



Message from the Head of School

Dear Colleagues,

This is a busy time of year for students and staff. Students are busy completing assignments and preparing for exams. Staff are busy marking assignments, preparing for next semester, responding to university requests for data and feedback on new policies and procedures, conducting research (including making conference presentations and working on papers and grant proposals), and supervising students, etc.

The school is also working with the Library Association Ireland to develop Continuing Professional Development workshops, and we look forward to possibly working with additional groups regarding CPD in the future. We are in the process of recruiting two postdoctoral fellows, and are receiving queries regarding these positions from Ireland and North America.

In these hectic and long working days, it's sometimes hard to remember that we actually choose an academic career path and find enjoyment and satisfaction in our work. An old saying comes to mind: when you're up to your neck in alligators, it's hard to remember that your original intention was to drain the swamp.

I'd like to thank all the staff, students, occasional lecturers, tutors, and other supporters of the school for their continuing efforts! Without everyone's dedication and flexibility in these challenging times we could not achieve all that we do.

With best wishes for the upcoming holiday season,

Diane

Diane H. Sonnenwald
Head of School and Professor

The Mary Burke Research Scholarship in Information and Library Studies

As announced previously a new scholarship fund to honour Professor Mary Burke who retired after 32 years of service at UCD has been established. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to research students on MLitt / PhD programmes who have demonstrated financial need. Mary's intention is that the scholarship would encourage students to undertake research in Library and Information Studies. These range from Irish students who need financial support to students from developing countries.



Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed!

To help grow the fund, Mary has issued us a challenge. She will match the first € 5,000 donated to the fund this year. If you were considering making a donation to the fund, why not do so yet in this calendar year so that your donation will contribute twice as much to the fund through Mary's generosity?

To make a donation, please contact Claire Nolan by e-mail at Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie or by phone at 01 716 7055.

Donors to the Mary Burke Scholarship Fund

Individual Donors

Dr. Jessica Bates
Ms. Maire Bolger
Mr. Frank Bouchier-Hayes
Professor Mary Burke
Ms. Clara Cullen
Ms. Marie Cullen
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Professor Diane H. Sonnenwald
Dr. Barbara Traxler Brown
Dr. Claire Thornley
Ms. Fiona Tipple
Anonymous (4)

Group Donors

College of Human Sciences
Library Association of Ireland

The School of Information and Library Studies recently held a reception for Mary Burke, and much fun was had by all!



Congratulations to Jessica Bates!

Jessica Bates was recently awarded tenure at UCD. Jessica is a graduate of the School of Information and Library Studies, University College Dublin, where she completed her BSocSc (in Information Studies and Sociology), MA, and PhD. The title of her PhD was: *The everyday information needs and information seeking behaviour of individuals living in a low-income neighbourhood in Dublin*. Jessica has been teaching at UCD since 1998 and became a permanent half-time lecturer in 2005. Currently she is co-investigator on a research project funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The project investigates information sharing and use of social media by migrants in Ireland (Dr Lee Komito is principal investigator on this project). Jessica has taught a wide range of modules at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and supervises Master's theses. She is currently director of the Ph.D. programme at our school. In addition to numerous research publications in the field of library and information science, Jessica has been actively involved in projects and publications that focus on curriculum development in library and information science. Jessica is a member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professions, the Library Association of Ireland, and the American Society for Information Science and Technology. Please join us in congratulating Jessica on receiving this well-deserved tenure distinction.

New Online Application Process

As part of our commitment to quality of service, we are piloting a new online application process for our Masters in Library and Information Studies (MLIS) and Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies (GradDipLIS) programmes. It is anticipated that the changeover from conventional paper to online processing will mean a significant improvement in response time to applicants. Details of the procedure, including FAQs, are available at <http://www.ucd.ie/apply/>. We are currently testing the online system, and if all goes well applicants to the MLIS and GradDipLIS programmes should be able to submit their applications online beginning mid-December.

Renovations to the School

With support from the College of Human Sciences we have made some renovations to the School's physical layout. As you can see from the photos below, we've added computers to our hallways for students' use, and we've created new seating areas for our students. Now when waiting for a module to begin or to meet with our staff or just to meet with each other, students can sit a bit more comfortably than before.



More importantly, however, we have changed our teaching space in room 107. New tables on castor wheels and laptops have turned the classroom into a flexible teaching area that can be transformed into various configurations depending on the needs of the instructor and students. For example, the classroom can still function as a formal classroom with students sitting in rows; or the tables can be arranged to support small group discussions or small group work. Wireless networking is available in the classroom; however, as many of you know when 20 or so people are connecting to the wireless network response time slows down considerably. To alleviate this problem, hardwire network connections were added around the room. Electrical outlets were also added.



Space to support research has also been created. Adjacent rooms 105 and 106 are now dedicated to research activities. There is a two-way mirror between the rooms that will allow observation of activities occurring in either room. This can be useful when studying all sorts of human information interaction, including human-computer interaction and human-human information interaction. These rooms also host a file server to support research, cameras, an electronic white board, and other data collection and analysis equipment.



Observing study participants through the 2-way mirror

Staff Achievements

Jessica Bates

Jessica has had two papers published. Both were co-authored with SILS MLIS graduates Jean Ricken and Sinead Byrne.

Ricken, J. & Bates, J. (2009). Island libraries: Public library services to the offshore islands of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, *An Leabharlann*, October issue.

Byrne, S. & Bates, J. (2009). Use of the university library, elibrary, VLE and other information sources by distance learning students in University College Dublin: implications for academic librarianship, *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, 15(1), 120-141.

Crystal Fulton

Crystal Fulton finished her term as President of the American Society of Information Science & Technology (ASIST) Special Interest Group (SIG) on Information Needs, Seeking and Use. Under Crystal's leadership the SIG held a well attended research symposium and several innovative workshops at the recent ASIST Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

Claire Nolan

Claire Nolan, author of *The Stone* (<http://www.clairenolan.com/about>) was recently featured in several articles recently. The articles appeared in *Kilkenny People* (<http://www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/The-spooky-story-of-Dame.5753639.jp>), *Beat102/103* and the *Independent* (<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/art-may-be-imitating-life-in-one-uncanny-portrait-1929946.html?start=1>).



Diane H. Sonnenwald

Diane gave an invited keynote talk at the SIGUSE Annual Research Symposium at the American Society of Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Conference held in November in Vancouver, Canada. The Research Symposium focused on Collaborative Information Seeking and Sharing, and the title of Diane's talk was "Collaborating with Other Disciplines: Joys and Perils". Diane also gave a talk titled, "Students and Scientific Collaboration: Teaching and Involvement" in a panel at the conference. The panel presented new educational strategies to help prepare students to collaborate with scientists, understand their information needs, and manage the increasing amount and variety of digital scientific information and data.

Diane's Theory of Information Horizons was recently featured on a poster featuring influential models of information behaviour published by the Special Interest Group on Information Needs, Seeking and Use (SIG USE). Nine theories were featured on the poster. All sales of the poster will be used to support SIG USE activities.

Barbara Traxler Brown

Barbara Traxler-Brown and two colleagues, Dr. H. Louwse at the University of Sheffield and Professor N. McLelland at University of Nottingham (a Universitas21 partner) were awarded €12,500 to support the 8th Biennial Interdisciplinary ALCS Conference (association for Low Countries Studies) from *Nederlandse Taalunie*, The Hague. The conference will be held here in January. See <http://alcs.group.shef.ac.uk/conferences/conference8/programme.htm> for more information.

Judith Wusteman

Judith recently published an article examining the usability of a digital repository. The reference for the article is:

Healy, S. & Wusteman, J. (2009). Evaluating the usability of the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive. *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library*, 18(2), 31-37.

SILS Giving Back

Crystal Fulton and her students in IS40330, Information and Reference Services, recently conducted a book drive in which they collected books for Mercy College Coolock. Mercy College Coolock is a Designated Disadvantaged School. Its 350 pupils generally come from Darndale, Coolock, Belcamp and surrounding areas as well as the travelling community. In all, approximately 200 books were collected for the school. Chris O'Hanlon, librarian for the school, and Robert Barry, a teacher at the school, accepted the donation on behalf of the college. Robert reported that the students were very excited and happy to get their hands on the books.



Books on their way to Mercy College...



and on display at Mercy College.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and healthy New Year!