a large audience. The lecture was co-hosted by the UCD Schools of Social Justice and Law.

A highlight of the year was the hosting by the UCD Institute of British-Irish Studies (IBIS) of a conference sponsored by the Department of the Taoiseach to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. On 3 April 2008, the College hosted a seminar in Newman House to showcase the scholarship on Ireland that had been conducted by the academics in the College between 2006 and 2008. The keynote address was delivered by Dermot McCarthy, Secretary General to the Government, on the theme *Future Direction of the Irish Public Service*.

On 23 May 2008, the UCD School of Psychology hosted an international conference on *Alcohol and Drug Use in Young People*. The playwright, film director and author Peter Sheridan opened the conference, speaking about his own experiences.

An innovative public dialogue on the topic of socially responsible projects and actions in business was organised jointly by the UCD School of Social Justice and the UCD Quinn School of Business on 24 April 2008. Builder and developer Mick Wallace and journalist Sara Burke were the speakers, with lively audience participation.

In May 2008, the UCD School of Philosophy hosted an inter-disciplinary forum on *Perspectives on Intercorporeality and Intersubjectivity* with Professor Gail Weiss, George Washington University, as keynote speaker. The UCD School of Applied Social Science played host to the annual conference of the European Housing Network in July 2008, and Women's Studies organised a conference entitled *What Ivory Towers? Gender, Body and Sexuality* at the Humanities Institute of Ireland in May 2008.

### Research and awards

2007/08 was a very successful period for scholars in Human Sciences in obtaining competitive research funding from a variety of prestigious sources. Two scholars in CHS received funding under the European Science Foundation (ESF) EUROCORES initiative. The two projects on 'Multi-level Analysis of Voter Turnout' and 'European Life Satisfaction-Happiness' are deploying a similar methodology that will be expanded to other areas of cross-national research. Six academics in the College were successful in the IRCHSS funding schemes for research on a diverse range of areas, notably cultural diversity, integration, labour markets, air transport, taxation and visual imagery. Other research funding was received from the Environmental Protection Agency, the European Commission, the Templeton Foundation and the Health Services Executive. A number of other scholars received IRCHSS Fellowships or President's Research Fellowships. In addition, the College had outstanding success in the annual Government of Ireland IRCHSS awards. A total of 17 doctoral students from 8 Schools in Human Sciences received funding.

### Academic appointments

The College welcomed the following new colleagues: Dr Veronica Crossa, UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy; Dr Julien Mercille, UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy; Dr Christopher Cowley, UCD School of Philosophy; Dr Joseph David Cohen, UCD School of Philosophy; and Dr Diane Panke, UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

## UCD College of Human Sciences

Positions held on 1 September 2007



**College Principal**  
Professor Brigid Laffan



**UCD School of Philosophy**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Brian O'Connor



**UCD School of Applied Social Studies**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Suzanne Quin



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



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



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



**UCD School of Education and Lifelong Learning**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Marie Clarke



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



**UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy**  
*Head of School*  
Professor Alun Jones



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



**UCD School of Information and Library Studies**  
*Head of School*  
Dr Ian Cornelius

## UCD College of Life Sciences

The UCD College of Life Sciences consists of eight Schools:

- UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine;
- UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science;
- UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science;
- UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology;
- UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science;
- UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems;
- UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science;
- UCD School of Public Health and Population Science.

The College aims to increase academic and research unit size to achieve critical mass and develop assessment strategies that promote student learning. A number of factors have contributed to current successes:

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

### Programme developments

A Module Planning group was set up with the terms of reference to work with Schools in developing the suite of modules that each would like to deliver in the medium term, taking into account the need for an equitable spread of academic resources across the student population.

A College-wide project involving development of assessment strategies has been initiated. The objectives are to develop a wide range of assessment methods that are effective in promoting student learning and which are practicable and efficient in their use of staff time. Each School has identified one programme, carried out an assessment audit and is developing an action plan focused on a rational approach to student assessment.

The UCD College of Life Sciences, in association with UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, launched the College Teaching Award Scheme initiated by the Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning, Professor Alan Keenan, with up to five awards in Life Sciences to be made annually. This new scheme is in recognition of achievements in teaching and

learning that have contributed to improving quality and efficiency in the College's undergraduate and graduate education programmes. The 2008 recipients of UCD College of Life Sciences Awards were: Dr Tom Curran, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, in recognition of his contribution to curriculum development on the BE Biosystems programme; Dr Mark McEntee, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, in recognition of his contribution to curriculum development within the BSc Radiography programme; and Dr Louise Rainford, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, in recognition of her significant contribution to restructuring of the BSc Radiography programme.

Graduate student numbers increased to 1,608 (48% taught and 52% research students) in the academic year 2007/08. Arising from the new structured PhD programme, 145 research students transferred into Stage 2 up to the period August 2008.

Over the past 12 months the following doctoral thematic programmes have been introduced: Dublin Chemistry Graduate Programme (in collaboration with TCD); Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine; Promoting

Epidemiological and Research Methods in Irish Training; and Translational Medicine (in collaboration with other Irish medical schools through Molecular Medicine Ireland).

### Research and awards

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin, and Science Foundation Ireland's Director-General, Professor Frank Gannon announced three Strategic Research Clusters (SRC) awards for the UCD College of Life Sciences valued at €19.8 million.

The BioNanoInteract Strategic Research Cluster, under the directorship of Professor Kenneth Dawson, has received €7.2 million in funding. It will pioneer the understanding of how nanoscale particles interact with living matter, using some of the most advanced physical, chemical, biological and engineering tools currently available. It integrates the efforts of leading scientists from UCD, TCD, UCC, UL, NUI Maynooth, DIT and University of Ulster.

The Irish Drug Delivery Network obtained a grant of €5.2 million and will make oral and inhaled formulations of biotech molecules that normally require injection. The cluster brings together the UCD Conway Institute along with the Schools of Pharmacy in TCD, Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) and UCC, creating a critical mass of expertise in the drug delivery area.

The Reproductive Biology Research Cluster was awarded a grant of €7.4 million, with an additional €400,000 from industry partners. Low fertility in dairy cows has a significant negative impact on the dairy industry, and the research aim of this cluster is the discovery and manipulation of molecules to enhance bovine fertility. The cluster comprises a group of internationally recognised scientists from UCD and Teagasc, along with industry partners Pfizer and Biotrin Technologies.



The UCD MVB programme has been granted full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for the next seven years, enabling UCD graduates to practise veterinary medicine in Canada or USA without having to complete a special 'foreign graduates' examination.

Billy Fleming of the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology was the winner of the AccesScience 2008 competition, which took place in O'Reilly Hall. Speaking to the 600-strong audience about *The Nature of Chemistry*, Fleming outlined current research in identifying ways of generating vital drug therapies in the laboratory rather than relying on the finite and precious resources of nature.

Professor Michael McGlinchey, UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, is one of six UCD academics who has been elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in the recent membership round announced in May 2008.

UCD spin-out company Celtic Catalysts won international 'Rising Star Award' at the BioIndustry Association (Scotland) Thistle Bioscience Forum 2008. The award was presented in recognition of its successful commercialisation of chiral synthesis research that took place in the School.

The Proceedings for the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Cozzarelli Prize went to members of the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology for best paper, led by Professor Kenneth Dawson, at the PNAS Editorial Board Meeting in April 2008 in Washington, DC.

Professor Peter Atkin, University of Oxford, was the recipient of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Annual Award for Chemistry 2008. He gave a keynote lecture entitled *Visualising Chemistry* in the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) in April 2008 as part of the Eva Philbin lecture series.

### Academic appointments of Associate or Professor Grade

The following appointments were made at associate or professorial level: Johan Ericsson; Gerard Fealy; Steve Gordon; Michael P. Keane; Gil Lee; Ronan O'Connell; Gareth Redmond; Helen Roche; and Richard Tremblay.

*Launch of the Irish Medical Journal supplement showing findings of the seven-year research programme of the Health Research Board Unit for Health Status and Health Gain, which was officially launched by President Mary McAleese on 20 September 2007 at the UCD Conway Institute. Pictured (from left): Prof. Gerard Loftus (NUI Galway); UCD President Dr Hugh Brady; Prof. Cecily Kelleher (UCD School of Public Health and Population Science); President Mary McAleese; Andrew Murphy (NUI Galway); Dr John Murphy, Irish Medical Journal, Dr Mairead O'Driscoll (HRB); and Prof. Brian McKenna (Principal, UCD College of Life Sciences)*

## UCD College of Life Sciences

Positions held on 1 September 2007



**College Principal**  
Professor Brian McKenna



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



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



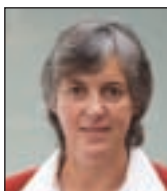
**UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems**  
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